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NEWS RELEASE

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Clarke Responds to Supervisor Jursik's Tirade

Milwaukee, WI – County Supervisor Patricia Jursik issued ultimatums to Sheriff Clarke on Tuesday, demanding that he capitulate to her demands to go soft on criminals. (“Jursik wants pressure on Clarke,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, October 10, 2012, <http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/officials-want-sheriff-clarke-to-cooperate-more-with-board-abele-pe75qbb-173380891.html>.)

In her tirade, she brought conservative talk radio, the Sheriff's attire and County Executive Chris Abele into the conversation. The sheriff issued the following statement:

I don't know where to begin. It is disappointing, because I have been working with Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic, and we have had an amiable relationship. The Chairwoman is doing her best to foster better relationships among county officials, but apparently Supervisor Jursik did not get that memo.

First of all, as I have had to do with other county officials in the past, I want to remind Supervisor Jursik that I do not work for her, nor do I take orders from her or any other county official. That is clearly spelled out in a Wisconsin Supreme Court case *Andreski v. Industrial Commission*, (1952):

Within the field of his responsibility for the maintenance of law and order the sheriff today retains his ancient character and is accountable only to the sovereign, the voters of his county, though he may be removed by the governor for cause. No other county official supervises his work or can require a report or an accounting from him concerning his performance of his duty. He chooses his own ways and means of performing it. He divides his time according to his own judgment of what is necessary and desirable but is always subject to call and is eternally charged with maintaining the peace of the county and the apprehension of those who break it. In the performance of this duty he is detective and patrolman, as well as executive and administrator, and he is emphatically one of those who may serve though they only stand and wait. We recite these qualities and characteristics of the office not because they are novel but because they are so old that they are easily forgotten or unappreciated...In this case we do not deal with a subordinate municipal employee who is duplicated over and over but with one who is sui generis.

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As this case law indicates, apparently Supervisor Jursik and Abele need reminding. The Board can enter into any agreement they want to with the city of Milwaukee. It is not binding on me. By law, I still retain my authority as the top law enforcement officer in Milwaukee County, and that includes the City of Milwaukee.

I am amazed at Supervisor Jursik's definition of cooperation. She means that I must capitulate to her and Judge Kremers' soft on crime philosophy that believes that coddling criminals, and putting as many of them back into already stressed neighborhoods, is good public policy. I do not. In fact, that discriminates against minority residents.

Why is it considered cooperation where I have to see things their way, and they see no need to see things the way I do? To her and Kremers, cooperation is a one-way street. I will not sign any of my constitutional authority away to her, Kremers, or anyone else. I will live with whatever budget they pass.

In fact, I will give them the South Facility back, as they cannot make me oversee it. It is not one of the core functions of the sheriff, the county jail is. I will remind Jursik that it was the National Institute of Corrections that called the facility in Franklin, "one of the worst run facilities in the country." I straightened it out from its disastrous state, and if they want to try their hand at running it again, be my guest. My only request is, that when they screw it up again, they don't call me to bail them out. It is cheaper and safer to keep criminals, most of them recidivists, locked up, not roaming the streets preying on law-abiding citizens.

As for Supervisor Jursik's attitude? You can be the judge of that.

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