

May 19, 2015
Washington, D.C.

Remarks by Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr., Milwaukee County, Wisconsin to the Honorable Members of the United States House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, D.C.:

Good morning, Mr. Chair, and Honorable Members of the Committee on the Judiciary. Thank you for the opportunity to state my view, which is backed by 37 years of experience from ground level concerning police accountability, aggression towards police, public safety concerns, and what might be the right thing for us to work on now.

Since the events that led to riots in Ferguson, Missouri, police use of force has become scrutinized nationally. Police use of force *should* be scrutinized—locally, that is. It should be examined in terms of factual data and circumstances that led to the police action, and not from an emotional foundation of false narratives or catchy slogans like “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot,” or “No Justice, No Peace” or “Black Lives Matter.” Let’s leave that conduct for the public to engage in, not the mainstream media or those elected officials who can’t resist the opportunity to exploit the emotions of an uninformed or misinformed public simply for political gain.

We will no doubt hear a lot of statistics thrown around today; some distorted to achieve a predetermined agenda. In 2013, the USDOJ under Attorney General Eric Holder did a study in conjunction with the National Institute of Justice on traffic stop data. They found that when you use control factors that statistics and research require for legitimate findings, any racial disparities are attributed to differences in

offending.¹ The study showed that Black drivers violated speeding and other traffic laws at much greater rates than whites.² That conclusion of this study under the Eric Holder-led USDOJ might be ugly to some, but it is what the data and research found. That same study showed that three out of every four Black drivers said that police had a legitimate reason for stopping them.³

The same is true in arrest and incarceration data of African-American males. Participation rates in violent crime explain the disparity of why so many Black males are locked up in prison. Black males are disproportionately involved in violent crime, and this violence is predominantly perpetrated against other Black people.⁴ It is not the result of a discriminatory criminal justice system.

Blacks make up 37.5% of the prison population at the state and federal levels.⁵ If we released those convicted on drug charges alone the percentage of Black males in prison would drop to 37%, a mere half of one percent.⁶ So much for the myth of Black males filling up prisons merely for drug convictions--not to mention that illegal drug use is the scourge of the Black community and leads to a great deal of violent crime.

The police use of force data also tells a different story than the false narrative propagated by cop haters and the liberal mainstream media. A recent study that

¹ Investor's Business Daily, Holder Frames Ferguson PD For Racism Using Bogus "Disparate Impact" Stats, March 5, 2015

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Riley, Jason. *Please Stop Helping Us: How Liberals Make It Harder For Blacks To Succeed*, Encounter Books, New York-London, 2014, p.74.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

looked into police use of deadly force between 2009 and 2012 showed this breakdown. 61% (915) of 1,491 people who died from police use of force were white males while 32% (481) were Black males.⁷ It is a myth that police kill Black males in greater numbers than anyone else.

Black-on-black crime is the elephant in the room that few want to talk about. We can talk about police use of force but it doesn't start with transforming the police profession. It starts by asking why we need so much assertive policing in the American ghetto. Are police officers perfect? Not by any stretch of the imagination. Are police agencies perfect? Not... even... close. But we are the best our communities have to offer.

Instead, the conversation should be about transforming Black underclass subculture behavior. The discussion must start with addressing the behavior of people who have no respect for authority, who fight with and try to disarm the police, who flee the police, and who engage in other flawed lifestyle choices. Bashing the police is the low-hanging fruit. It is easier to talk about the rare killing of a Black male by police because emotion can be exploited for political advantage.

The police are easier to throw overboard because they can't fight back politically. This however is counter-productive and will lead to police pulling back in high crime areas where good law-abiding Black people live. Black people will be the losers in all this as violent crime rates skyrocket over time. This means more... Black...crime victims.

⁷ Johnson Richard, PhD. *Examining the Prevalence of Deaths from Police Use of Force*, University of Toledo, 2015.

Economist and author Thomas Sowell, a man I admire, said this about policing. *If people who are told that they under arrest, and who refuse to come with the police, cannot be forcibly taken into custody, then we do not have the rule of law, when the law itself is downgraded to suggestions that no one has the power to enforce.* Sowell further points out that, *For people who have never tried to take into custody someone resisting arrest, to sit back in the safety and comfort of their homes or offices and second-guess people who face the dangers inherent in that process--dangers for both the officer and the person under arrest--is yet another example of the irresponsible self-indulgences of our time.*

Thank you.