



**Gerald Staniszewski**, Chief of Police  
721 Oxford Avenue, Suite 1400  
P.O. Box 496, Eau Claire, WI 54702

TO: Citizens of the Eau Claire Community  
FROM: Gerald W. Staniszewski, Chief of Police  
DATE: May 16, 2017  
SUBJECT: Officer Involved Shooting Incident, January 28, 2017  
Eau Claire Police Department Case #2017-1951

The Eau Claire Police Department has concluded the Administrative Review of the January 28, 2017, officer involved shooting at the Scottish Inns & Suites, 1135 W. MacArthur Avenue, involving Matthew Zank. The investigation revealed that the decision making and actions of Officer Kristopher O'Neill were appropriate and compliant with Eau Claire Police Department policies and procedures.

The Administrative Review was conducted by Eau Claire Police Lieutenant Tim Golden who reviewed Eau Claire Police Officer reports, the comprehensive criminal investigation conducted by the LaCrosse Police Department, and the criminal use of force investigation determination made by Eau Claire County District Attorney Gary King.

A copy of the Eau Claire Police Department Administrative Review document and other associated documents, including Officer O'Neill's dash cam video, can be obtained on the Eau Claire Police Department Media Release webpage at the following link: <http://www.eauclairewi.gov/departments/police-department/newsroom>

Maintaining trust and legitimacy of the Eau Claire Police Department in our community is of the utmost importance. The police department has policy which gives guidance to police department staff in maintaining a high standard of conduct and an exemplary level of service to the community. The policy is based on federal, state, and local laws as well as best practices in policing and community care taking. Providing for procedural justice through evaluation of compliance with department policy is a critical aspect of maintaining that trust and legitimacy.

The Administrative Review included the comprehensive review of five specific Eau Claire Police Department policies to include:

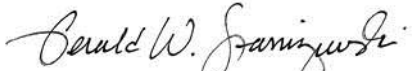
- ECPD Policy 300 - Use of Force*
- ECPD Policy 305 - Officer Involved Shootings and Deaths*
- ECPD Policy 308 - Officer Response to Calls*
- ECPD Policy 317 - Public Alerts*
- ECPD Policy 400 - Patrol Function*

The results of the Administrative Review have confirmed that the members of the Eau Claire Police Department involved in the critical incident acted within the best interest of our community. The details of how the supervisors and officers responded and reacted to this developing incident are evidence of the commitment and exemplary character with which the men and women of the Eau Claire Police Department serve the community on a daily basis.

This critical incident brings to light one of the most challenging issues facing our community and our police department. The mental health and wellness of our citizens deserves to be prioritized to care for people in crisis and help them develop resilience strategies to cope with stress and hardships. All too often, depression and hopelessness result in police officers responding to critical incidents which had previous warning signs that went untreated. Responsibility lies with the individual, family and peer support, the community, and the mental health treatment system.

I want to thank the citizens of Eau Claire for their patience, understanding, and support while this incident was investigated from both the criminal and administrative review perspectives. Transparency of the investigative process and our organization is a priority. I trust this will be evident to you as you review the details of this incident.

I want to thank all of the members of the Eau Claire Police Department. Your commitment and professionalism exemplify the core values of our organization.

  
Gerald W. Staniszewski  
Chief of Police  
Eau Claire Police Department