



sanitation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 26, 2023

Press Release #23-28

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DSNY Litter Basket of the Future Named to [TIME Best Inventions of 2023 List](#)

After decades of forcing New Yorkers to look at and smell trash stewing in wire mesh litter baskets, the New York City Department of Sanitation began installation this fall of a new, modern Litter Basket of the Future. This innovative design, which will appear on street corners across New York City over the next several years, has now been named one of [TIME's Best Inventions of 2023](#).

“The modular design, the innovative hinged lid, and the spacing at the base that keeps the trash away from the ground mean these baskets are easier for humans to use, harder for rats to abuse, and a far better fit for the clean streets of today’s New York City,” said **Jessica Tisch, Commissioner, NYC Department of Sanitation**. “The Adams Administration is leading New York City through a Trash Revolution, getting the black bags off the street and into containers, sending the rats packing and reclaiming our sidewalks. As New Yorkers change their behavior, DSNY is changing too – and part of that change is getting rid of outdated, leaky, rat-attracting mesh litter baskets.”

"Being named one of TIME magazine's best inventions of 2023 is both an honor and a validation of the hard work we invested in reimagining what a corner litter basket could be within the complexities of NYC waste management. While a trash bin might be viewed as a simple utility, its design can profoundly influence the everyday urban experience for both New Yorkers and the Sanitation Workers who service them. Immense gratitude goes to the teams at Group Project and the Department of Sanitation that helped make this idea a reality," said **Colin P. Kelly, Founder and Design Director at Group Project**.

DSNY maintains approximately 23,000 litter baskets citywide. The old mesh basket is full of holes, which allow trash juice out and rats in. The new basket is rat-resistant, leak-proof, harder to misuse with household trash, and both easier and safer for Sanitation Workers to empty. Over 300 new baskets are on the streets today, with an additional 1,000 already on the way.

The full TIME Best Inventions List, including the DSNY Litter Basket of the Future, can be seen [here](#).