

# THE TOILETEER

OCT 5, 2026

## Introduction

Welcome back, Toileteers! This is the sixth installment of the American Restroom Association's newsletter, *The Toileteer*. The ARA advocates for the availability of clean, safe, well-designed public restrooms. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Parks & Arena campaign. We have gotten responses from across the country and leads for future projects and collaboration. Enjoy this month's latest public restroom news and email the ARA if you have a story you would like to see featured in our monthly newsletter.



A self-cleaning bathroom at the Polish Triangle  
Anthony Vazquez/Sun-Times

## Support the American Restroom Association!

- Donate to support our continued advocacy, staff, and research.



## Chicago is getting a self-cleaning public restroom. Where is it, and when can it be used?

Chicago Sun-Times, Oct 3, 2026 - by Violent Miller

Where is it?

- At the lively "Polish Triangle" in West Town, Chicago IL, beside the CTA Division Blue Line station.

How does it work?

- "The public toilets like the one in West Town are free to use, but have a time limit and are automatically cleaned between uses. A combination of water and disinfectant is sprayed across the floor to clean anything left behind. Two toilet bowls are then rotated out to be disinfected by a power wash system."

Who is paying?

- JCDecaux, a French advertising firm, supplies and maintains it at no cost through a pilot program. The 1st Ward covers over \$400,000 in plumbing and installation from its menu funds. Utility hookups are underway and the opening date is still yet to be set.

Why does Chicago need it?

- Ald. Daniel La Spata and Ald. Rossana Rodriguez Sanchez cite gaps affecting parents, seniors, people with medical conditions, and unhoused residents.

What are the concerns?

- Some neighbors worry about crime and upkeep. Whether an attendant will staff it remains unclear.



## **Is your Restroom Clean Hands Certified?**

The five elements of a complete hygienic handwash include:

- 1.Touch-free soap
- 2.Touch-free faucet
- 3.Warm water
- 4.Hygienic hand drying
- 5.Hands-free exit

Clean Hands Certified was developed to give businesses an independent way to demonstrate that their handwashing environments support all five elements of a complete hygienic hand wash. In Clean Hands Index consumer research, 76% of respondents said Clean Hands Certified would improve their impression of a facility, while 75% said they would be more likely to return to a location offering an excellent handwashing experience.

**Clean Hands Certified Website**



## **Mayor Mamdani Brings 17 New Public Bathrooms To NYC**

September 16, 2026 — by NYC Government

New York City began installing 17 free public bathrooms on September 16 under a \$4 million, one-year pilot from Mayor Zohran Mamdani. Throne Labs, selected by NYCEDC, operates and cleans the ADA-accessible, touchless units, open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. in all five boroughs. Units require no utility hookups. Users enter by text, QR code, app, or tap card. Council Member Sandy Nurse linked the pilot to the city's goal of doubling restrooms by 2035

**"My gut has always caused me issues, and I try not to leave my house without knowing exactly where the nearest restroom is going to be"**— Fletcher Wilson, Co-founder and CEO of Throne Labs.



"Whether you are making deliveries, working on a construction site, driving a cab or simply spending the day out and about in your neighborhood, you should have reliable access to clean and free restrooms," said NYCEDC President and CEO Anthony Shorris. "Access to a restroom is a basic matter of dignity, and these new locations deliver on the City's commitment to bring facilities to the communities and public spaces where they are needed most."

## **Join A Local ARA Chapter Near You!**

Fill out this QR Code to get involved more directly with the American Restroom Association. Whether you want to inform your community or get directly involved in policy, there is a way you can help advocate for public restrooms in your community! As a growing grassroots organization our local chapters are what sustain our advocacy. Join Today!



## **Local Chapter Intake Form**

