

Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke, one of the most important conservative voices on law enforcement and social issues in America and a lightning rod for criticism by Milwaukee liberals, is retiring effective this afternoon. Clarke months ago said he would be leaving for a position in the Trump Administration but that never actually materialized and Clarke never did resign. But this time it's for real and today is his last day.

Clarke tells me he is accepting a new position which will be announced next week. He's not disclosing what it is but I can tell you that it is not in government and will give Clarke the latitude to continue to speak out on the causes he is passionate about.

Clarke was initially appointed by Governor Scott McCallum in 2001 and was repeatedly reelected by Milwaukee County voters despite the fact that he was a conservative running in a Democratic primary and had the rabid opposition of the media and Democrat leaders. He has emerged as one of the most forceful defenders of law enforcement officers in the country. His conservative views on social policy and refusal to back down to media critics who hated his populist message made him a national hero to millions of American conservatives. I have long contended the animosity directed toward Sheriff Clarke was bigoted at its core in that Clarke's critics couldn't abide an outspoken African-American leader.

Governor Scott Walker will name Clarke's replacement. The next election for sheriff is next year.

Mark Belling  
August 31