



David A. Clarke Jr.  
Sheriff

# Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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

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### **Sheriff Calls Mayor Barrett's Intent to Curb Gun Violence Disingenuous**

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett's hosting a gun-control summit in Minneapolis is nothing more than a masked attempt to infringe on law-abiding people's Second Amendment protection.

Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. finds the mayor's intent to curb gun violence disingenuous, saying, "If Mayor Barrett really wanted to curb gun violence in the city of Milwaukee, he would join me in demanding that gun offenders stop being released back into Milwaukee neighborhoods by a lenient judiciary, and instead face longer prison sentences. Not holding repeat criminals accountable allows this pattern of violence to continue. When will Tom Barrett ever understand this?"

Felons in possession of firearms are routinely released by the courts on Huber and receive short stays in the county jail, and once released, are arrested again on weapons and other criminal charges. The city of Milwaukee is on the receiving end of a majority of these released felons, and city residents are victimized once again. Officers on the street see their efforts to enforce the law ignored. Not holding repeat criminals accountable allows this pattern of violence to continue.

Milwaukee as the fourth-poorest city in America, high black male unemployment, a failing K-12 school system, and young black males growing up without a well-adjusted, engaged father in their lives, are the risk factors for crime and violence. Additional background checks, banning certain types of firearms or prohibiting Internet sales of ammunition won't have an effect on crime.

"Tom, focus on the risk factors of street crime and leave the Constitution alone."

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