



## NYC DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION COMMISSIONER'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

We are always thinking of new ways to celebrate our employees and the work they do, that's why we are proud to announce our 2017-2018 Commissioner's Awards for Excellence.

All DSNY employees – any uniformed or civilian employee, permanent or provisional, is eligible to nominate or be nominated in the following fields:

- Innovation
- Advancing Safety
- Sustainability
- Public Engagement
- Managerial Excellence
- Service During Snow or Emergency Events

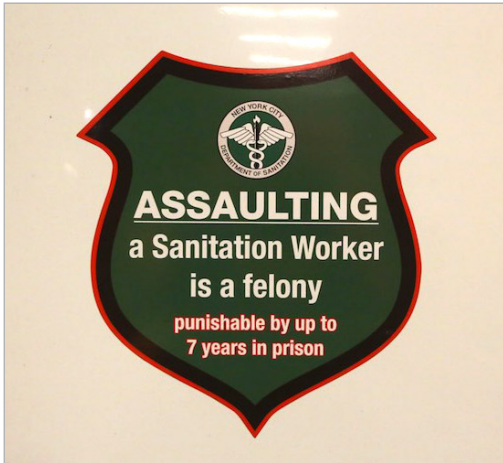
Submit your nominations for the 2nd Quarter (Oct 2017 – Dec 2017) by December 31 at [nyc.gov/dsnyawards](http://nyc.gov/dsnyawards).

### 2018 Is Coming Early!



Our 2018 DSNY Calendars are hot off the presses and ready for you to pick up. Showcasing our diverse employee base, this year's calendar shows why we are called New York's Strongest. Buy one online today [here](#).

## Protecting Our Strongest



Our trucks are now sporting new decals reminding New Yorkers that it's a felony to assault a Sanitation Worker. These are being attached to areas of higher visibility on our equipment.



## The Foundation for New York's Strongest

The Foundation for New York's Strongest is charging forward. Private-sector experts are donating their time to draw more attention to DSNY's programs. Plus, the Microgrant Program is now underway, helping small businesses keep useful food from being wasted. Know someone interested in getting involved? The Foundation is seeking volunteers. [Learn more here.](#)

Have ideas to share?  
Send them to  
[suggestionbox@dsny.nyc.gov](mailto:suggestionbox@dsny.nyc.gov)

**Spotlight on Us!**



The **Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** covers everything from explaining employment laws to mediating conflicts, EDI promotes equal opportunities for all New York's Strongest. That's why when the team at Equity, Diversity and Inclusion sends its holiday greetings, they know we hold all kinds of beliefs and non-beliefs. Religious, spiritual or atheist – there's a place for us at DSNY. EDI also has a service announcement this time of year: Enjoy our office parties, but keep in mind that even in casual moments the workplace rules of respect still apply. Merry Christmas, happy Chanukah, happy Kwanza, happy holidays or happy solstice – EDI wishes all of us a warm and wonderful 2018.

## Helping Others Enjoy Thanksgiving



Our 31 colleagues who just returned from Puerto Rico recovery efforts continued their goodwill here. With First Deputy Commissioner **Steven Costas**, the team distributed Thanksgiving turkeys to Puerto Rican families displaced by the hurricane. The turkeys were a generous donation by the Municipal Credit Union.

## Getting to Zero



Commissioner Garcia was on hand as the Downtown Alliance marked a milestone – diverting 1,000 tons of paper, plastic, metal and glass from reaching landfills. DSNY’s values partnerships as another way New York City can keep waste from reaching landfills.

## Take Care!

Mental illness can be hard to identify – even for the people suffering from it. Mental health is about emotional, psychological and social well-being – and has a role in how we feel, the choices we make, the way we relate to others and how well we handle stress. One in 5 New Yorkers suffer from a mental illness or substance abuse disorder.

If you or someone you love is struggling, visit <https://nycwell.cityofnewyork.us/en/> or call the Health Care Facility at 212-437-4457. If you’re in danger or need immediate medical attention, call 911.

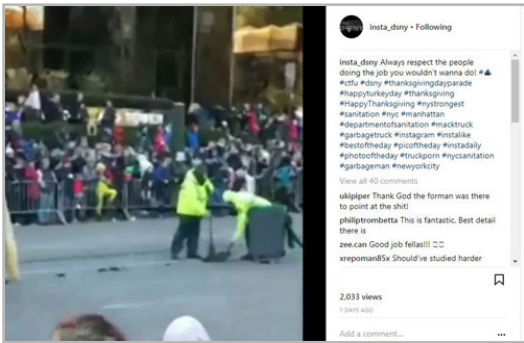
## Moving On

A big thank you to **Rachel Assisi** – the writer behind our monthly Trash Talk and Zero Waste newsletters. She’s not going too far! By joining the NYCERS communications team, she’ll have a hand in helping us navigate our retirement! Congrats for the exciting new opportunity, Rachel!



**SIGN UP FOR TRASH TALK!** [CLICK HERE](#)

**The Social Scene**



**From the Commissioner**



**Kathryn Garcia**

As we close 2017, let’s reflect up just how many “firsts” we achieved this year – above and beyond our regular collection, cleaning and plowing.

**We developed new tools to interact with the public.** Residents can now schedule collection appointments for bulk items, and we started and are expanding appointments for electronic waste collections. We created and launched the DSNY Info app, which gives New Yorkers easy access to our Department.

**We continued our charge toward zero waste.** Our work is becoming increasingly important as we lead the effort of zero

waste to landfills. Among our successes in 2017, two of our partnerships reached milestones this year: refashionNYC and ecycleNYC have now kept 10,000 tons of electronics and textiles from being tossed with trash. And let's not forget organics. Now, 3.3 million New Yorkers have curbside collection or convenient drop-off sites. Plus, our organics requirements for larger commercial food companies are now in effect.

**We approached long-time challenges in new ways.** For example, we launched the Talk Trash New York anti-litter campaign and worked alongside our sister agencies to mitigate rodents.

We achieved all this while promoting skilled leaders in our agency, continuing to build our workforce, combatting severe weather 11 times – and responding to the humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico. We've always known we're the best team in New York City. This year, we proved it yet again. Thank you for your dedication keeping New York City a great place to live, work and visit – and I wish you warm holidays and a happy, healthy and meaningful 2018.

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