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## MEDIA RELEASE

<b>DATE:</b> October 21, 2019	<b>CONTACT:</b> Lieutenant Derek Thomas
<b>TIME:</b> 11:45 a.m.	<b>PHONE:</b> 715-839-6281
<b># PAGES:</b> 1	<b>EMAIL:</b> derek.thomas@eauclairewi.gov
<b>SUBJECT:</b> 19PD22891 Death Investigation	@EauClairePD  @EauClairePD  @EauClairePD

On October 19, 2019 at 4:12 a.m. the Eau Claire Police Department and Eau Claire Fire Department responded to a structure fire in the 600 block of Congress Street. While enroute Officers learned someone was inside the residence.

Upon arrival, Eau Claire Police Officers tried to enter the residence but were unable to due to the amount of smoke. When the Eau Claire Fire Department arrived they made entry into the residence, where they located a deceased male.

The initial investigation has determined the Eau Claire Police Department and Eau Claire Fire Department were called to the residence for a report of an intruder and the home was on fire. A tenant had observed an intruder in his home and a physical confrontation occurred. The tenant then notified the other occupants of the fire, and they were able to make it out of the residence safely. The deceased individual located inside of the residence was not known to any of the tenants.

The deceased individual was identified as Jaime Thayer-Vega DOB 2/4/1998.

On October, 20 2019 Thayer-Vega was transported to the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison, WI where a forensic autopsy was conducted. The preliminary autopsy report shows the cause of death was smoke inhalation. Further autopsy results and information are pending.

The investigation into this incident is active an ongoing. The cause of the fire is still unknown. The American Red Cross is assisting those displaced by the fire.

The Eau Claire Police Department would like to thank the Eau Claire Fire Department, the Eau Claire County Medical Examiner's Office, Wisconsin Department of Justice - State Fire Marshal's Office and the University of Eau Claire Police Department for their response and assistance with this case.

Media inquiries should be directed to:

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