



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

*Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr., 13th District
Chairman, Judiciary Committee*

Media Advisory for **Thursday, December 15, 2016**
Contact: Brian Rothgery
414-278-4230 or brian.rothgery@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Supervisors to Consider External Investigations of In-custody Deaths *Sheriff's department already required to follow state law*

County Board Supervisors will consider a resolution on Thursday that would establish a policy for external investigations of in-custody deaths at the Milwaukee County Jail and House of Correction that is modeled on a 2013 state law.

The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department is required to follow that law when an officer involved death occurs as the result of an action or inaction of a deputy sheriff. State law does not extend to Milwaukee County jail officers, who are also under the command of the sheriff.

The Judiciary Committee will consider the resolution at a special meeting on Thursday, December 15, at 8:30AM. If the committee recommends adoption, the full Board of Supervisors will then consider the resolution at their regular monthly meeting, also on Thursday.

The proposed county policy is modeled on [state statute 175.47](#), which requires an investigation of an officer-involved death by at least two investigators, neither of whom is employed by the agency that employs the officer involved in the officer-involved death. The law also requires all law enforcement agencies to have a written policy on investigations of officer-involved deaths.

Sheriff Clarke asked the Milwaukee Police Department to investigate the death of Terrill Thomas, who died in April. The County Medical Examiner ruled that death a homicide.

Separately, the Judiciary Committee will consider pending litigation against the County. There are two lawsuits against Milwaukee County stemming from two of the four recent deaths.

Sheriff Clarke has been invited to provide a report to the committee. It is standard practice for the committee to go into closed session to discuss pending litigation, including when there is an ongoing investigation into a death that might lead to a lawsuit in the future.

WHO: Judiciary Committee of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
WHAT: Special meeting. Agenda available [here](#). Livestream will be available.
WHERE: Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 201-B
WHEN: 8:30AM, Thursday December 15, 2016

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