



CITY OF  
**EAU  
CLAIRE**

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Office of the City Attorney  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Holte Civil Rights Lawsuit**

Eau Claire, WI - Last year the City of Eau Claire received a federal civil rights lawsuit alleging the Eau Claire Police Department engaged in excessive force in apprehending Mr. Tyler Holte on April 1, 2015. The use of force in this case was thoroughly investigated by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, the Eau Claire District Attorney's office, and internally by the Eau Claire Police Department. The information gathered and the conclusions reached by these agencies demonstrate that the force used against Holte by the Eau Claire Police Department was appropriate given the danger Holte posed to police officers and the public. Holte's actions and statements from his family earlier that day demonstrate Holte was under the influence of drugs, was believed to have had a gun and said he would rather die than go back to jail. Holte fled from officers and engaged in dangerous driving gravely endangering his mother by striking her with his vehicle and endangering the general public, and, when confronted by officers who reasonably believed him to be armed, he refused repeated orders to show his hands. After the incident, witnesses reported that Holte planned to make officers believe he had a gun rather than allow himself to be taken into custody. Police officers used the minimum force necessary to end the threat Holte presented to officers and the public, and as soon as the threat ended immediately administered first aid to Holte.

The City of Eau Claire will continue to vigorously defend the actions taken by police officers in this case which is set for trial on August 16, 2021. After the lawsuit was filed last year many depositions have been taken, expert reports have been reviewed, and further investigation and scrutiny of the events of April 1, 2015 have been undertaken. We believe this additional information bolsters the conclusions previously reached by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, the Eau Claire District Attorney's office, and the City of Eau Claire Police Department regarding the appropriateness of the force used in this case.

The City's insurance company, Wisconsin Municipal Mutual Insurance (WMMIC), is defending the City and our Officers. Deputy City Attorney Doug Hoffer is the City of Eau Claire's contact for any media request.

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