



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, 1st District

For Immediate Release September 29, 2010
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PATIENT SAFETY IGNORED BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE *Scott Walker is responsible for failure to confront and correct problems*

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb released the following statement this afternoon regarding the Mental Health Complex:

“The Walker Administration was directed by the County Board in 2007 to study the issue of patient safety at the Mental Health Complex due to a trend of increasing violence. The Administration in 2008 assured the County Board that they were tackling the issue. Their primary strategy – staff training - this is the same remedy that they said was the key to resolving concerns when news of serious incidents once again came to light in early 2010.

“The Administration has developed a pattern of neglect and denial of responsibility.

“In 2008, a private Attorney hired by the Administration commissioned a report on safety issues at the Mental Health Complex. At least \$80,000 was spent on that report, but the Administration kept the report quiet for over 2 years. Recently, the County Auditor discovered the existence of the report as part of his investigation into the Mental Health Complex, but he was stonewalled in his attempt to review it. The County Executive maintains that he has not seen the report and does not know what is in it, but it is Walker’s duty to know - he is responsible for the operation of the Mental Health Complex.

“The County Executive recently waited for public outrage before taking action. After months of inaction, he demoted an administrator just days after a Journal Sentinel article chronicled details that he should have known. The facts didn’t change, but public perception compelled Walker to do something, anything, in an attempt to put the issue behind him.

Case closed?

Not so fast!

“Today, Chairman Holloway called for a special meeting of the Committee on Judiciary, Safety, and General Services to review this issue. **It is time for the Walker Administration to tell us what is in the secret report that they have kept hidden from view. What should we have known 2 years ago, and what are they going to do to ensure patient safety?**”

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