



The Council of the City of New York
Office of City Council Member Peter Koo



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**Council Member Peter Koo and the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH)
Announce “Neighborhood Pop-Up Court” for City-issued Summonses Will Come to the
Queens Library in Flushing**

Queens, NY – Council Member Peter Koo and officials from the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) today announced that OATH’s *Neighborhood Pop-Up Court* for City-issued summonses will come to the Council Member’s district on Thursday June 20, 2019. This will be the 15th *Pop-Up Court* OATH has held yet it represents only the third time OATH has held a *Pop-Up Court* in Queens and the first time one has been held in the Flushing area.

The upcoming *Pop-up Court* will be held at the Flushing Branch of the Queens Public Library located at 41-17 Main St, Flushing, NY 11355. OATH will be conducting hearings from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on June 20, 2019. The *Pop-Up Court* allows people to fight certain summonses at a hearing with an OATH Hearing Officer without having to travel outside of their neighborhood.

Types of summonses eligible to be fought at the *Pop-Up Court* are summonses issued by the Sanitation Department and Parks Department; summonses issued by the Health Department for alleged pest control and rodent violations; and those non-criminal, quality of life summonses issued by the NYPD such as allegedly having an open container of alcohol, public urination, being in the park after dark, littering, spitting and excessive noise. As with all summonses, only summonses with upcoming hearing dates are eligible to have a hearing at either OATH or at one of OATH’s *Pop-Up Courts*. This means that the eligible summons must have either a hearing date of June 20, 2019 or a hearing date that is after that. OATH is not the court that holds hearings on parking tickets, traffic or speeding tickets, red light camera tickets or MTA turnstile violation summonses so those summonses cannot be resolved at the Pop-Up Court on June 20th.

Council Member Peter Koo stated, “OATH Pop-Up Courts are a quick and convenient way for the city to close out cases with New Yorkers who may have found themselves at the receiving end of a violation. Giving residents access to the OATH Courts right in their backyard can serve as a tremendous benefit to both the city as it looks to resolve backlogs of violations and to residents by expediting the court process. Many thanks to OATH for once again partnering with my office and bringing its Pop-Up Court to Flushing in order to ensure our residents have a fair chance at resolving their violations.”

“As the City’s central independent administrative law court, OATH’s top priority is to make it as easy as possible for those who have been issued summonses from City enforcement agencies to have their day in court. Our *Neighborhood Pop-Up Courts* program brings the court to where you

work and live so that fighting City summonses and accessing justice at OATH is more convenient and less time consuming,” said **Marisa Senigo, OATH’s Deputy Commissioner for Public Affairs.**

“The Council has played a significant role in partnering with OATH to bring *Neighborhood Pop-Up Courts* to communities throughout the City. OATH thanks Council Member Koo for taking the lead to help provide greater access to justice and make it more convenient for residents and small businesses to challenge their summonses,” said **John Castelli, OATH’s Deputy Commissioner for Legislative Affairs.**

“We are pleased to partner with the City’s Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings and Council Member Peter Koo to bring OATH’s Neighborhood Pop-Up Court to our Flushing Library,” said Queens Public Library President and **CEO Dennis M. Walcott.** “This initiative will allow our customers to have their cases heard conveniently in their neighborhood, in a trusted space where they know they can safely ask questions and find reliable resources.”

About OATH

OATH is the independent administrative law court where nearly all City enforcement agencies file their summonses for hearings. The agencies that file summonses at OATH for hearings include the Departments of Sanitation, Buildings, Health, Parks, Environmental Protection, Consumer Affairs, FDNY and NYPD, among many others. OATH, however, does **not** conduct parking ticket hearings or hearings on alleged red light or speed camera violations. Last year, OATH received approximately 844,000 summonses from the City’s various enforcement agencies. During that time, 47% of summonses that were fought at OATH hearings were dismissed by OATH Hearing Officers.

About OATH’s Neighborhood Pop-Up Courts

Through the *Neighborhood Pop-Up Courts* initiative, OATH travels to neighborhoods across the five boroughs to conduct hearings directly in the community at Community Boards, libraries, offices of elected officials and other civic organizations in an effort to increase response rates to City-issued summonses by making it more convenient for people to access justice at the City’s administrative law court. The program is focused on areas that are so-called “transportation deserts” or are far away from where our borough hearing offices are. The program was [featured in a cover story](#) in the Wall Street Journal on June 3, 2019.

In order to alert people that the Pop-Up is in their neighborhood, OATH will search its system and then send out letters to all respondents with eligible summonses who live and live in zip codes immediately around the Library where the Pop-Up Court will be held. Letters are sent in English, Spanish and Chinese. On average, 370 letters are sent for each Pop-Up Court.

OATH staff and Hearing Officers will be available to check in respondents and hold hearings at the Flushing Library until 4pm on Thursday, June 20, 2019. Full translation services will be available in up to 250 languages. Respondents will be sent the Hearing Officer’s decision in the mail within seven days.

About the Queens Library

“Queens Public Library is one of the largest and busiest public library systems in the United States, dedicated to serving the most ethnically and culturally diverse area in the country. An independent, non-profit organization founded in 1896, Queens Public Library offers free access to a collection of more than 5 million books and other materials in multiple languages, technology and digital resources, and more than 87,500 educational, cultural, and civic programs a year. It consists of 65 locations, including branch libraries, a Central Library, seven adult learning centers, a technology lab, two universal pre-kindergartens, and two teen centers.”