








Matt Rokus, Chief of Police

721 Oxford Avenue, Suite 1400
Eau Claire, WI 54703

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: October 3, 2025	CONTACT: Chief Matt Rokus
TIME: 10:00 AM	PHONE:
# PAGES: 1	EMAIL:
SUBJECT: 25PD17275 Fatal Crash Update	     @EauClairePD

UPDATE: Names Released After Eau Claire Police Arrest Driver in Fatal Crash

The victim in the crash has been identified as Jack C. Ritchie, 35 of Eau Claire. The suspect has been identified as Anthony M. Reyes, 27 of Eau Claire.

Reyes was arrested on the following preliminary charges:

- Homicide by Intoxicated Use of a Vehicle
- 1st Degree Reckless Homicide
- Knowingly Flee An Officer

Reyes is expected to appear in court next week. The crash remains under investigation.

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At about 2:40 a.m. on October 1, 2025, ECPD officers attempted to stop a vehicle that was traveling at a high rate of speed and going into oncoming traffic. The driver fled from officers and continued their dangerous driving behavior. A short pursuit ensued before the officer lost sight of the vehicle on Eau Claire's west side.

Within minutes, additional officers observed the same vehicle traveling on North Clairemont Avenue at a dangerous speed. The driver had turned the vehicle's headlights off and was driving recklessly. Due to the excessive danger presented to the public, officers attempted to catch up to the vehicle.

Within seconds, the suspect vehicle crashed into another motorist at the intersection of West Clairemont Avenue and Craig Road. The crash left the victim's vehicle engulfed in flames. Officers exhausted all efforts attempting to extract the victim. As a result of the crash, the victim was tragically killed.

The suspect was transported to a local hospital, where they were combative and violent with officers and hospital staff.

Our hearts are heavy following this tragic incident. The suspect's reckless actions took the life of an innocent member of our community. We extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of the victim. We are committed to supporting their loved ones and all of the first responders affected by this incident.

Due to the nature of this incident, we have requested the involvement of the Wisconsin Department of Justice – Division of Criminal Investigation and Wisconsin State Patrol to complete the investigation. The Eau Claire Police Department will release additional information in the near future to include the names of the involved individuals.

Matt Rokus
Chief of Police
Eau Claire Police Department

Derek Thomas
Deputy Chief

Ben Frederick
Deputy Chief

Kelly Thompson
Administration

Greg Rosno
Communications Center