



Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff

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NEWS RELEASE

David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, October 17, 2008

Deputies Arrest Suspect Who Punched County Bus Driver In Face, Breaking Driver's Nose

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Sheriff's Targeted Enforcement Unit (TEU) detectives arrested the suspect who assaulted a Milwaukee County bus driver on Route 19 on Monday, October 6. The 16-year-old suspect is currently on probation for armed robbery.

Targeted Enforcement Unit officers conducting a plainclothes operation used still photos obtained from surveillance videos as they began their search for the suspect. The outline below highlights the coordinated arrest plan during the first three days following the attack:

Monday, October 6

- Bus driver attacked, Sheriff's Targeted Enforcement Unit (TEU) deploys deputies
- Detectives interview bus driver and witnesses
- Detectives check bus cameras and enhance surveillance video showing attack

Tuesday, October 7

- Detectives with Criminal Investigative Division discuss strategy with deputies at roll calls
- Officers begin surveilling bus routes that connect to Route 19
- TEU detectives locate suspect riding bus. Teen's clothes match suspect's clothes in video

Wednesday, October 8

- Detectives visit Northwest Secondary School where suspect is a student
- Witnesses identify the suspect from surveillance video
- Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke releases video at news conference asking for the public's help

On Wednesday, October 15, the suspect was charged in juvenile court with one count of felony battery to a transit operator. Because the suspect is a juvenile, state law prevents us from releasing his name and booking photo.

Statement From Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr.

“This 16 year-old is well on his way to leading a life of crime. He’s already on probation for sticking a weapon in someone’s face and taking their property by force. Someone in the juvenile justice system thought he was a good risk to place back into the law-abiding community. The juvenile justice system threatens consequences, but never proves it until it’s too late.

It didn’t take a behavioral psychologist to see that his prior assaultive demeanor would surface again and that he would explode on someone else. Violence is a process and he will eventually kill if he is not removed from society until he acquires the discipline and social skills necessary to thrive in an orderly environment. He is too dangerous and too high a risk to be rehabilitated in a Milwaukee neighborhood.

This 16-year-old has been kicked out of an MPS school and now attends an alternative school. An alternative school is a politically correct term to say that his disruptive assaultive behavior is incompatible with a learning environment. He is every teacher’s nightmare. How can a teacher accomplish their mission of teaching with him around? Just as he struck the bus driver for telling him to settle down, he would just as soon strike a teacher for correcting his behavior in a classroom.

Poverty didn’t cause him to behave in this abhorrent manner. Behavior causes crime and violence. This suspect is not in need of our sympathy. He’s in need of strict discipline and punishment, so that for the first time in his life he learns that there are laws of conduct in public spaces and that there are consequences for violating those laws. Up until now the only message he has gotten is that no one is willing to prove that to him and that we’re willing to tolerate his behavior.”