



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

TO: Eau Claire Community Members  
FROM: Gerald W. Staniszewski, Chief of Police  
DATE: July 17, 2018  
SUBJECT: Officer Involved Shooting Incident, July 22, 2017  
Eau Claire Police Department Case #17PD15279

The Eau Claire Police Department has concluded the Administrative Review of the July 22, 2017, officer involved shooting at 4527 Woodford Court involving Michael Caponigro. The investigation revealed that the decision-making and actions of Officer Jesse Henning were appropriate and compliant with Eau Claire Police Department policies and procedures.

The Administrative Review was conducted by Eau Claire Police Lieutenant Ryan Dahlgren 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 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 caretaking. 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 six 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 400 - Patrol Function*
- ECPD Policy 416 – Patrol Rifles*
- ECPD Policy 422 – Mobile Video Recording System*


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.

Our police officers responded to a domestic violence incident in which Mr. Caponigro made homicidal and suicidal threats. His criminal behavior jeopardized the safety of community members. Despite efforts to deescalate the critical incident, Mr. Caponigro shot at the officers who were trying to help him. The use of deadly force was not only justified, it was necessary to save the lives of officers and neighboring residents.

This incident highlights the serious nature of domestic violence and the need for effective victim assistance programs. Intimate partner violence in the form of physical, sexual or psychological harm is a crime and is never acceptable. The long lasting effects of domestic violence can be devastating to victims and children. The Eau Claire Police Department is committed to helping victims of domestic violence live in a safe family environment.

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