



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

January 30, 2023

Dear Eau Claire Community Members:

The death of Tyre Nichols at the hands of police officers in Memphis, TN is revolting and indefensible. The brutality inflicted upon Mr. Nichols and the failure of any of the involved to intervene leaves me disgusted and saddened. My condolences are with Mr. Nichols' family, friends and the Memphis community.

As police officers, we swear an oath to defend peace and freedom, uphold the constitution and protect the sanctity of human life. These former officers have disgraced the policing profession and betrayed the oath they swore. Their criminal conduct, through both action and inaction, diminish the bravery and dedication of men and women who put on a uniform and honorably serve their communities every day.

It is our vision to be a trusted police organization that ensures a safe community for all. We strive to earn this trust by possessing integrity, affording human dignity, supporting transparency, and demonstrating compassion and professionalism. We also work to strengthen trust through intentional effort centered on four principles:

- *Policing Philosophy*: We view the officer's role as a community partner and guardian of peace and freedom. Through extensive hiring practices, employ officers with high ethical standards and the correct public service mindset.
- *Training and Education*: Provide continuing education to all officers beyond mandated requirements. Prioritizing topics such as de-escalation, fair and impartial policing strategies, and the principals of constitutional policing.
- *Policy and Oversight*: Ensure accountability through strong policies, evidence-based practices, and oversight.
- *Transparency*: It is necessary to have guidelines and systems for resident comments, complaints and inquiries. Whenever practical, information is made available for public review in order to promote transparency.

It is an honor for the men and women of the Eau Claire Police Department to serve everyone who lives and works in our community. At risk of life and livelihood, our officers accept the responsibility to protect others. We take these obligations seriously and strive to be a trusted police organization.

Sincerely,

Matt Rokus  
Eau Claire Chief of Police

Chad Hoyord  
Deputy Chief

Derek Thomas  
Deputy Chief

Kelly Thompson  
Administration

Greg Rosno  
Communications Center