



Department of Public Works

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Commissioner of Public Works

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### **DPW efforts being recognized by Milwaukee Pride**

*Karen Dettmer nominated for Ally award for leadership on rainbow crosswalks project*

The City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works is proud to stand with Milwaukee Pride as one of DPW's own is among 2019 Pride award winners. Milwaukee Water Works Superintendent Karen Dettmer has been nominated for Pride Award - Ally. As DPW coordination manager, Ms. Dettmer successfully advocated for the [Rainbow Crosswalks Initiative](#), decorative crosswalks that were unveiled in November 2018 following LBGTQ leaders' requests to commemorate their community.

The decorative rainbow crosswalks at the intersection of North Jefferson and East Wells streets serve as the city's first permanent monument and historical marker for LGBTQ citizens, according to Milwaukee Pride. <http://pridefest.com/2019/06/04/congratulations-to-our-2019-pride-award-winners/>

As these were the first decorative crosswalks in the city, DPW also instituted an application and approval process which is open to neighborhood groups, business improvement districts, non-profits, and other community-based organizations. DPW will only install decorative crosswalks when safe and appropriate.

“This award for Karen is well-deserved. We have long said that streets foster community identity and the Rainbow Crosswalks Initiative is a fine example of this,” said Commissioner of Public Works Jeff Polenske. “I’d also like to recognize Mike Amsden, James Hannig, Marissa Meyer, Joseph Blakeman and Rollin Bertran for their outstanding work on this project.”

Ms. Dettmer will accept the Ally award this (Friday) afternoon at PrideFest Milwaukee Opening Ceremonies.

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