



Hearings Support for Veterans

How to Respond to Summonses from NYC Enforcement Agencies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020

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OATH COMMISSIONER AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE HOSTS “WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET A SUMMONS” TOWN HALL FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND LAUNCHES VETERANS HELP UNIT AT THE OATH HELP CENTER

New York, New York – NYC elected officials from across the five boroughs and local groups and associations that assist and provide services to New York City’s war veterans have partnered with Joni Kletter, Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge of the City’s Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) to put on an educational event, *How to Respond to Summonses from NYC Enforcement Agencies*.

“As the court where nearly all City agencies file their summonses and where all New Yorkers – including our more than 200,000 veterans – have the potential to be summoned, OATH’s primary mission is to make the hearing process easy to understand, broadly accessible and most importantly, fair,” said **OATH Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge, Joni Kletter**.

The virtual event will be held Wednesday, November 18, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. in the middle of National Veterans and Military Families Month. The event is specifically intended to bring information about city-issued summonses and the hearing process directly to the City’s war veterans. Among other topics, OATH and the City’s Department of Veterans Services will talk about issues faced by military veterans who are vendors. The event is being held over Zoom in partnership with Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, and Staten Island Borough President James Oddo along with more than 50 state and local elected officials.

At the event, OATH is announcing that its Help Center, in partnership with the City’s Department of Veteran Services, has launched a [Veteran’s Help Unit](#) lead by a Help Center staff member who is a military veteran himself and uniquely qualified to assist veterans not only with navigating the OATH hearing process if a veteran receives a summons but also to help connect veterans to other city services and programs. Veterans can schedule an appointment with the OATH Help Center by emailing veteranshelp@oath.nyc.gov or call us at (212) 436-0845.

“OATH’s Veteran Help Unit will play an important role in assisting Veterans as they navigate the hearing process. We are excited to work with them to better connect New York City’s 210,000 Veterans to services and programs that will help them continue leading purpose-driven lives,” said **Commissioner James Hendon**, New York City Department of Veterans’ Services.

“OATH’s Veteran’s Help Unit will assist our City’s heroes to navigate the summons process,” said **Counsel to the Mayor, Kapil Longani**. “This program is another example of OATH’s unwavering commitment to educate New Yorkers.”

More than 50 elected city and state officials are supporting the event. Their offices assisted with outreach efforts in their districts and many planned on attending or sending staff to make sure that any concerns or questions raised by veterans from their districts were suitably addressed. Organizations and associations endorsing and attending this event include the NYC Department of Veterans Services, NYC Veterans Alliance, U.S. Veteran’s Administration and its New York Harbor Health Care System, The National Association of Invalids and Veterans of World War II and Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc. and the NY State Veteran Chamber of Commerce, among other organizations.

The event will conclude with a question and answer session when attendees will be given the opportunity to ask any questions they may have.

"I appreciate OATH's commitment to assisting our veterans with navigating City bureaucracy and accessing supportive services," said **Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams**. "We should go above and beyond the call of duty to help those who have answered the call of duty in defense of our country."

“I’m pleased to present this special event that will teach our veterans about the ways they can respond to summonses and understand the city’s civil court system,” said **Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer**. “We are thankful to Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge Joni Kletter for providing this informative resource online to adapt to the needs of New Yorkers during this pandemic.”

"OATH’s Citywide Veterans Event will do a great job at providing important information to our veterans and will help them deal with any potential summonses or violation enforcement from the city in the future. That is why I am proud to be a co-sponsor. Thank you to OATH for doing this work and working to make the event a success," said **Council Member Ben Kallos**.

“As Chair of the City Council’s Committee on Veterans, I am proud to be a co-sponsor for OATH’s Citywide Veterans Event. I know that the important information provided by OATH to veterans will be of great help should they receive a summons from a city enforcement agency for an alleged violation,” said **Council Member Chaim Deutsch**.

“I’m proud to sponsor the Hearings Support for Veterans program in District 14. Through their service and sacrifices for our county, many veterans now experience challenges that may make it difficult to respond to summonses, said **Council Member Fernando Cabrera**. “Hearings Support for veterans will provide helpful and practical information targeted toward the special experiences and needs of veterans, highlighting ways to respond to summonses that work for them. As chairperson of the New York City Council’s Committee on Governmental Operations, I commend OATH for this innovative program.”

“It is essential that we take care of our veterans and ensure they have access to all available resources,” said **Council Member Donovan Richards**. “This is an important symposium and I am very proud to be a partner. I also want to thank Commissioner Joni Kletter and OATH for making this possible.”

Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez said, “I am proud to be a co-sponsor for OATH’s Citywide Veterans Event. The information provided by OATH to veterans will be of great help should they receive a summons from a city enforcement agency for an alleged violation. ”

“I am honored to be a co-sponsor for today's event. Supporting our veterans is more important than ever, and I am pleased to be able to partner with OATH in this important endeavor,” said **Council Member I. Daneek Miller**.

"It is an honor to again be a co-sponsor for OATH's Citywide Symposium for OATH Veterans Hearings Support. The information OATH provides for veterans during this event is important and we must always go the extra mile to help those who served our country," said **Council Member Alan Maisel**.

“I’m honored to be a co-sponsor for OATH’s Citywide Veterans Event. This is an important event for veterans to learn how to respond to summonses issued by city enforcement agencies. We owe veterans so much for their service and the sacrifices they’ve made for our nation,” said **New York State Assembly Member Simcha Eichenstein**.

“I’m honored to be co-sponsoring the Hearings Support for Veterans event hosted by the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH). It can be difficult to navigate summonses and administrative hearings and our veterans, who have selflessly served our country, should have access to all of the resources they need. As a long-serving member of the Assembly Veterans committee and creator of the Staten Island Vets Discount Program, I am always happy to have the opportunity to serve our veterans,” said **New York State Assembly Member Michael Cusick**.

“As Commander of the oldest Veterans Support Organization in the nation, I speak on behalf of the Jewish War Veterans of America in saying that we are honored to be co-sponsoring this year’s OATH’s Veterans Hearing Support event. As a veteran, I know that events like this are important for the veterans community, especially those we are losing every minute who fought in World War 2 amongst other wars and they came home and rebuilt this country and city just as we have to meet the challenges that face our nation and city today,” said **Commander Charles Greinsky of the Jewish War Veterans of America Richmond Borough Post 80**.

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