

## Statement of Ald. Joe Davis, Sr. December 5, 2008

As I continue to read articles on the mishap that Sheriff David Clarke was involved with, I just wanted to communicate with him concerning his role in this matter (you know, the case of the mystery drunken driver). I've witnessed Clarke making public statements concerning integrity and honesty in the community I represent. Several times he has targeted young African Americans with his venom, demanding that they take personal responsibility for their actions. And finally, he has also targeted African American elected officials on how we are not being straightforward with the community we represent concerning several issues (yes, I have been the recipient of some of Sheriff Clarke's inflammatory comments).

But it is amazing in this instance that he is having selective amnesia on what the facts are, what his role should have been as a law enforcement officer during the encounter with a drunken driver and what his responsibilities are as the chief law enforcement officer of Milwaukee County.

Although I respect the Office of the Sheriff, the statements Clarke has made to the press are in conflict with law enforcement principles and more reflective of a politician, not a public servant (there is a difference). At some time in our career as elected officials, we are faced with defining moments of truth. It's called "gut check time." It is then, when all the personal principles that we are made of, come to our core mission of representation. Because we are placed in leadership positions, we must lead by example, not by rhetoric.

So during this holy time of the year, this letter is to remind Sheriff Clarke that even **you should practice what you preach.**

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