



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors *Supervisor Ryan Clancy, 4th District*

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County Supervisor Ryan Clancy Supports 25% Cut to Sheriff's Budget

MILWAUKEE – Earlier today, a broad coalition of community groups issued a public letter to Milwaukee County Sheriff Earnell Lucas in which they ask for a 25% reduction in that department's budget, and a re-allocation of funds to much needed social services. Supervisor Ryan Clancy issued the following statement regarding the demands outlined in the letter:

"In my short time with Milwaukee County, I have seen firsthand the phenomenal, vital work that County employees do to improve the lives of residents. From housing, to homelessness outreach, to mental health, to our parks, to providing safe facilities for our children, I have also seen the impact that reduced revenue has had on those services, and know how much better we could do if we moved the money to where it does the most good.

"I stand with the demands of Black Leaders Organizing Communities (BLOC), the Black Socialist Caucus of Milwaukee Democratic Socialists of America, the African American Civic Engagement Roundtable (AART), the Black Educators Caucus (BEC), the Milwaukee Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), and the Milwaukee Area Service and Hospitality Workers Organization (MASH). The time is now.

"I am hopeful that our Sheriff agrees. His public comments have consistently reflected that he does not want his deputies to exceed his state-mandated duties, that they are not trained or equipped to deal with issues such as providing mental health services, and that it's inappropriate to ask them to do so. I agree.

"I am hopeful that the Sheriff's budget request reflects this wisdom of our times. I'm hopeful it is proactive in freeing up resources for other county departments that are better suited to handle the various needs of our community and that it is narrowly tailored to allow his deputies to focus on their core responsibilities. Every dollar diverted from the Sheriff's budget will be one which can provide essential services, by professionals, to our residents.

"Should the 2021 MCSO budget as submitted not reflect this new reality, I join with these organizations in asking the County Executive to make the necessary cuts and to send us a budget which does. I am hopeful that he will.

"Should he not make those cuts, I am hopeful and confident that I, and my peers on the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, will."

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