

MILWAUKEE COUNTY FIRST

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Milwaukee County Board Sells Our Safety, Jobs To Lowest Bidder

On Thursday, May 27, 2010, the Milwaukee County Board decided to privatize the job of [transporting inmates](#) to the G4S Wackenhut Corporation.

They did so despite [the poor record](#) Wackenhut has had in providing security on the Milwaukee County Transit System. They also chose to ignore [the problems](#) with Wackenhut after County Executive Scott Walker privatized the security at the Courthouse and other County Buildings. The County Board also overlooked the fact that Wackenhut has a history of shipping people into Milwaukee County from around the state as well as [from around the country](#).

The County Board chose to give away these jobs and the public safety for a predicted savings of \$643,169 per year, which comes to about 67 cents for each man, woman and child in Milwaukee County. And that is only if those predictions are accurate, which is highly dubious given the results of other privatization efforts that the County has pursued.

“The Milwaukee County Board took away good paying jobs from Milwaukee County citizens, as well as our safety, for the sake of pocket change,” said Chris Liebenthal, Chair of Milwaukee County First. “With the high rate of unemployment in Milwaukee County, it is unbelievable that they are practically giving these jobs away to people from who knows where with who knows what kind of history. And I most certainly feel that my safety and the safety of my family are worth more than few cents.”

“There is an old saying that goes ‘Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me,’” continued Liebenthal. “We can now add ‘Fool them three times, shame on the County Board.’ Will they never learn?”

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Milwaukee County First is a registered 501(c)4 non-profit organization based in Milwaukee County.

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