



David A. Clarke Jr.  
Sheriff

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Sheriff Clarke Calls Shakespeare Treatment in Juvenile Corrections Sheer Lunacy and a Waste of Corrections Funds and Taxpayer Money**

**Milwaukee, WI** – Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. issued the following statement on a plan approved by a Milwaukee County Board committee regarding a Shakespeare in the Courts program:

This is the craziest thing I have heard in my 33 years of law enforcement service. Now I can truly say that I have heard everything. What I've learned in my time spent in county government is to never underestimate the ability of people here to reach their height of moronic thought. If someone in my office suggested something this foolhardy to me, I would order them to be immediately drug tested.

I just sat through a month of county budget hearings listening to one supervisor after another tell me that they didn't have the money to restore County Executive Abele's proposal to lay off over 60 sheriff deputies. This waste of taxpayer money comes at a time when my county transit security initiative was cut by County Executive Abele. We just witnessed last week another passenger assault on a county bus, and several months ago a transit operator was savagely pulled from his bus and beaten.

We don't have money to maintain and improve safety for transit users or adequate courthouse building security, but now they found \$65,000 apparently sitting in a drawer somewhere and the County Board comes up with this goofy idea? The money should be returned to taxpayers instead of being spent on this. It's enough money to pay the salary of a sheriff deputy for one full year.

If this cockamamie idea is so successful, then let it be a requirement for every student at Milwaukee Public Schools, starting in the third grade. Why are we waiting until a kid engages in violent crime before his exposure to Shakespeare?

This is what happens when social engineering elitists dabble in corrections. This therapeutic model erroneously purports that for every self-destructive and pathological behavior, there is a program to cure it. This is embarrassing. It is like something straight out of *The Onion* newspaper. With priorities like this it is no wonder why some people have suggested that Milwaukee County government be dissolved. I believe it's time to restart those discussions if

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this type of spending continues out of this Board. If some conservative or Republican came up with an idea like this for black and Hispanic delinquents the Left and their elitist ilk would cry “racism.” They would say that forcing that old white guy Bill Shakespeare, or any English Literature or other Euro-Centric arts, on minority urban kids is culturally insensitive and doesn’t take into account their urban upbringing or experiences. What next, teaching them Latin? How about teaching them to read and write at grade level, maybe some U.S. History or science, and they can later enact experiments. Somebody please pinch me. Has this really been approved or am I having a nightmare? These people are either out of touch or hallucinating and that is being kind.

I am calling on County Executive Abele to veto this nonsense when it gets to his desk.