



Mayor Byron W. Brown's  
**Civic Innovation  
CHALLENGE**  
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# REVERSE PITCH

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS & STREETS  
STREETS & SANITATION DIVISION

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PROJECT:  
TOTE AUDIT

## CHALLENGE

The City of Buffalo has over 100,000 blue garbage totes in circulation. The User Fee (garbage pickup) pricing structure is based on the number and size of totes one has at their property. The blue totes have RFID tags but we currently do not have a way to read them. Therefore, the only way to audit a property is to have Department of Sanitation staff conduct a visual inspection.

## OPPORTUNITY

A mobile app that can scan RFID tags on totes and addresses associated with the location would give the City the ability to compile, store and maintain inventory. The app would upload the tote numbers and the addresses (via geotagging) to a user-friendly database for the City to track and maintain inventory.

The app will be used by Division of Sanitation tote auditors. In addition, there are Supervisors and Superintendents that can be trained to use the application. The total staff would be 30-40 people. Workers have access to cell phones and tablets.

## VALUE PROPOSITION

The City needs a way to track inventory that is more standardized and verifiable because User Fee billing is based on the present inventory. An accurate inventory will help the City to ensure adequate and appropriate funding for provided services.

For additional documentation regarding pitches and contest details, visit: [buffaloinnovates.com](http://buffaloinnovates.com)

