



David A. Clarke Jr.  
Sheriff

# Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASES  
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### **Sheriff Clarke Calls Prosecution of Arrested Bomb Scare Suspects All Bark and No Bite**

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. is questioning the prosecution policy of people arrested for making bomb threats against schools. Since 2011, the MCSO, and its Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Unit, has responded to ten such threats; only two of these cases resulted in arrests. In both cases, the end result was that the suspects did not face criminal charges, but instead were issued municipal tickets regarding the bomb threats. A recent bomb scare incident at Greendale High School, their second in only a year, resulted in another arrest and it will be worth following this prosecution.

“Think about this for a minute. A bomb threat wreaks havoc not just on a school, but an entire community as well. School officials are caught between a rock and a hard place on whether to close school or not, parents have to suffer with anxiety about whether their kids are going to be safe at school, the kids themselves are scared, and all that happens is a ticket is issued?” Clarke asked. “How is that a deterrent? How is this going to cause the next goof to think twice about making a bomb threat when they are prosecuted as if they skipped school for a day?”

I don't care that it might be a person's first offense. There must be severe consequences resulting in a criminal charge for this serious incident if we are ever going to stop this. When students realize that they are screwing up their own life, then others will refrain from this illegal activity. It's a bomb scare for heaven's sake, this isn't a prank.”

Our legislature has seen fit to pass a specific law, 947.015 'Bomb Scares': Whoever intentionally conveys or causes to be conveyed any threat or false information, knowing such to be false, concerning an attempt or alleged attempt being made or to be made to destroy any property by the means of explosives is guilty of a Class I felony\*. Clearly, our elected representatives understand the import of those who, even falsely, claim to have planted an explosive.

“We always hear prosecutors talk about how serious these incidents are, and how they take these things seriously. This is a paper tiger prosecution. Restitution and community service should happen as part of a criminal charge, not along with a ticket. It is hard enough to catch the person who calls in a bomb threat. When the police do their job and this is all that results, I have to question this prosecution policy.”

\* a fine not to exceed \$10,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 3 years and 6 months, or both.

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