



# sanitation



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Making NYC Rat-Free; Joining the NYC Organics Program Can Help Keep Critters Away**

**WHAT:** The New York City Department of Sanitation will hold an outreach event in partnership with the Lower East Side Ecology Center to encourage residents to enroll their buildings in NYC Organics curbside collection program. The program collects food scraps in hard-sided, latching bins, cutting off the critters' dinner source.

**VISUALS:** The Department will hand out educational materials, spread nutrient-rich compost in nearby street tree pits, and distribute free 1-pound bags of compost for residents to use in their homes and gardens. The compost was made with organic material previously collected from residents.

**WHO:** Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia  
Representatives from the Lower East Side Ecology Center

**WHERE:** Food Scrap Drop-Off Site  
Corner of Clinton and Grand Streets  
Manhattan

**WHEN:** Friday, September 29  
Commissioner Garcia attends and speaks at 10:30 a.m.  
Drop off site open to public from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Background:** In July, Mayor de Blasio announced the Neighborhood Rat Reduction Initiative, a \$32 million, multi-agency plan to reduce the city's rat population that targets the three most infested parts of city. Manhattan Community District 3, which includes the East Village, Lower East Side, and Chinatown, is one of the three areas targeted through this initiative. In addition to encouraging residents to sign up for organics collection, the Department of Sanitation has added additional litter basket service and more frequent trash collection service, installed 20 rodent-resistant solar compacting litter baskets, and working in partnership with our sister agencies to improve enforcement of violations that may lead to rat infestations.

### **About the New York City Department of Sanitation**

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) keeps New York City healthy, safe and clean by collecting, recycling and disposing of waste, cleaning streets and vacant lots, and clearing snow and ice. The Department operates 59 district garages and manages a fleet of more than 2,000 rear-loading collection trucks, 450 mechanical brooms and 689 salt/sand spreaders. The Department clears litter, snow and ice from approximately 6,500 miles of City streets and removes debris from vacant lots as well as abandoned vehicles from City streets.