



David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office **NEWS RELEASE**

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Sheriff Orders After-Action Critique of Children's Hospital Shooting Clears up jurisdiction issue, calls lack of pre-event information sharing among agencies an officer safety issue

Milwaukee, WI – Sheriff David Clarke ordered an after-action critique and report on Friday by his commanders surrounding the shooting that occurred at Children's Hospital Thursday. Clarke says the controversy surrounding who has responsibility and what jurisdiction Children's Hospital is in is irrelevant. "That is not the issue here and is not important to me," Clarke said.

"Only by the grace of God did this situation turn out with only the suspect wounded. The mental and emotional trauma of parents with children there, nurses, doctors and other hospital employees involved cannot be discounted. I was with parents who had a child being treated in the neonatal care unit. I could see the panic and anxiety in their faces as they waited outside behind the perimeter to learn whether their child was ok. This collateral damage cannot not be ignored.

What is important from a law enforcement executive perspective is the absence of information sharing among law enforcement agencies that occurred regarding a high risk felony stop situation with an armed suspect. I had deputies nearby who were not made aware that this dangerous felon was in their midst. This is how officers get ambushed or shot in cross-fire situations unaware that other officers are present on scene. Deputies finally learned of this incident when the call came over for an *active shooter* inside the hospital.

Because no information sharing about this then-developing situation occurred beforehand, deputies did not know that it was *not* an active shooter situation, it was a *back-up officers, shots have been fired* situation. These are not one in the same. Had deputies been made aware beforehand they at the very least could have been pre-positioned to provide immediate back-up and containment had the suspect got away. Maybe a conversation would have occurred about whether this was the best place to effect this arrest.

Chief Ed Flynn is correct that he has no *obligation* to notify other law enforcement agencies about what he is doing when in a neighboring jurisdiction. What is called for in these situations is referred to as *professional courtesy and information sharing* for all officers in the area including his own who may have responded after the shots were fired."

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Clarke expects the after-action critique to be concluded in 60 days and will include discussions with Milwaukee Police officials, Wauwatosa Police officials and all private security officials at the Milwaukee County Medical complex to codify a protocol on police response to that facility.

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