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Bice: Supervisor apologizes for using Cardi B's raunchy 'WAP' video to promote county weatherization program

Daniel Bice

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Milwaukee County Supervisor **Ryan Clancy** thought he had come up with a clever way to draw attention to the county's Weatherization Assistance Program.

Clancy wrote a Facebook post about the program, accompanied by a picture of rappers **Cardi B** and **Megan Thee Stallion** from the <u>music video</u> for "WAP," a song so vivid and explicit in its description of female sexual fantasies that we can't even explain the title.

Let's just say it has nothing to do with drafty windows and panes.

Clancy even took a line from the intro and outro of the raunchy song — "there's some whores in this house" — and changed it to "there's some holes in this house."

Get it? Think of the Weatherization Assistance Program when you hear or see "WAP."

To many, the joke fell flat, and the folks with the weatherization program asked the first-term County Board member to take down the picture of the two rappers. The program provides Low-income homeowners and renters with energy efficiency improvements to reduce the cost of their utility bills.

Clancy eventually did as he was asked and is now apologizing for his bungling attempt to help promote the important government program.

The Bay View resident said this week that he is "profoundly sorry" for his post.

"What I was hoping to do was both to draw attention to a really good program phenomenally run by Black women here at the county while also trying to make reference to a song which, at its core, has to do with empowerment, reclaiming language and destigmatization," Clancy said. "It didn't land well."

He said some people got what he was doing and appreciated it. Many others did not.

That's reflected in the comments on his Facebook page.

"As a retired hoe, who lives with holes in my house, I think this is witty and on trend," said one individual.

Said another, "White male politician puts out an

announcement about a weatherization assistance program using sexualized black women's bodies to get attention. ... Do you see where there just might be a problem here?"

What upset Clancy the most was the reaction the people who run the program got. Some callers were upset, and a few even wanted to know if the Cardi B picture was the official graphic for the program.

Given the often strained relationship between the state and Milwaukee County, Clancy said the last thing he wanted was for the state to cut funding to the program because of his little joke.

"I'm deeply sorry that this added burdens of time and emotion to the exceptional staff that run this program, and I hope that nobody has mistaken my conduct for theirs," he wrote on Facebook after hiding the picture of Cardi B, a former stripper.

For the record, though, Clancy said he is a "huge fan" of the song, which has attracted more than 268 million views on **YouTube**, and the message behind it.

But he acknowledged it was pretty dicey for a public official, even a young one, to post something like this on his official Facebook page.

He said he has learned his lesson.

"It's one thing to make a pop reference and try to be cheeky about things," Clancy said. "I was gutted that my attempt to

do something good ended up hurting people. I'll certainly proceed more carefully with something like that in the future."

Contact Daniel Bice at (414) 313-6684 or dbice@jrn.com. Follow him on Twitter @DanielBice or on Facebook at fb.me/daniel.bice.

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4 of 4