

local

# Commish: NYC can be litter-free

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**The goal is high-minded, lofty, even utopian. Yet the city's No. 1 trash man envisions a New York devoid of the litter and random bits of detritus that most accept as inevitable.**

"The Department of Sanitation is very proud to launch 'Stomp Out Litter,' whose objective is to eliminate, once and for all, littering in New York City," Sanitation Commissioner John Doherty said yesterday. "We are fortunate to be joined in this anti-litter effort by extraordinary partners."

The Stomp Out Litter campaign includes public-service ads featuring the cast of STOMP, the long-running rambunctious stage show featuring brooms and trash cans as props.

Mayor Bloomberg said yesterday that the city is the cleanest it has been since the 1970s, and expressed optimism that the new campaign would convince more New Yorkers that the sidewalk is not a dumpster.

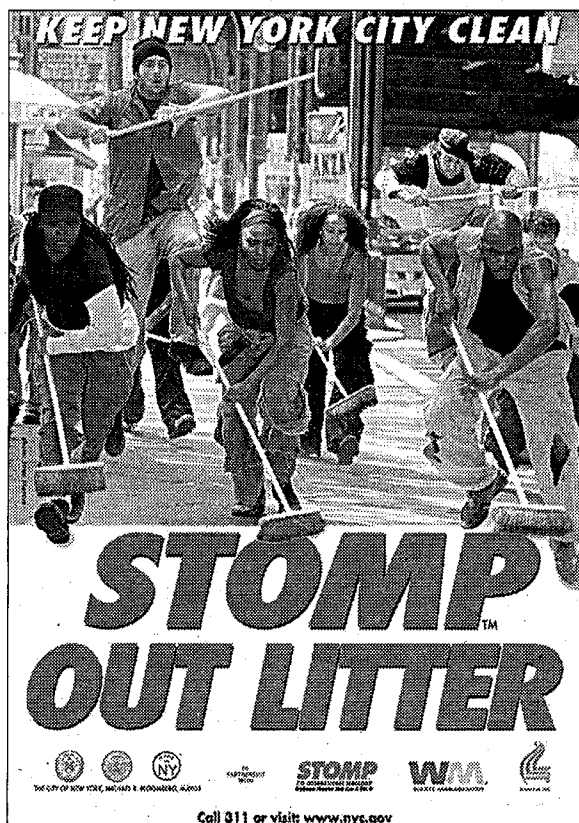
But how realistic is Commissioner Doherty's goal of eliminating litter altogether?

"I think anything is possible," Department of Sanitation spokesman Vito Turso said. "But someone is always going to buy a hot dog on the street and drop his napkin and make us pick it up."

Still, more than 92% of city streets are rated "acceptably clean" by the Department of Sanitation's statistical accounting system.

"We're going to be fighting for each additional point along the way," Turso said. "When New York City is 100% clean, then we'll be there."

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**Brooms on Broadway** A new anti-littering campaign shows the cast of "Stomp" sweeping city sidewalks.