



League of United Latin American Citizens

May 23, 2017

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The Honorable John Kelly
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security

Dear Secretary Kelly:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization, I write to express deep concern over the possible appointment of Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Partnership and Engagement. Unfortunately, Sheriff Clarke has demonstrated extreme viewpoints some of which may stem from possible mental instability. Specifically, Clarke through the use of social media has expressed that "liberal indoctrination has similarities to ethnic cleansing" and has warned "of a second American revolution if cops have to enforce extreme gun control measures." An individual that holds those types of extreme views is not fit to hold any office let alone to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Partnership and Engagement.

His views on immigration are in direct conflict with the views of the majority of local law enforcement and elected officials. For example, Clarke supports using Milwaukee County Sheriff Deputies as immigration agents to enforce federal immigration law. Such a practice encourages racial profiling, misuses local and state resources to enforce federal law, and completely demolishes the trust between law enforcement officials and both the general public and the minority community.

Furthermore, Clarke's service as Milwaukee County Sheriff reflects a complete disregard for an individual's civil rights, constitutional rights and a complete disregard for the minority community. Over the course of a 6-month period, there have been four deaths reported at the Milwaukee County Jail. One of those deaths was ruled a homicide after a 38-year-old man with bipolar disorder died of dehydration because he was refused water for eight days. According to reports, Clarke threatened the medical examiner in an attempt to obstruct the investigation into the man's sudden death. Also under his watch, a child died after its mother was forced to give birth while in shackles. The Milwaukee County Jail's practice of shackling pregnant women during labor has resulted in multiple lawsuits filed against Sheriff Clarke.

For these reasons, LULAC vehemently opposes the appointment of Sheriff Clarke. His gross abuse of authority directly conflicts with the mission of the DHS which states, "*With honor and integrity, we will safeguard the American people, our homeland, and our values.*" In order to keep our nation safe, our communities and all residents should be able look to DHS for protection instead of living in fear of DHS officials. Sheriff Clarke's appointment will stain the department's reputation. For more information or if you would like to discuss our concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to Luis Torres, LULAC National Director of Policy at latorres@lulac.org to setup a time to meet.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.
LULAC National President