

County of Milwaukee

Office of the Sheriff



David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

March 4, 2013

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
United States Senate
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

I am Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr., the elected sheriff of Milwaukee County, which is the most populous county in the state of Wisconsin and comprises 19 municipalities, including the City of Milwaukee. I am writing to offer an apology on behalf of my constituents for the embarrassing behavior of Milwaukee Police Chief Edward Flynn, who testified on February 26, 2013, before a subcommittee that you sit on.

Please do not see his arrogance as exemplary of the people in Milwaukee County. His views on gun control are his and he is entitled to them, but he has no constituency of his own. He is an appointed bureaucrat. I do not remember him emphasizing that fact and I want you to know that his viewpoint does not represent either my view on gun control nor countless other law-abiding citizens and gun owners in Milwaukee County. Chief Flynn has been a mouthpiece for the Mayors Against Guns group that has made no secret of their desire to obliterate the Second Amendment. Chief Flynn should have made his bias clear before speaking.

More concerning, however, is the rude behavior Chief Flynn displayed. I watched in utter disbelief as he talked over and interrupted you, at one point arguing that your questions were "self-answering." You, Senator, are a distinguished and respected member of the United States Senate, and have represented the people of the state of South Carolina in Congress since 1994. The way you have conducted yourself on Capitol Hill personifies statesmanship. Regardless of your political party or political views a very certain amount of dignity and respect comes along with being an elected official in our representative democracy. Chief Flynn showed you none as he shamefully tried to shout you down and talk over you as you asked very relevant questions about street violence in Milwaukee that he did not want to address because it would unveil his true motive, which is gun control, not a reduction in street violence.

Service to the Community Since 1835

821 West State Street • Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1488
414-278-4766 • Fax 414-223-1386 • www.mksheriff.org

**The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Page Two
March 4, 2013**

I have a forceful personality but would not even dream of coming up to Capitol Hill to disrespect and shout down a member of Congress who is tasked with asking questions to get answers on behalf of the American people. My understanding of political protocol and discourse is that if two or more elected officials want to engage in discourse that stretches the boundaries, that is fine. But an appointed bureaucrat should never for one second think that the same understanding applies to him.

After Chief Flynn's testimony and in an interview with a Milwaukee newspaper, he accused members of Congress who do not support the evisceration of the Second Amendment to the Constitution, of crying "crocodile tears," and suggested that their support of law enforcement was insincere. Several days later I received a phone call from Sheriff James Alton (Al) Cannon, Jr. of Charleston County, South Carolina. He offered his support for my position regarding law-abiding gun owners and wanted me to know that no one in South Carolina has been a more steadfast supporter of the law enforcement community than you, sir. I did not doubt that for one second.

Again, Senator Graham, my apology is not for Chief Flynn, as that is for him to do. My hope is that he realizes even in retrospect the errors of his way. My apology is on behalf of my constituents in Milwaukee County. We're better than what was on display on February 26 on Capitol Hill. Sir, thank you for your service to the people of South Carolina and the United States of America.

Sincerely,



**David A. Clarke Jr., Sheriff
Milwaukee County**

c: Sheriff James Alton Cannon, Jr.