



David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

NEWS RELEASE

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2013 Sheriff of the Year

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2015

Sheriff Blasts County Executive Abele of Playing Politics with Public Safety

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke responded to a County Board resolution to add \$1.5 million to the 2015 operating budget to fix structural deficits set up by the county executive and to hire 30 additional sheriff's deputies.

Sheriff Clarke stated:

“My office worked with the Milwaukee County Board to fix a hole in the budget left by County Executive Abele, and to secure additional money to hire 30 new sheriff's deputies, after the county executive's proposal for 2015 was to lay off key command staff members and additional deputies. No new deputies have been hired since 2004, leaving my staffing levels at dangerously low totals. Ironically, today I received a letter from a Milwaukee County circuit court judge who complained that a staffing shortage is having an impact on court security. I concur with the judge's concerns, however, I don't have enough people. I made this clear in my budget requests in both 2013 and 2014, only to have the county executive in his budget submission continue to lay off staff.

This resolution passed the county board 16-2, well over the level to survive a budget veto. Abele's petulance, however, blinded him to that fact. This is nothing more than Abele's continued vindictive relationship with my office. He has had this personal vendetta ever since spending \$263,000 of his personal wealth to try to defeat me in the 2014 sheriff's election. When asked about it by the media he feigned any knowledge, and when he could no longer continue with the denial he finally admitted it. The voters made it very clear as to who should make their public safety decisions. Abele played his card thinking we spend too much on public safety, and he was soundly defeated. Chris Abele is a man who is not used to being rejected or not getting his way.

Recently he made a request to take \$100,000 from my budget to put toward his hiring of Hollywood-level private security for himself. This is his nature. He wants county taxpayers to pay for his private security and they can just “eat cake.” Since he became county executive he has shown nothing but disdain for law enforcement officers. This is the same guy who was

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arrested for drunk driving and ignored the citation for seven years, allowing it to turn into a warrant.

Abele continues to peddle the lie that he increased our budget by \$4 million. That has been debunked with proof based on budget records. I will work with the County Board to ensure the veto is overridden so that the people of Milwaukee County, including the courts, get the public safety services they deserve.”

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