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Sheriff

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

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Sheriff Calls City Residency Decision “Best Day in Milwaukee History”

Milwaukee, WI – Sheriff David Clarke, a lifelong resident/homeowner and property taxpayer of the city of Milwaukee, calls Judge Van Grunsven’s decision finding the City of Milwaukee’s residency rule “null and void” a historic decision that may finally lead to Milwaukee becoming a city that can reach its full potential.

The sky-is-falling, doom and gloom rhetoric that we have been hearing from Mayor Barrett and others about holding city employees hostage is due in large part to his inability to articulate a vision to propel Milwaukee away from the same pathologies that led to Detroit going under water. That is a scary proposition when you have no substantive plan, other than to express concern, as Milwaukee falls into the abyss of irrelevancy.

Now Barrett and other city leaders will have to actually work to make people want to stay, and give people looking to relocate their homes and businesses a reason to choose Milwaukee.

It is time to end this futile effort of forcing people to live in Milwaukee, a city where they can’t take advantage of the public education system for their kids, where a growing number of neighborhoods are in crisis, where jobs continue to be scarce and where property taxes are too high. It is time instead to channel energy into a comprehensive written plan to find jobs for people living in Milwaukee, and get off the top ten list of cities where one out of every four residents lives in poverty, where the state’s largest K-12 public school system (MPS) ranks near the bottom nationally in reading and math test scores and graduation rates for students of color, and where declining home values makes a person’s most important investment a losing proposition.

These pathologies manifest themselves into the high crime and violence incidents we have been experiencing. Combined with a high infant mortality rate, it is easy to see why city leaders want to force city employees to live here.

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***Forbes* magazine recently listed the city of Milwaukee as one of the worst managed cities in America and listed it in their ranking of the top ten most violent cities in America. We can do better than this. I know we can!**

Milwaukee is the state's economic engine. That engine has stalled and it is becoming a drain on the state's economy, similar to pouring good money after bad in trying to keep a poorly running car on the road.

Judge Van Grunsven handed Mayor Barrett and other city leaders a tremendous opportunity to improve the quality of life in Milwaukee. I hope they do not squander it by delaying the inevitable. Get to work!

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