



# Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Fran McLaughlin  
Public Information Officer  
Cell: 414-254-9488  
Phone: 414-278-5226  
frances.mclaughlin@milwaukeecountywi.gov

David A. Clarke Jr.  
Sheriff



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 23, 2015

### **Sheriff Says Inadequate Jail Staffing Putting Officers and Inmates at Risk**

Milwaukee, WI – Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. has notified county officials that staffing levels to run the state's largest jail facility are inadequate. The sheriff indicates that he is short 70 corrections officers (CO) due to County Executive Chris Abele's Human Resources (HR) Department's inability to keep up with demand.

"Abele's office controls hiring and recruitment. My office has been told by County HR officials that they themselves do not have the staffing to keep up with hiring and that they do not have the advertising budget needed to help with recruitment. That is unacceptable," Clarke said.

"I don't want excuses; I want results! I am responsible for the safety and security of nearly 1000 inmates who need to be overseen for medical needs, feeding, transportation to and from court appearances and other things required by law. Watching for suicidal signs is another critical task performed by CO's. Additionally, inadequate staffing puts the safety of corrections officers and civilian employees, including medical staff, at risk. Inadequate staffing also endangers inmates when arguments start between inmates that cannot be quickly quelled. Overtime to cover for lack of staffing is no longer helping me fulfill my obligations under statutory authority. CO work can become tedious. Off time is necessary to keep them sharp for attention to detail to keep mistakes down and to prevent complacency from setting in. Tired officers are more prone to mistakes and have short fuses. This could lead to over-reaction in instances where we demand restraint."

"Abele has spent an inordinate amount of time amassing and centralizing power for himself. My office had its own HR coordinator before he took control of all HR activities. Apparently he has over-loaded his ability to run everything and keep things functioning."

Our lack of personnel is blinking red. This is a disaster waiting to happen and county officials are on notice.

Correctional Officer Budgeted Positions	257
Current Number of Full Duty CO's	180
Current Number of CO's Not Fit For Full Duty	14

###

For more information about the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, visit our website at [www.mksheriff.org](http://www.mksheriff.org) and our facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/MilwaukeeCountySheriff>  
Follow us on Twitter @MCSOSheriff