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MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: December 28, 2021	CONTACT:
TIME: 12:10 PM	PHONE:
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SUBJECT: DA Review 21PD21280	 @EauClairePD

On December 28, 2021 Eau Claire County District Attorney Peter Rindal released the opinion of his review of the Officer-Involved Death involving two Eau Claire Police Officers. This incident occurred on November 3, 2021.

The officer-involved shooting occurred at a residence on the 400 block of Selma Street in the City of Eau Claire. Officers responded to this residence after the Communication Center received a 911 hang up call. Upon callback, the caller said someone had broken into their residence. As officers responded, additional information was received the intruder had armed himself with a knife and screaming could be heard. The intruder stabbed a female victim numerous times. Eau Claire Police Officers Kris O’Neill and Jason Kaveney were the first to arrive.

In his written opinion, District Attorney Rindal stated Officer O’Neill’s use of deadly force was justified.

District Attorney Rindal further wrote “the Eau Claire County District Attorney’s Office concludes that Eau Claire Police Officer Kristopher O’Neill’s use of deadly force was justified as a reasonable act of self-defense and defense of others.”

Officers Kris O’Neill and Jason Kaveney took decisive and necessary action to protect members of our community. When doing so, they put themselves in harms way. Once LeKenneth Miller’s violent behavior was stopped, officers immediately began administering life-saving measures to both Miller and the person he was attacking with a knife. The actions of these officers were heroic.

Police use of deadly force must be investigated thoroughly. In addition to the criminal investigation recently reviewed by the Eau Claire County District Attorney, the Eau Claire Police Department is in the process of conducting an Administrative Review of this incident. The purpose of this review is to determine policy compliance by responding officers. This policy evaluation will be completed within the next several weeks and will be available for community review.

Officers Kris O’Neill and Jason Kaveney are approved to return to their traditional work assignments.

Our thoughts remain with the stabbing victim as she continues to recover.

Sincerely,
Matt Rokus
Chief of Police
Eau Claire Police Department

Chad Hoyord
Deputy Chief

Derek Thomas
Deputy Chief

Kelly Thompson
Administration

Dena Clark
Communications Center