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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judges Having a Hard Time Differentiating the Cops from the Criminals**

*Milwaukee, WI - Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. issued the following response to an article that appeared in a local newspaper. He defended the work of one of his best and most assertive officers whose credibility was questioned regarding a case involving a career criminal who was arrested, charged and convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm. This is a crime that carries up to a maximum of 10 years in prison. The defendant received an 8-month stay in the House of Correction.*

Chief Judge Kremers and Judge Rebecca Dallet seem to forget that convicted felon Catrell Cloyd was on trial, not the deputy. Kremers brought Deputy Chang's credibility into account without the officer being given an opportunity to defend himself on the witness stand. Our system of justice is predicated on people being able to defend themselves, yet when it's a cop, who I believe has been unjustly maligned, he gets no due process. This is something I've seen played out in every one of my 33 years in law enforcement and it makes street cops sick. There is an opportunity for witnesses to have their testimony impeached at trial and that didn't happen here. The criminal gets leniency and the officer walks away with his credibility in tatters.

None of this changes the facts about the sentence handed down by Judge Dallet against Cloyd. I stand by my description of the sentencing, and have attached a copy of the CCAP sentencing description to back it up. As I said in a public hearing in Madison, Judge Dallet sentenced a career criminal to an 8-month sentence in the House of Correction, a sentence I have likened to a bed and breakfast stay compared to prison. She could have sentenced Cloyd to up to ten - count them - *ten* years in prison regardless of what anyone else wanted. She chose to go light, as she and too many other judges in Milwaukee County do with repeat violent criminal offenders. She chose to punt it to the State Department of Corrections (DOC) to do what she couldn't find the courage to do.

The State DOC found Cloyd in violation of the probation he received from another judge and sent him back to prison to serve more time for a previous conviction, not for his conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Now Dallet and Kremers want to cleverly act as if she sent Cloyd to prison. She did not. In fact it gets worse. She ordered that the sentence be served **concurrent** to the penalty handed down by the DOC. This means he serves **absolutely NO additional time** for being convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Only a weasel would abdicate their responsibility to the public and try to piggyback when someone else does the dirty work. I call that judicial leniency.

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Too many Milwaukee County Circuit Court judges have become apologists for repeat criminal offenders. A judge and prosecutor referred to it as an “accident”, “silly” and “stupid” when a group of thugs carefully planned and robbed a drug house where someone ended up being killed. An accident, silly, and stupid? I call it armed robbery and felony murder. Downplaying criminal charges used to be a role performed by criminal defense attorneys.

An 18-year-old who killed a man had his original charge of first-degree intentional homicide watered down to a lesser charge of recklessly endangering safety. He only got 3 years in prison for the murder. I know I’ll hear more excuses from Judge Kremers on this one, also. He’s got an excuse for every criminal defendant. Criminal defendants now have additional built-in sympathizers.

A series of articles recently ran in the local paper about misguided “second chance” opportunities for career criminals. It is about time that lenient judges are held up for public scrutiny. I find lenient sentences and “second chance” opportunities for repeat offenders - like serial rapist Johnathan Kirk, charged with 10 counts of first-degree sexual assault in a series of rapes and robberies this year, and Markus Evans, who acted with the cold disregard of a sniper when he shot and killed a promising 17 year-old girl walking home from school – to be a discriminatory policy by the Milwaukee County criminal justice system. These criminals are un-caged back into mainly central city neighborhoods, where they victimize the most vulnerable in our society - minorities, women and children. Personally, I don’t know how some of these guys sleep at night.

The criminal justice system in Milwaukee County has been hijacked by a liberal, soft-on-crime model that views violent crime as a disease that can be cured by some inmate program. One judge ordered an anger management program for Kirk in a previous violent case. It’s the therapeutic model, it doesn’t work, and it’s a cruel social engineering experiment being tested out by the criminal justice system.

I see violent crime as depraved anti-social behavior that should be punished by significant time in prison. I have been, and will continue to be, a staunch advocate for victims of crime and not the criminal perpetrators.

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