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NEWS RELEASE

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Clarke Calls Barrett's Attack on the Constitution and the NRA Politically Motivated

Milwaukee, WI – Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. issued the following statement in response to comments made by Mayor Barrett regarding the NRA:

That Mayor Tom Barrett called yesterday's statement by the NRA executive vice president in support of Second Amendment protection a statement of self-denial, is interesting. Mayor Barrett knows a thing or two about being in denial. In a news article he is quoted as saying that Americans want measures to be taken to reduce violence. He won't tell you that in a recent Gallop poll, 87% of those polled said that putting armed police in schools will be very (53%) to somewhat (34%) effective in reducing and preventing school shootings than will more gun control.

Blaming the NRA for urban street violence is like blaming GM or Ford for making the cars that drunks use to kill people, or MillerCoors for making the alcoholic beverage the drunk consumed before getting into the car.

The gun violence that occurs on the streets of Milwaukee is not caused by NRA members. It's not caused by the use of semi-auto rifles equipped with large capacity magazines or with ammunition purchased over the internet. Barrett, as is his MO, is in denial. The gun violence occurring in Milwaukee is overwhelmingly caused by uneducated urban youth with long criminal histories using handguns, not by the NRA. If Barrett made the connection properly instead of seizing an opportunity to advance a liberal agenda, he would call for a ban on handguns, period, to reduce street violence. He realizes that would put him on the fringe of this issue however. I would disagree on that type of ban also, but at least his argument would be consistent. Barrett uses the mass murder of children, and people slaughtered attending movie theater and shopping malls to deflect attention away from his own underperformance.

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The fact is that Barrett is the chief executive of a city that has the fourth highest poverty rate in AMERICA, along with high unemployment, a record number of boarded up homes in foreclosure and falling home values, a school system with attendance and graduation rate failure that would bring tears to the eyes of a brass monkey, high infant mortality rates and too many children growing up without an engaged father in the house. Barrett's failures are not caused by the NRA policies, people with concealed-carry permits or by people who embrace the constitution. Blaming the NRA is what he has to resort to with the record of failure that he has.

Keeping violent offenders out of the revolving door of the criminal justice system instead of supporting warm and fuzzy (read soft) failed criminal rehab programs will go a long way toward making streets and neighborhoods safer. Putting the same zeal toward educating kids as Barrett does working feverishly to get a train that runs in a two-mile circle will work, too, as will bringing jobs to the city. But instead Mayor Barrett attacks the constitution, law-abiding people and the NRA.

Instead of blaming the NRA, putting public safety budgeting back as a top priority of city government instead of furloughing and laying-off law enforcement officers, as he and others have in Milwaukee County will help reduce gun violence in Milwaukee.

My hope is that the media keeps Barrett engaged on this important discussion. He usually shies away from hard-hitting discussions and sends his underlings out instead. We don't want to hear from his minions (servile or unimportant people like Pat Curley) on this.

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