

040913 Charlie Sykes: At what cost would these "savings" come?

This story in the JS is fascinating in what it leaves out... yet again.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/audit-credits-sheriff-david-clarke-with-efficiency-but-cites-costly-extra-services-4c9fhjr-202018961.html>

The report says "but taxpayers could save \$4 million or more a year if non-mandated services were dropped"... despite saying that Clarke's office is actually run very efficiently. But it doesn't point out that if the Sheriff dropped these "non-mandated" services that one of two things would have to happen: 1) Another department like... such as the Milwaukee Police Department... would have to pick up those duties. That would come at a cost, thus negating much of the savings. 2) No one picks up those duties and we as taxpayers in Milwaukee simply have to live with the consequences. These are the only two logical conclusions.

Today Bradford Beach, Lincoln Memorial Drive and other urban County Parks are Milwaukee destinations on warm summer days.

<http://fox6now.com/2012/05/27/sheriffs-officials-on-hand-as-thousands-take-to-bradford-beach/>

Even the Journal Sentinel has noted the resurgence of the beach that was caused by a great combined effort from then County Parks' head Sue Black and then County Executive Scott Walker.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/94894074.html>

But let's not forget that Sheriff Clarke led the charge to improve the quality of life at Bradford Beach when he took over safety at Bradford Beach and Lincoln Memorial Drive.

<http://milwaukee-journal-sentinel.vlex.com/vid/shoring-patrols-lakefront-blitz-revelry-74368760>

<http://fox6now.com/2012/05/27/sheriffs-officials-on-hand-as-thousands-take-to-bradford-beach/>

<http://www.620wtmj.com/news/local/48081402.html>

Let's take a trip back in our time machine to what Milwaukee was like before Sheriff Clarke decided to take on two of these mentioned "non-mandated duties". First, travel back in time with me to the mid to late "oughties" where a warm day in Milwaukee meant riotous mob scenes down on Lincoln Memorial Drive, people were too afraid to go to Bradford Beach and we had multiple murders in other Milwaukee Parks:

<http://dancody.org/archives/success-at-bradford-beach-also-brings-challenges.html>

<http://www.city-data.com/forum/milwaukee/82200-why-does-milwaukee-still-have-cruising.html>

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/29357234.html>

Remember these comments by Sheriff Clarke in 2010 about why he had to take extreme efforts with the parks:

<http://www.620wtmj.com/news/local/95142484.html>

In the JS Article we also have a contention that Milwaukee County Bus safety is an optional duty being performed by the Sheriff. Does anyone else remember what was routinely taking place on Milwaukee County buses before the Sheriff decided enough was enough? Let's take a look at the crib notes from a few years ago.

<http://www.todaystmj4.com/news/local/45676472.html>

<http://www.todaystmj4.com/news/local/135353783.html>

<http://www.todaystmj4.com/news/local/45722047.html>

<http://www.620wtmj.com/news/local/135820648.html>

Things got good for a time when Sheriff Clarke budgeted money that was not ear marked for bus patrols to an increased Sheriff's Office presence on Milwaukee County buses in reaction these incidents. All seemed to be moving in a positive direction under the team of Clarke and Walker. Then Chris Abele was elected County Executive and immediately started waging war on Sheriff Clarke by cutting resources. As a result, Sheriff Clarke had to reduce the number of Milwaukee County deputies on bus patrol and the predictable happened.

<http://www.todaystmj4.com/news/local/135702163.html>

Now the JS is reporting on an audit funded by Chris Abele that states taxpayers could save 4 million dollars if the Sheriff stopped these and other non-mandated services. The real question to discerning Milwaukeean's is "At what cost to the quality of life would these "savings" come?"