



David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

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

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 28, 2012

Sheriff Calls Mayor Barrett's Furloughing of Police Evidence of a Low Priority for Public Safety

Milwaukee, WI – On the day that Mayor Tom Barrett announced his budget plan for the City of Milwaukee, Chief Ed Flynn encouraged Sheriff David Clarke to “engage in the process” relative to public safety discussions surrounding Milwaukee County. Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. today issued the following statement:

“Mayor Barrett’s furloughing of police officers, who are already losing the battle to keep up with responding to calls for service in a timely fashion and provide an effective, consistent, visible presence in neighborhoods, has clearly demonstrated how little he values them when he lumped them in with every other city employee. He must see this as fair. Note to Tom: Cops are not like every other city employee in terms of what they provide to the citizens of Milwaukee. Chris Abele just gave him \$1.6 million dollars from county resources to provide protection in Milwaukee County parks and the lakefront saying it would enhance safety, and Barrett’s action is to furlough police officers. A fifth grader can figure out that this doesn’t add up.

Chief Flynn yesterday indicated that his officers are already patrolling county parks and that is correct under our mutual agreement. Maybe that is why they don’t have more time to patrol my and many other neighborhoods while burglars, drug dealers, gangs, car thieves and armed robbers are feasting on city residents. I don’t want to hear about any of his statistics either. That is usually his first response, but we now know that his stats are not reliable. Chief Flynn has even warned of longer response times in a recent radio and newspaper interview because he has to prioritize. That is code language for saying, ‘I don’t have the resources to meet those needs.’

-more-

For more information about the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office,
visit our website at www.mksheriff.org and our facebook page at
<http://www.facebook.com/MilwaukeeCountySheriff>
Follow us on Twitter @MCSOSheriff

I understand that Chief Flynn would be putting Mayor Barrett in a bind by pressing him to fill the vacancies that exist that were reported by Alderman Donovan. Chief Flynn works for Tom. It is time, however, for the Chief to admit what most street officers, and many city residents and store owners living in crime-ravaged neighborhoods already know, and that is that he does not have enough cops to provide a consistent daily presence in neighborhoods.

Instead, they are providing extra patrols and roll calls in the street after a crime wave has occurred, and only temporarily, rather than before the crimes occur. That makes for a good photo op, but the thugs are not impressed. What is going on now is called reactive policing. I'm seeing police cruisers in my neighborhood now, but the burglaries have already occurred. City residents want to see this type of presence every day.

I am asking the Milwaukee Common Council to remove Milwaukee police officers from being furloughed, so that the few they have can spend more days on the job and in the neighborhoods protecting us.”

###