



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Assembly Member Yuh-Line Niou Partners with the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings to Launch the “OATH Resource Initiative” in Lower East Side and Chinatown Neighborhood.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK On Tuesday, December 18, 2018, the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings, which is the City’s independent administrative law court and where nearly every City agency files summonses for hearings, will partner with the office of Assembly Member Yuh-Line Niou to hold its first-ever “OATH Resource” event.

OATH and the Assembly Member will have staff present at the Seward Park Library located at 192 East Broadway on Tuesday December 18, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

OATH will be there to answer any questions people have about what to do if they receive a summons from a City agency, such as the Sanitation Department, Health Department, Buildings Department, Fire Department, NYPD, among many others City agencies that issue summonses and notices of violation.

OATH staff will be able to provide the following services through this brand-new outreach initiative: check to determine if someone has an outstanding summons; check the status of summonses; help people understand the rules about how a summons can and should be responded to when one is received; help people submit online defenses to summonses that are eligible to be responded to remotely; help people reschedule upcoming hearings or request new hearings if summonses were previously ignored; and explain what may be required after a hearing has been held.

OATH Resource staff will be bi-lingual and will be able to communicate with visitors to the library in English, Spanish, Mandarin and Cantonese.

Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou' stated, "I am incredibly excited to bring this new initiative to my constituents. The summons process is a very challenging process to go through, even for fluent English speakers. Many of my constituents face greater difficulties in navigating the process due to the language barriers they face. To create a fairer and equitable justice system, we need to provide real, language accessible legal resources and ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to a just process. I want to thank Commissioner Del Valle for his leadership in bringing OATH Resource directly to our constituents and look forward to working with him further to better meet the needs of our community."

“New Yorkers and small businesses deserve a level playing field when contesting City-issued summonses. OATH Resource, is a brand new initiative meant to bring government to where people work and live. The initiative provides New York City’s small businesses and residents with a convenient place to go in their local neighborhood to get the information they need to handle summonses correctly,” said **OATH Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge, Fidel F. Del Valle.**

About OATH

The City’s Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) is the City’s independent administrative law court where nearly all City enforcement agencies such as the Departments of Sanitation, Buildings, Health and Mental Hygiene, Parks, Environmental Protection, Fire, NYPD, Consumer Affairs, and the Taxi and Limousine Commission, among many others, file their summonses for hearings. OATH, however, is not the court that is responsible for holding hearings on parking tickets or traffic tickets.

Last year, OATH received nearly 850,000 summonses from NYC enforcement agencies and held more than 310,000 hearings.

OATH offers recipients of summonses convenient hearings options such as Hearings Online, Hearings by Phone, Hearings by Webcam and Hearings by Mail. It also offers free translation services for all hearings as well as for all document and form submissions. Additionally, OATH has Help Centers at all hearing locations where self-represented respondents can go to get help understanding what a summons is charging them with and the possible penalties associated with the summons; the OATH hearing process; or get help accessing information or records that they believe will help their case.

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