




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

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: May 29th, 2024	CONTACT: Chief Matt Rokus
TIME: 1:25PM	PHONE:
# PAGES: 1	EMAIL:
SUBJECT: 24PD08677 Officer-Involved Shooting	 @EauClairePD

Officer-Involved Shooting (UPDATE)

On May 25th, 2024 around 8:50 p.m., the Eau Claire Police Department investigated a disturbance on the westside of Eau Claire that ultimately led to an officer-involved shooting.

The subject involved has been identified as Thomas H. Burback DOB 03/05/1971. Burback has been charged with Failure to Comply with Officer's Attempt to Take Person into Custody, Possession of a Firearm while Intoxicated, and Disorderly Conduct.

The officer involved in the shooting is Officer Ariana Down Larson, a 3-year veteran with the department.

In the initial investigation, officers were called to a disturbance at 2228 2nd Street. As officers were investigating that case, a second disturbance of loud yelling was heard at 2232 2nd Street. At this location, Officer Down Larson found two children outside the residence who appeared to be hiding from a male who was screaming profanities from a second-story balcony. Officer Down Larson asked them what was happening, and one of the children advised that their grandmother was in a fight of some kind in the upstairs apartment. Officer Down Larson brought the children to a neighbor's house where they were able to shelter while she investigated the disturbance.

Officer Down Larson confronted the male, Burback, who yelled profanities towards her and towards the person that was still in the house. Officer Down Larson identified herself as a police officer and observed Burback pointing a revolver. Officer Down Larson advised Burback pointed the revolver in her direction, and she subsequently observed Burback turn to re-enter the apartment where the other person was. Burback was still holding the revolver when Officer Down Larson discharged her firearm.

Burback retreated into the residence and barricaded himself inside. The Eau Claire County Regional SWAT Team was called to the scene. During the course of this incident, officers ensured resident safety by evacuating the immediate area and calling for those nearby to shelter in place.

Crisis Negotiators established phone contact with Burback. They maintained communications with him and attempted to convince him to surrender. Ultimately, non-lethal gas was deployed into the apartment. Burback agreed to surrender to negotiators at that time. After the incident was resolved a search of the apartment was conducted, and a revolver was located.

Per department policy, officer involved shootings are investigated by an outside agency. The Wisconsin Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation is currently investigating the incident.

Per state statute and department policy, an internal administrative review of this incident must be conducted. Officer Down Larson is on administrative assignment pending a complete review of the investigation. The results of the investigation will include a full disclosure of the investigation and citizen review.

Please direct all media inquiries regarding this incident to the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) at dojcommunications@doj.state.wi.us

###

Matt Rokus
Chief of Police
Eau Claire Police Department

Chad Hoyord
Deputy Chief

Derek Thomas
Deputy Chief

Kelly Thompson
Administration

Greg Rosno
Communications Center