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Matt Rokus, Chief of Police
721 Oxford Avenue, Suite 1400
Eau Claire, WI 54703

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: May 16, 2023	CONTACT: Ben Hundt
TIME: 1:30PM	PHONE: 715-828-6796
# PAGES: 1	EMAIL: Benjamin.Hundt@eauclairewi.gov
SUBJECT: 23PD08383	 @EauClairePD

Fatal Crash in the City of Eau Claire

On May 12th, 2023 at 10:47PM multiple agencies responded to the area of East Clairemont Avenue and Fairfax Street for a crash involving two vehicles. A Dodge Charger was stopped at the traffic lights eastbound on Clairemont Ave at Fairfax St. The Charger was struck from behind by a Ford Escape, which was described by witnesses as traveling at a high rate of speed. The Charger was pushed across the intersection and struck a traffic post. Witnesses advised the Charger became engulfed in flames after coming to a stop. Based on the initial investigation, speed and alcohol are believed to be factors in the crash.

The driver of the Escape was identified as Kenneth Van Meter (DOB 07/24/1982). Van Meter was transported to a medical facility for injuries related to the crash. He was arrested for Homicide by Intoxicated Use of a Vehicle.

The driver of the Charger died on scene. More information will be released about the victim at a later time.

Wisconsin State Patrol is completing reconstruction of the crash, which is still under investigation.

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Media inquiries should be directed to:

Ben Hundt
Public Information Officer
Eau Claire Police Department