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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COURT COMMISSIONERS SHOW DISREGARD FOR JAILOR SAFETY

Milwaukee, WI – Two Milwaukee County Court Commissioners showed a blatant disregard for the safety of the corrections officers in our county jail by releasing two inmates on signature bonds.

Both inmates faced Class H Felony charges for Battery by Prisoner for the unprovoked attacks that injured two corrections officers last week at the County Correctional Facility-Central (CCF-C - county jail). Upon conviction of these charges, they each face 6 years imprisonment. They both have criminal histories and have previously exhibited assaultive behavior on the public.

“I am outraged that Court Commissioners Laura Gramling Perez and Cedric Cornwall would treat these attacks on our officers so lightly,” said Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. “The Milwaukee County judiciary is already too lenient at the sentencing phase on these charges. In Milwaukee County, the message sent by these two commissioners is that you can punch a corrections officer in the face and receive a get-out-of-jail-free card. This sickens me,” Clarke said.

In a news release last week, Sheriff Clarke alluded to the fact that he lacks confidence that the judiciary in Milwaukee County will send these criminals to prison for a substantial period of time. He has ordered his training bureau to design a protocol, policy and training that would expand the current deployment of tasers in the jail as an additional means for corrections officers to defend themselves.

A summary of last week’s assaults:

On Thursday, a 45-year-old male corrections officer was struck in the face by Sam Edward Jones, 47, of Milwaukee, causing a concussion, fractured sinus and facial lacerations.

Late Friday night, a female corrections officer was punched in the face by a female inmate. Jennifer M. Principe, 33, of Kenosha, 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 solitary detention. The female officer was treated and released from a hospital for injuries to her face.

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