



Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

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NEWS RELEASE

David A. Clarke Jr.
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CJC Spreads Column Condoning Violence Against Women Victims of Assault

Milwaukee, WI – The Milwaukee County Criminal Justice Council (CJC) is disseminating, through its Council Coordinator Jim Hiller, a column published in an extreme-left, free-at-supermarkets alternative rag that is critical of the sheriff's opposition to the CJC's agenda. What's really astounding is that Joel McNally, husband of CJC member Kit McNally, tries to make his point by downplaying the trauma experienced by victims of recent sexual assaults.

McNally says Clarke, "blasted the bail set on someone charged with a misdemeanor, the notorious bike path fanny-feeler. Two women joggers said the offender rode up behind them and touched them as he went by."

Sheriff Clarke put up safety alert posters in the parks Duane Fish was prohibited from frequenting as a condition of the low bail issued by the court. Four women were assaulted, though the charges were reduced by the District Attorney's Office from 2nd degree to 4th degree sexual assault in two cases. A fourth case was not charged.

How would McNally react if someone attacked his wife in the same way as described by the women in these incidents, and would he describe the attacker as a wholesome "fanny-feeler?"

The victim was on her morning run in the park and noticed a man on a bench. When she got to the top of the stairs, he grabbed her from behind by the waist. He pressed his face between her butt cheeks and rubbed her vaginal area. As she struggled, he had his face in her vaginal area, as he forcefully continued grabbing her buttocks extremely hard. She screamed and kicked and was able to get away.

Or another victim, jogging near Riverside High School: A man got off his bike as he neared her, then came up behind her, and squeezed her buttocks, moved his hand between her legs and felt her vagina.

Another victim recounted that she was jogging near Lincoln Memorial Drive, when the suspect grabbed her arms from behind, pushed her down the steps. She was able to get away, but sustained injuries, including bruising on her abdomen, scraped palms and scars on her knee.

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This man was terrorizing women in our county parks. As the sheriff pointed out when he alerted the public of Fish's release, Fish is a menace as evidenced by his criminal history. He is a convicted felon with arrests for domestic violence, burglary, battery, violation of a restraining order, trespassing, theft and carrying a concealed weapon.

The Milwaukee County criminal justice system returned him to the streets on a \$500 bail. That breaks down to about \$125 per attack, less than what one could be fined for Skateboarding Where Prohibited.

In discussing the bail statute, proponents of alternatives to incarceration, like the McNallys, love to quote the first sentence, "If bail is imposed, it shall be only in the amount found necessary to assure the appearance of the defendant."

But, conveniently, they never discuss the third sentence of the statute: "Proper considerations in determining whether to release the defendant without bail, fixing a reasonable amount of bail or imposing other reasonable conditions of release include....the nature, number and gravity of the offenses... whether the alleged acts were violent in nature..."

Diluting the issue of violence against women, and in this case predatory sexual violence, is a rank display of the same mindset that for decades dismissed domestic violence as simply a "heated argument between a husband and wife."

The insulting mischaracterization of this crime is shocking.

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