



# sanitation

## FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

Event Date: Friday, 9/3/21

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Press Advisory #21-33

## **DSNY REMEMBERS: AHEAD OF 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION TO HOST MEMORIAL HONORING EMPLOYEES WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DUE TO SERVICE ON AND AFTER 9/11**

*Event to follow installation of permanent memorial plaque at Department headquarters, launch of digital 9/11 memorial exhibit at [dsnyremembers.org](http://dsnyremembers.org)*

**EVENT DATE: Friday, September 3, 2021** – The New York City Department of Sanitation, the world’s largest municipal sanitation agency, will honor members of the Department who lost their lives due to their service on and after 9/11. During the aftermath of the attack on New York City, approximately 3,700 DSNY employees were involved in clean-up, debris removal, and processing, at Ground Zero, at Fresh Kills landfill, and at other sites around the City. While no Sanitation employees lost their lives during the attack itself, in the 20 years since, approximately 100 DSNY personnel have died of health conditions related to their service to the City of New York during its darkest days.

DSNY will host a reading of the names of those lost. Following the event, members of the media may step inside DSNY headquarters to view the Department’s permanent memorial plaque, which will have been unveiled in a private ceremony earlier that morning.

In addition, at the same time, the Sanitation Foundation - the official non-profit of DSNY - will launch a digital 9/11 exhibit at [dsnyremembers.org](http://dsnyremembers.org). This exhibit tells the story of DSNY's vital contributions to the recovery effort, using personal interviews, never-before-seen archival footage, data visualizations, and resources for further learning.

**WHERE:** Thomas Paine Park, immediately across Worth Street from DSNY Headquarters at 125 Worth St., 10013

**WHEN:** Program to begin at 11am Friday. Media are invited to join us on site any time after 10am.

**KEY PERSONNEL:** DSNY Commissioner Edward Grayson, DSNY leadership and retirees

**VISUALS:** A memorial ceremony and reading of the names, following which press may step inside to view a large mounted memorial plaque. B-roll for media that cannot attend may be made available upon request.

*Members of the media are encouraged to RSVP to [pressoffice@dny.nyc.gov](mailto:pressoffice@dny.nyc.gov).*

### **Additional Information**

- 1,500 Sanitation Workers were deployed to Ground Zero within the first 24 hours to aid the recovery effort with debris removal, and the Department dispatched more than 150 pieces of heavy machinery from its fleet to facilitate this process.
- The Department also focused on clearing and cleaning the area surrounding Ground Zero, allowing the Stock Exchange to re-open by Monday morning. In the immediate aftermath of the attack, this proved to be crucial to our economy and gave New Yorkers hope by demonstrating that our City would persevere.
- Sanitation served at Ground Zero and lower Manhattan for 39 weeks, facilitating the City's recovery.
- Materials Management experts at Fresh Kills Landfill processed as much as 17,500 tons of day, which led to the positive identification of more than 300 victims and secured evidence and artifacts, coordinating with more than 25 city, state and federal agencies.
- Sanitation's operations continued at Fresh Kills for 317 days – 10 ½ months after 9/11. A core team of approximately 200 employees, many trained in sophisticated crane equipment, worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week, with no days off until Thanksgiving 2001.