



Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

NEWS RELEASE

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David A. Clarke Jr.
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Recent Budget Move by County Executive Abele Causes Sheriff to Express Concern of Retribution in 2015 Budget

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. said that a recent political move by County Executive Chris Abele with the current Sheriff's Office budget demonstrates that Abele has not gotten over the election results of August 12.

County Executive Abele created a \$4.5 million structural deficit in the Sheriff's Office 2014 budget to use as a campaign issue against Sheriff Clarke in his primary election. Abele personally spent \$250,000 in attack ads against the Sheriff. He initially denied any knowledge of these ads, and only recently admitted his dishonesty.

Continuing his politicizing of the budget, last week, Abele denied an already-approved budget correction of \$1,000,000 that had been previously identified by the Sheriff's budget office. This revenue shortfall was part of the county executive's structural deficit. There was a verbal agreement that this inequity existed, and that it would be corrected before year-end as part of our projection to lower Abele's structural deficit.

Statement from Sheriff Clarke: *This continued political mischief by the county executive is in line with what we learned about him during my primary re-election. He spent over a quarter of a million dollars trying to eliminate me. In addition to that, he paid a known political hack \$10,000 to smear me this summer. He is not done trying to get his way, election results notwithstanding. This is not the first time his word was found to be unreliable.*

The public learned a lot this summer about who County Executive Abele really is. My legitimate concern is that this is a guy who is not used to taking no for an answer, the answer the voters gave him in August. My added concern is that he will take this out on me with more draconian budget cuts, making it impossible for me to succeed in my duty to make Milwaukee County a safer place. In the past he has proposed personnel cuts, including my supervisory staff.

In the end it doesn't hurt me, it will hurt the people of Milwaukee County - like victims of domestic violence who have to wait longer to get a restraining order served, a person waiting on the side of the road at night with longer response times for a deputy to show up, and for bailiff services like defendant transfers to and from circuit courts.

County Executive Abele is scheduled to present his 2015 county budget to the County Board of Supervisors later this month.

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