



Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings
Hearings Division

DECISION

LANCE CHEBIN - NACMIAS LAW FIRM 592 PACIFIC STREET NEW YORK, NY 11217	Summons No: 000878964H et al. (1 Summons) DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, -against- HUGH O'KANE ELECTRIC CO INC Hearing Date: 07/09/2025 Hearing Location: Remote Type of Hearing: By Telephone
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Total Penalty Amount: \$600.00
Community Service(Hr): Not Applicable

SUMMONS #	SUMMARY DISPOSITION	DATE OF OCCURRENCE	PLACE OF OCCURRENCE
000878964H	Sustained	03/08/2024	5-33 48th Avenue Queens

LINE ITEM	OATH CODE	CODE SECTION/RULE	RESULT	PENALTY
1	BA1F	24 -163	Sustained	\$600.00

Findings of Fact & Conclusions of Law

Petitioner New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was represented by DEP court representative MICHAEL GROSSO, via email.

Respondent HUGH O'KANE ELECTRIC CO INC was represented by authorized representative LANCE CHEBIN of the Nacmias Law Firm.

Respondent was charged with a violation of § 24-163 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York (Code) for idling a motor vehicle engine for longer than three minutes.

In the summons, the Issuing Officer (IO) affirmed observing, based on information submitted by a citizen complainant (CC), that on March 8, 2024, at 5-33 48th Avenue in Queens, respondent caused or permitted the idling of a motor vehicle while parked, standing or stopped. The IO noted that as per DEP records, citizen observed TRUCK with NY License Plate #92532MJ idling for longer than three minutes from 11:54:49AM to 11:58:03AM. This was charged as a third or subsequent repeat violation.

Petitioner noted two prior summonses finding the respondent in violation: #000729400N and #000751597R.

I find the Issuing Officer's sworn-to summons narrative to be credible and persuasive.

Respondent's attorney did not challenge the third or subsequent repeat violation designation, and stated that he had reviewed the evidence packet and the video evidence previously provided to him and denied the violation without further rebuttal.

Code § 24-163(a) prohibits the idling of a motor vehicle engine in excess of three minutes while parked, standing, or stopped. Per § 6-12(b) of Title 48 of the Rules of the City of New York (RCNY), a summons affirmed under penalty of perjury will be admitted as prima facie evidence of the facts stated therein. Petitioner is therefore not required to submit a video at the hearing to establish its case. See DEP v. TM & T Service Station Inc., Appeal No. 1901827 (March 19, 2020), though citizen-complainants must supply one to DEP along with their complaint. See DEP v. U-Haul Co. of Arizona Inc., Appeal No. 2001342 (January 14, 2021). Even where a video is presented, the charge does not fail if the video does not clearly show the vehicle vibrating, producing visible emissions, or making audible engine noise. See DEP v. Hub Truck Rental Corp., Appeal No. 2001344 (February 11, 2021). In such cases, once Petitioner has established its prima facie case, the critical inquiry is whether the respondent has sustained its burden to refute Petitioner's evidence or otherwise establish a defense. See 48 RCNY § 6-12(a).

Code § 24-163(a) provides that no one shall permit the idling of a motor vehicle engine for longer than three minutes unless the engine is used to operate a loading, unloading, or processing device.

The credible evidence, here the sworn-to summons narrative of the Issuing Officer, is sufficient to establish, and I find, that respondent was in violation on the date of the offense. The violation is SUSTAINED, and I impose the third or subsequent repeat violation penalty of \$600.

Mark Goichman

07/09/2025

07/09/2025

Mark Goichman, Hearing Officer

Date