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Sheriff

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NEWS RELEASE

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SHERIFF CLARKE TO EQUIP JAILORS WITH TASERS

Milwaukee, WI – After a female inmate sucker-punched a female Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office corrections officer in an unprovoked attack, the second such attack in a week, Sheriff Clarke has ordered his training bureau to design a protocol, policy and training that would expand the current deployment of tasers in the jail. Tasers are a "less than lethal" defensive option for officers, typically in field assignments. Supervisors were recently equipped with tasers while research continued to include equipping every corrections officer with the defensive capability.

"I'm through having some idiot physically assault one of my jail officers with impunity," Clarke said, adding that he is not confident that the judiciary in Milwaukee County will send these criminals to prison for a substantial period of time. "People who assault officers correctly assess that they will not be severely punished by the courts based on past sentencing in these types of cases. The thought of being juiced after such an attack in order to defend ourselves will make some goof think twice about laying a hand on us, and if they feel it's worth it, then that's ok with me. I have been tased as part of my taser certification - it's not fun; I know. Don't let anybody kid you," Clarke said.

Assaults against jailors in the Milwaukee County jail are down over the last two years, but the Sheriff said, "One is too many in my view."

Late Friday night, a female corrections officer was punched in the face by a female inmate at the County Correctional Facility-Central (downtown jail). The 33-year-old inmate, being held on a state charge of disorderly conduct, was being assessed by a nurse when she suddenly struck the 28-year-old corrections officer who was standing guard. The officer subdued the inmate, and the nurse called for assistance. The inmate was taken to detention. The female officer was treated and released from a hospital for injuries to her face. A charge of Battery by Prisoner will be filed against the inmate, a felony punishable by up to 6 years in prison.

On Thursday, a 45-year old male corrections officer was struck in the face by a 47-year-old male inmate causing a concussion, fractured sinus and facial lacerations. He faces felony charges of Battery by Prisoner and Substantial Battery. If convicted on these felony charges, he faces up to 9 years and six months in prison.

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