



County of Milwaukee  
**Office of the Sheriff**

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David A. Clarke, Jr.  
Sheriff

**Date:** September 4, 2012

**To:** Supervisor Mark Borkowski, Chairman, Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General Services

**From:** Richard Schmidt, Inspector, Office of the Sheriff, Milwaukee County

**Subject:** **Informational Report on Dignitary Patrol**

In response to your request, I want to begin by reminding this committee of Wisconsin court case *Andreski v. Industrial Commission*, which is well-established case law on the authority of the sheriff. The law says in part that, "*No other county official supervises his work or can require a report or an accounting from him concerning his performance of his duty. He chooses his own ways and means of performing it.*" I mention this because in this civil service environment it is important for me to articulate that this response should in no way be taken as establishing precedent or past practice.

Your request is no doubt in reference to what can be described as an obvious partisan political stunt by Supervisor Weishan. He sent out an accusatory news release (attached) simultaneously with one by a local political party operative. Weishan's release had no foundation, and was nothing more than a political hit piece, wherein he indicated that he would use the County Board Judiciary Committee to further his political ends. He jumped to several baseless conclusions, among them a misuse of taxpayer funds by the sheriff. He cited no evidence to back up this serious allegation and it would be appropriate for this office to ask him to produce his evidence if he has any. Accusations are not evidence. With no substantiation, and instead of requesting more information *before* leveling smears, he took the politically expedient route. His is the fire, aim, ready approach.

Now Supervisor Weishan says he wants to gather some facts using a county governing body for political purposes. I find it disgraceful that this committee would allow itself to be used for blatantly partisan politics. The time for Weishan to have asked valid questions was before he

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decided to pursue his political agenda, and any facts we would offer to refute his scheme would be fruitless. He had his day in the media, but apparently he's trying to squeeze more juice from that orange.

The other point I want to make is that Sheriff Clarke will not allow Supervisor Weishan, or anyone else for that matter, to politicize a serious law enforcement activity. Sheriff Clarke was trained by the U.S. Secret Service in protection details and learned early on that rule one is that information about protection details is never made public, as it puts the protectee at risk. Another concept he was taught was not to get involved with people wanting to politicize protection operations. Supervisor Weishan is obviously free to politicize this if he chooses, but this office will not oblige him. The United States Secret Service is the lead agency and *any* information regarding a protection detail should be sought from them. It is proper protocol.

Finally, I find it peculiar and ironic that an item would come up on the agenda that was eliminated in the current budget by County Executive Chris Abele and *approved for removal by none other than the Supervisor Weishan*. At the Finance Committee, Sheriff Clarke questioned the wisdom of eliminating budget resources for dignitary protection in a presidential election year. That would have been the time for Supervisor Weishan to debate the issue, but he sat mute on the elimination of money for that activity, and now purports to be in favor of such expenditures. It would be hard to view his request today as being pure partisan politics had he fought last fall to restore dignitary protection funds.



Richard Schmidt, Inspector  
Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff

cc: Janelle Jensen, Committee Clerk  
Jennifer Collins, Research Analyst

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# *Milwaukee County*

Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr., District 16

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## **SUPERVISOR WEISHAN CRITICIZES SHERIFF CLARKE FOR MISALLOCATION OF RESOURCES, PARTISAN POLITICS**

*Supervisor Renews Call for Responsible Management of Sheriff Department Resources*

**Milwaukee, WI** – Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr. released the following statement today regarding Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr.'s decision to provide security for a Republican rally in Waukesha County on Sunday, August 12, 2012:

“In yet another display of misplaced priorities, Sheriff Clarke opted to compromise the public safety of Milwaukee County taxpayers yesterday when he misappropriated law enforcement resources to protect GOP candidates Mitt Romney and Representative Paul Ryan.”

“In February 2012, Sheriff Clarke made the decision to assign sheriff's deputies to only partial security during President Obama's trip to Milwaukee to visit Master Lock. At that time, the Sheriff cited 'elimination of dignitary protection funding' from the sheriff's 2012 budget as reason for limited support. Yet, somehow, when GOP hopefuls came to a neighboring county, Sheriff Clarke had no problem with providing security and resources that should be focused on his own county.”

“Once again, Sheriff Clarke has chosen to put his personal ideology ahead of his responsibility to protect and serve. The taxpayers of Milwaukee County pay Sheriff Clarke to administer law enforcement services, not to raise his personal profile as a conservative ideologue. All high ranking officials, no matter what party affiliation, deserve to have the utmost protection and security when visiting Milwaukee County.”

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