
Petition to Remove District Attorney John Chisholm from Office

To Governor Evers:

We as residents of Milwaukee County, petition you to remove District Attorney John Chisholm from his office as Milwaukee County District Attorney for cause pursuant to your authority under Section 17.06 (3) Wis. Stats. and the required due process under Section 17.16 (3) Wis. Stats. This petition is filed requesting removal for the following charges:

On November 21, 2021, a career violent felon named Darrell Brooks allegedly used his Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) to plow through a Christmas Parade in the City of Waukesha killing six people and seriously injuring dozens more. Days before the massacre, Brooks was released from police custody on \$1000 bail in Milwaukee after being [charged](#) with second degree reckless endangerment for running over the mother of his child with his SUV on November 5, 2021. At the time of that offense, Brooks was out on bail for another violent crime. Shortly after the Waukesha Parade massacre, Milwaukee County District Attorney Chisholm released a [statement](#) conceding that the bail requested by his office for defendant Darrell Brooks was "inappropriately low."

"On November 5, 2021, the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office issued against Mr. Brooks charges of Second Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, Felony Bail Jumping, Battery, Obstructing an Officer and Disorderly Conduct in case 2021CF004596. The most recent

case against Mr. Brooks was appropriately charged. The State made a cash bail request in this case of \$1,000, which was set by the court. The defendant posted \$1,000 cash bail on November 11, resulting in his release from custody.

The State's bail recommendation, in this case, was inappropriately low in light of the nature of the recent charges and the pending charges against Mr. Brooks. The bail recommendation in this case is not consistent with the approach of the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office toward matters involving violent crime, nor was it consistent with the risk assessment of the defendant prior to setting of bail."

In an [appearance](#) before the Milwaukee County Board on December 2, 2021, Chisholm blamed a young assistant district attorney in his office for making a mistake with the low bail request, suggesting that she was busy with other cases and did not have access to a risk assessment report for Brooks, **even though Brook's record of violent offenses was clearly available to the public on [Wisconsin Circuit Court Access](#) or CCAP.**

Chisholm went on to tell the board, *"There isn't a prosecutor in this country that sees a circumstance like this and doesn't say this is their deepest fear. This is your deepest fear, you know? You have an obligation in every case to try and do your best to try and protect victims, protect the community, and an error in judgement, or you lose a case... you try your very best but you lose it? It's always a gut punch. You're concerned that maybe that person's going to do something, but that is our system. To do this job effectively, you have to be willing to engage in that and not just quit when bad things happen,"* he said.

Sadly, what Mr. Chisholm now claims to be a prosecutor's deepest fear is really a self-fulfilling prophecy resulting from his policies. In 2007 Chisholm told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, *"Is there going to be an individual I divert, or I put into [a] treatment program, who's going to go out and kill somebody? You bet. Guaranteed. It's guaranteed to happen."*

According to a report from [Wisconsin Spotlight](#), the Darrell Brooks murder case was not an isolated incident.

Three days after the Waukesha Parade attack, a 33-year-old man named Chad Marcinkiewicz was arrested on suspicion of stabbing a man to death...while out on \$5,000 for a previous stabbing this summer that multiple law enforcement sources say left a man seriously injured. In fact, the morning of the murder, Marcinkiewicz was in court for a preliminary hearing on charges of recklessly endangering safety in connection with that stabbing.

On November 30, 20-year-old Donta L. Roberts was arrested in the shooting death of Devonta Lusk while out on signature bond for pointing a gun at someone else in the summer of 2020. Roberts is now charged with Lusk's murder as well as several counts of bail jumping.

*And last week, a 23-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of killing a 41-year-old man by repeatedly running him over with her car. The woman allegedly ran over the victim so many times that a 911 caller "saw a body part come off the victim. This heinous, cold-blooded murder was made even more tragic by the fact that **John Chisholm's DA's Office has twice in the past six months declined to prosecute the woman for domestic violence strangulation.**"*

These tragedies are the direct result of District Attorney Chisholm's negligence in protecting the citizens of Milwaukee County and the State of Wisconsin, and a report from *Wisconsin Right Now* [reports](#) that last year, "Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm's office "refused to prosecute 6 in 10 of every felony charge requested by police."

Despite these tragedies and sobering statistics, John Chisholm has refused repeated requests to resign as Milwaukee County District Attorney, but as witnessed in Waukesha last month, the devastation resulting from Chisholm's dereliction of duty to protect the public has reached outside the borders of Milwaukee County. Therefore, it is incumbent upon you as Governor of the State of Wisconsin, to immediately investigate and remove Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm for neglecting his duty to the citizens of Milwaukee County and the State of Wisconsin, in accordance with Wis. Stat. §

17.06 (3).