

County of Milwaukee
Office of the Sheriff



David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

September 15, 2011

The Honorable Lee Holloway, Chairman
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Room 201, Milwaukee County Courthouse

Dear Chairman Holloway:

Thank you for responding to my call to action. Put away your liberal talking points for a moment so that we can have an honest discussion.

First let me address your threat to take money from MY budget. The budget is not MINE. I didn't present it, nor did I approve it. I oversee publicly owned assets. It's the public's money. If you want to take money from them that I use to keep them safe, and move it to provide transportation for violent criminals, that is certainly within the scope of your authority as Chairman of the County Board. That's fewer hours spent patrolling parks and slower response to emergency services because the County Board is providing taxi service to criminal inmates. Let me know how that plays publicly for you. My plan saves those taxpayers you refer to, as it costs \$159 per day to house Huber inmates downtown, versus \$52 dollars per day if I relocate Huber inmates to the Franklin facility. I don't know what formula you used, but that's how I made my fiscal decision.

I want to address your comments on how I am doing these criminal inmates a disservice. In a word, your remarks are CLASSIC. It's always someone else's fault that career criminals are in the predicament they're in. It's the classic liberal stance. You see no reason to point out what THEY have done – what personal choice they made – to put themselves in this situation. No, Sheriff Clarke is the bad guy. Sorry Chairman, but guilt trips don't work with me. I've done nothing except protect the public from wrongdoers. I'm willing to hold career criminals accountable and you're not. They should be punished for victimizing their fellow human beings, not given pity. All of my empathy will be for the victims left in the wake of these criminals' actions.

In your mind society can't do enough for criminals. In my view not only has society done enough for them, society doesn't owe them anything other than an opportunity for them to apologize and change course in terms of lifestyle choices. In fact, part of their sentence should be to have to make a public mea culpa.

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Chairman Lee Holloway
Page Two
September 15, 2011

Having convicted criminals become more self-reliant, and forcing them to learn how to overcome obstacles and go through hardships, are all learning experiences that your cradle-to-casket philosophy does not allow. The ability to overcome obstacles builds character and instills a sense of self-responsibility, self-discipline, self-achievement and self-sustenance. Your views have created a culture of dependency on someone else to solve all of their problems, namely government in this instance. Your views make you an enabler in a criminal's dysfunctional existence.

Chairman, please think about this for a second. These career criminals have made flawed decisions, such as dropping out of a school system that society has provided at virtually no cost to them at the K-12 level. They abuse drugs and alcohol, they murder, rape, take people's property at gunpoint, burglarize homes, steal cars, arm themselves illegally while shooting up and terrorizing neighborhoods and selling drugs, as if it is a lawful, promising career. Then they get arrested, sometimes fighting and injuring law enforcement officers, cause taxpayers to pay for court services and incarceration costs after being the beneficiaries of judicial leniency and watered-down sentences, and you believe law abiding citizens and I need to do even more in the form of providing a livery service. This is incredible!

First of all, a Huber sentence is a privilege. Second, if you look at why criminals are allowed out on Huber you will see that it isn't just to go to work. It's supposedly for things like childcare, to take care of a grandparent, to attend school. These are all honorable activities. Problem is that none of these creeps were engaged in these activities prior to being arrested, and if they had, they would not have had time to rape, rob and pillage this community. One goof who got out on Huber to attend school attended MATC for one week and stopped going. Before he left he stole a \$12,000 high-end video camera from the class he signed up for. I know what you're thinking: Shame on MATC for allowing him access to that piece of equipment as part of the instruction. They should have had it chained to the floor, right?

These are the miscreants that you want me to have pity on and to worry about their transportation needs? Chairman, I don't know how they are going to get to their destination from the relocated Huber facility and I don't care. If it were up to me, I wouldn't let them out every day and therefore they wouldn't have transportation issues. I have to ask you who was providing for their transportation needs before these inmates were arrested? It's their problem, not the government's. I'm running a jail, not a hotel with a complimentary shuttle service. Human beings are resourceful when they are forced to be. They'll figure it out. I know they will. We have notified the Huber inmates that the change will begin on December 1, 2011, and to date none of them has expressed outrage. Ironically only you and other criminal advocates have. Interesting.

My advice is to let them learn to rely on family and friends for their transportation needs. These are traditional institutions people used to rely on when things got tough. Thanks to do-gooder liberals and their misguided policies, now they rely solely on the government. Here is an opportunity to reverse that paradigm back to when people solved their own problems.

Chairman Lee Holloway
Page Three
September 15, 2011

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David A. Clarke Jr." in a cursive style.

David A. Clarke Jr., Sheriff
Milwaukee County

c: Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
County Executive Chris Abele
Chief Judge Jeffrey Kremers