



David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office **NEWS RELEASE**



**2016 Patrolmen's
Benevolent Association
of New York City
Person of the Year**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Former County Employee Loses Lawsuit Accusing Sheriff of Being Sexist, Racist



Jefferson Aikin

Milwaukee, WI – The Sheriff's Office won, after an administrative hearing, the case of Aikin v. MCSO, which combined two separate cases of alleged discrimination in the hiring of the last two Sheriff's Office Community Relations Coordinators.

The administrative law judge did not buy former county employee Jefferson Aikin's claims that Sheriff Clarke is racist, sexist, and ageist.

In his post-hearing brief, Jefferson Aikin withdrew his claims of discrimination based upon sex and age and pursued only his claims of discrimination based upon race and color, when Aikin was informed that his most recent claim was against someone of the same race, color and age. Aikin's county backdrop payment upon his retirement was \$242,566.

Administrative Law Judge John Gelhard found there was no discrimination on the basis of race and color in the hiring of Kim Brooks for the Community Relations Coordinator position in 2005, and there was no discrimination on the basis of gender in hiring Fran McLaughlin into that same role in 2011. Likewise, ALJ Gelhard found that there was no retaliation by the sheriff, against Aikin, for Aikin having filed the 2006 complaint.

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Sheriff Clarke said, “This case normally would have been settled by county Corporation Counsel and their no-fight mindset. This is why people allege these baseless claims. They know the county will cave and offer them money to go away AND pay legal fees to the claimant’s lawyer.

I insisted that we defend against this for the taxpayers and to defend my character. I hired two very qualified women and not to the exclusion of anyone. Where are all the lefty county politicians saying there is a war on women?”

Pertinent language from the ruling:

As to the Kim Brooks case:

(Human Resources) rescored (Kim Brooks) application, giving her an additional 10 points for her years of television experience, thereby giving Brooks a score of 82 points. (HR) gave Brooks credit for her work at television stations WKOW and KFVS which (they) previously had not because Brooks had failed to identify her exact employment dates. David Clarke credited Brooks’ television experience as one of the factors for choosing Brooks. (As such) the Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Department did not discriminate against Jefferson Aiken (sic) on the basis of race or color when it failed to hire him into the position of Community Relations Coordinator in 2005. Based upon the findings of fact and conclusions of law, the complainant’s complaint is dismissed with prejudice.

As to the Fran McLaughlin case:

From 2007-2010, Fran McLaughlin worked as Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker’s communications director. Fran McLaughlin is a white female. During that time, Sheriff David Clarke had an opportunity to observe Fran McLaughlin perform her duties for Scott Walker at press conferences and other public appearances. Clarke was impressed with the way that McLaughlin organized Walker’s appearances, handled press and managed constituent inquiries. Sheriff David Clarke did not consider Jefferson Aiken’s (sic) sex...or his 2006 complaint...when it failed to hire him into the position of Community Relations Coordinator in 2011. Based upon the findings of fact and conclusions of law, the complainant’s complaint is dismissed with prejudice.

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