



David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 7, 2013

Inmate Lawsuit Against Sheriff Dismissed



Milwaukee, WI – An inmate at the County Correctional Facility-Central jail filed a federal civil lawsuit in August 2012, accusing Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. of not allowing him to vote in elections both past and future. He filed a claim asking for \$200,000.

Antonio L. Bell, age 32, has been in custody since August 2011 on three felony charges of Sexual Assault Against a Child, and two felony charges of Battery by Inmate while in jail awaiting trial. He is not a convicted felon, and has the right to vote.

Inmates must be registered to vote and do so by absentee ballot. Registration forms are available in all of the jail housing units and a record is kept of those turned in to the housing unit officer. Briefings are held to explain the process to inmates. There is no record of Bell ever completing these forms.

Although the case was dismissed due to Bell's failure to pay the \$11.50 filing fee, further research, (not conducted by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for their September 12 story, *Inmate claims he's being denied right to vote*), shows Bell's lack of concern for voting. City of Milwaukee Election Commission records show that Bell registered in June 2008, and was deactivated by the City of Milwaukee for failure to respond to mail from the commission.

The number of times Bell voted in his life? Zero.

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Clarke had this to say to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in response to a reporter's questions about the complaint:

"Show me his evidence and I'll address it because I don't address accusations, I address evidence. I know the game played by these criminal creeps. When his claim is shown to be falsely made you'll be nowhere to be found to write anything but a regional brief."

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