



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA ADVISORY

City of Milwaukee Health Department Congratulates Commissioner Jeanette Kowalik on 1st Year as Commissioner of Health

On September 4, 2018, Dr. Kowalik testified before the Public Safety & Health Committee. She shared her diving purpose for serving her hometown, Milwaukee, WI and her desire to return back to the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD), where she started her public health career as an intern.

After being unanimously nominated by the Common Council, she was sworn in shortly thereafter and hit the ground running as Commissioner of Health. Acknowledging that it would be challenging and knowing that heavy lifting was necessary in order to help the department move onward and upward, her commitment to strengthening the department was “rock solid,” in her words.

In just one year, under Commissioner Kowalik’s leadership, the department has made many strides, accomplished a number of tasks, and re-prioritized priorities, including:

- Lead stop work order lifted for the Department of Housing and Urban Development; increased community outreach and education for lead prevention; [increased lead-safe home kits and water filter distribution to the community](#)
- [Implemented the department’s first ever Board of Health](#)
- [414Life Program announced hospital partnerships to help reduce violence](#)
- Reinstated all staff meetings; implemented a department-wide reorganization to recruit and retain top talent; led [department re-brand](#)
- [Developed the B.O.M.B Doula Program in efforts to reduce infant mortality](#)
- Implemented the food grading system and updated laboratory genetic sequencing technology
- [Expanded WIC services to Ascension-St. Joseph’s](#)
- [Issued vaping advisory to the community](#)
- PrEP to expand STI services at Southside Health Center (11/2019) and increased access to HIV PrEP at Keenan Health Center
- Record breaking successes of the 18th Annual Back-to-School Health Fairs at Washington High School and Journey House

While there is still more work to be done, Commissioner Kowalik remains hopeful and committed to entering a new phase as a department – *one dream, one future, one community*.

Commissioner Kowalik, we salute you and thank you for your service to our city!

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