



David A. Clarke Jr.  
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# Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Sheriff Calls Abele's "Budget Tweak" Not Permissible Under Budget Rules**

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. pointed out today that County Executive Chris Abele should take the time to learn the budget process, or at least consult with someone more knowledgeable, before playing political games with the public's safety and making rules up as he goes along.

In a letter to Abele, Supervisor Willie Johnson, co-chair of the county board's Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee, informed him that his "budget tweak" last week to add positions with no funding is not allowable, and that his budget submission to the County Board several weeks ago cannot be amended in this fashion.

"Abele did not have the wherewithal to ask someone if he could 'tweak' the budget after submitting it to the Board, and instead opted to play politics. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel writer Steve Schultze failed to research this as well, choosing to act instead as an echo chamber for Abele," Clarke said.

County Executive Abele laid off 48 sheriff's deputies last year, and is proposing the elimination of another 56 this year. His proposed budget slashes would leave me with 104 fewer deputies working in Milwaukee County since he took office. His sleight of hand maneuver to try to sneak 28 positions back in without funding, a move that is not allowable under county budget procedures, creates a structural deficit and demonstrates Abele's phony intentions."

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