



**One Hundred Fifteenth Congress**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Homeland Security**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 25, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane SW  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly:

We write to express our serious concern about Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr.'s recent announcement that he has been selected to serve as Assistant Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Partnership and Engagement (OPE), which coordinates DHS outreach efforts with critical stakeholders nationwide, including state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, elected officials, law enforcement, the private sector, and academia. We understand the Department has yet to make an announcement about this position and strongly urge you not to consider Sheriff Clarke as a candidate for this important office or any other within DHS.

Sheriff Clarke's troubling record as Milwaukee County Sheriff is well documented. His oversight of the Milwaukee County Jail has been scrutinized after multiple inmate deaths, including an infant who passed away after being born inside a cell and a man who died of dehydration after going seven days without water.<sup>1</sup> He derided the Black Lives Matter movement, even alleging it would join forces with ISIS.<sup>2</sup> He stated that rather than work with Democrats, he would only reach across the aisle to "grab one of them by the throat."<sup>3</sup> Most recently, it has been reported that he plagiarized his 2013 Master's thesis on U.S. security.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jonah Engel Bromwich, "Who is Sheriff Clarke of Milwaukee County? A Brief Guide," *The New York Times* (May 22, 2017), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/22/us/politics/sheriff-david-clarke-bio-facts.html>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Allan Smith, "David Clarke Tells 'DeploraBall' Crowd the Only Time He'd Reach 'Across the Aisle' to Democrats 'Is to Grab One of Them By the Throat,'" *Business Insider* (Jan. 20, 2017), <http://www.businessinsider.com/david-clarke-deploraball-2017-1> (last accessed May 24, 2017).

<sup>4</sup> Andrew Kaczynski, et. al, "Sheriff David Clarke Plagiarized Portions of His Master's Thesis on Homeland Security," *CNN.com* (May 22, 2017), <http://www.cnn.com/interactive/2017/05/politics/sheriff-clarke-plagiarism/> (last accessed May 24, 2017).

Any one of these actions would make Sheriff Clarke unsuitable for the position of Assistant Secretary of an office charged with being a conduit for the Secretary to engage with a diverse group of stakeholders from around the Nation. Taken together, they warrant not only his immediate disqualification from consideration, but an unequivocal response from the Department stating that neither Sheriff Clarke nor anyone with a similar record would be considered for a Secretarial appointment within DHS. We urge you to take such action for the good of your Department and in the interest of the homeland security of the United States.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



BENNIE G. THOMPSON  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Homeland Security



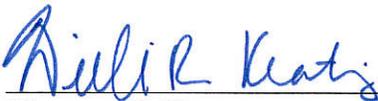
SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
Member  
House Committee on Homeland Security



JAMES R. LANGEVIN  
Member  
House Committee on Homeland Security



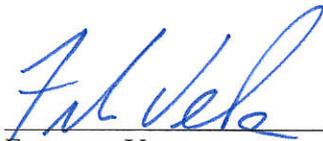
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Member  
House Committee on Homeland Security



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House Committee on Homeland Security



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VAL B. DEMINGS

Member

House Committee on Homeland Security



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Member

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