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**NEW YORK CITY OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE TRIALS AND HEARINGS
(OATH) TO OPEN A HEALTH TRIBUNAL LOCATION IN QUEENS**

*The Opening of a Hearing Office in Queens Will Make it More Convenient for Queens
Restaurant Owners to Contest NYC Health Department Violations*

Starting Monday, October 29, 2012 hearings on Notices of Violation issued to Queens's restaurants, by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) will occur at an OATH Health Tribunal hearing office in Queens. The newest OATH Health Tribunal location will make it easier for Queens's restaurant owners to contest DOHMH charges because they will no longer have to travel to Manhattan to have their hearing.

“Since taking over management of the Health Tribunal, OATH has focused on making it a more user-friendly and accessible court,” said OATH's Commissioner and Chief Judge, Suzanne Beddoe. “By opening Health Tribunal locations in the boroughs in which restaurants are located, OATH is making it easier for them to have their day in court.”

In addition to creating Health Tribunal locations in the outer boroughs, OATH's expertise in tribunal management has allowed for the creation of innovative programs that give restaurant owners alternative, convenient ways to contest Health Department charges. Last year, OATH instituted Hearings by Phone which lets restaurant owners have their hearings over the phone, at a time and place that is more convenient for them. Earlier this year, OATH instituted One-Click Hearings which makes it possible for restaurant owners to contest alleged Health Department violations by submitting a simple online form.

The Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) took over the management of the Health Tribunal from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) on July 3, 2011. Since then, OATH has opened Tribunal locations on Staten Island, in the Bronx, and now Queens. Previously, all cases were heard at one location, in Manhattan. OATH plans to open its next Health Tribunal location in Brooklyn.

The newest OATH Health Tribunal office is located at 144-06 94th Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11435. The Queens Health Tribunal will be open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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