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OATH HEALTH TRIBUNAL TO OPEN HEARING OFFICE IN THE BRONX

The Opening of the First Office Location in the Bronx Will Make it Easier for Bronx Restaurant Owners to Contest NYC Health Department Violations In-Person

Starting Thursday, June 28, 2012 hearings on Notices of Violation issued to Bronx restaurants by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) will occur at a hearing office in the Bronx. The newest OATH Health Tribunal location will make it easier for Bronx restaurant owners to contest DOHMH charges because they will no longer have to travel to Manhattan to have an in-person hearing. This is the second OATH Health Tribunal location to open outside Manhattan; OATH opened a Health Tribunal office on Staten Island, last December.

“OATH wants to make participating in a hearing as convenient and efficient for New Yorkers as possible,” said OATH’s Commissioner and Chief Judge, Suzanne Beddoe.

The Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings took over the management of the Health Tribunal from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) on July 3, 2011. Opening more office locations is a key part of OATH’s effort to create a more user-friendly administrative court.

OATH realizes that coming to a hearing could cost restaurant owners time and money. Since taking over management of the Health Tribunal, OATH has proactively addressed this concern. OATH has made it easier to contest Health Department violations by instituting hearings online, which allows a defense and evidence to be submitted electronically to OATH at the owner’s convenience, by using a simple online form. OATH has also established hearings by phone, in which an owner of a food service establishment can give their defense by speaking to an OATH Health Tribunal judge over the telephone. Previously, cases involving violations issued to restaurants had to be handled at in-person hearings at the hearing office located in Manhattan.

OATH is working towards opening Health Tribunal hearing locations in all of the City’s outer boroughs. The newest OATH Health Tribunal office is located at 3030 3rd Avenue, Bronx, NY 10455. The Bronx office will hold scheduled hearings Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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Contact: Marisa Senigo (OATH) (212) 361-4263