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NEWS RELEASE

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Sheriff Clarke Responds to Supervisor Jursik's Attack

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Pat Jursik wrote a scathing opinion column on Sheriff Clarke that appeared in the local newspaper today. The sheriff responded with the following statement:

When did Supervisor Jursik come up for air? The last time we heard from her, she was feverishly working to support spending \$65,000 to fund Shakespeare for thugs as a rehab program. This will be her legacy. That amount of money would fully fund the salary of a sheriff's deputy for one year, which would be of greater value to this community than that stupid idea.

Pat Jursik is Exhibit A that the Milwaukee County Board, one of the most dysfunctional governmental bodies in the state of Wisconsin, should be downsized immediately. The number that comes to mind is five – the same number of supervisors in Los Angeles County, California, where five supervisors serve a population of 10 million people.

My accomplishments as sheriff stand on their own. I inherited the House of Correction, which had previously been under the County Board, and had been described in an audit by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) as one of the worst run detention facilities in the nation. I eliminated a \$5.5 million deficit in that facility in one year, reduced overtime by 60%, and improved the safety of the facility for inmates and employees, which was highlighted in a follow up report by the NIC.

My initiative at Milwaukee's lakefront restored order and improved the quality of life for people who had stopped going to that area treasure. In addition, our agency came in with surpluses for seven consecutive budgets after a decade of MCSO running multi-million dollar deficits. The funding they want to use for the Shakespeare program was a surplus in another county program, and that surplus should be applied to next year's budget, not seen as money to be thrown away.

Supervisor Jursik had a chance to restore some of the \$14 million in cuts to County Executive Chris Abele's proposed budget, and which forces the lay off of 50 law enforcement officers. That she's making theatrical pronouncements now does the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office no good.

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