



David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff

Fran McLaughlin
Public Information Officer
Cell: 414-254-9488
Phone: 414-278-5226
fran.mclaughlin@milwcnty.com

NEWS RELEASE

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Sheriff Responds to Attacks From City/County Politicians

Milwaukee, WI - Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke responded today to attacks against him by city and county politicians in light of County Executive Chris Abele's elimination of dignitary protection funding from the sheriff's 2012 budget. Sheriff Clarke issued the following statement:

I wish Milwaukee Common Council President Willie Hines would be as animated when it comes to solving the real issues facing the City of Milwaukee and its residents. Milwaukee has an almost 30% black unemployment rate, a K-12 public school system that has among the worst 4th and 8th grade reading scores in the nation, and a widening achievement gap between black students and their counterparts. The city's high infant mortality rate is deplorable, and Milwaukee has the fourth highest poverty rate of US cities its size. It makes me wonder about Ald. Hines' ability to understand the profound nature of these pathologies.

I know this trick. When politicians can't solve real problems, they deflect attention to some insignificant issue. No city politician should waste time dealing with a peripheral issue such as a dignitary visit. The protection of the President of the United States is the responsibility of the Secret Service. Our presidents are well-protected by them, and local law enforcement provides a support role.

As for county supervisors Holloway, Biddle and Weishan, they had a chance to restore dignitary protection funding, but in their infinite idiocy, they chose to approve County Executive Abele's elimination of this funding. Keep in mind that this is a presidential election year, and Wisconsin is a swing state and will receive numerous presidential candidate visits. Their budget states dignitary protection is "not a core service" and "can be provided by municipalities."

The county executive and the county board have to make tough decisions sometimes. When I make a tough decision, I have the courage to stand behind it. Abele, Holloway, Biddle and Weishan do the opposite, and are running from their decision to drastically cut public safety. Their poor decisions will continue to have a negative impact in the county. This is their budget, and I'm going to make them own it.

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