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## MEDIA RELEASE

<b>DATE:</b> August 23, 2024	<b>CONTACT:</b> Chief Matt Rokus
<b>TIME:</b> 3:00PM	<b>PHONE:</b>
<b># PAGES:</b> 1	<b>EMAIL:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b> 24PD13061	 @EauClairePD

Recently, a video has been shared on social media that has raised concerns from residents. In the video, Eau Claire Police Department Officers can be seen taking a woman into custody. We are releasing the totality of the body worn camera footage associated with that event to present many factors which were not seen in the video.

In the early morning hours of July 27th, 2024, ECPD Officers were called to She-Nannigans/Lucky's Bar at 415 Water St. The caller said they were a member of the bar staff, and staff had taken an ID away from a person who was believed to be underage. The person had become aggressive and made threats towards staff and was refusing to leave the bar.

When Officers arrived, they spoke to the staff outside. They said that a person had possibly used a "passback" ID, so a security member had asked the person to verify their identity. The ID that they took from the female patron was not hers, and it was believed that she was underage. Staff said the woman was with another woman, and they wanted both women removed from the bar. Staff said that "they threatened to shoot us" and that they had threatened to have other people come to the bar.

Officers were led to the back area of the bar, and the women were pointed out. As our Officers were walking up, one of the women was involved in an argument with another patron and needed to be redirected by Officers to prevent a further disturbance. Officers spoke to the pair and directed them outside to discuss the incident.

As they were walking to the front of the building, one of the women repeatedly and deliberately went out of her way to aggressively collide with other patrons in the crowded bar. Once the two were outside, Officers spoke with them for a period of minutes to try to understand what was going on. During this time, the women expressed frustration and repeatedly used vulgar language towards Officers.

It was determined the underage woman was going to be ordered in for criminal charges based on her behavior in the bar, as well as cited for ordinance violations. She was told she was not free to leave and needed to wait for the documentation to be completed. She continued to be upset, but did stay with Officers on the sidewalk in the 400 block of Water St. The other woman was told she was free to walk away.

During the time Officers were in contact with the women, they very loudly used vulgar and threatening language. This was on a busy sidewalk area, and many other people turned to look, visibly or audibly commented on body camera, or began to film due to the disturbance the women were creating. There were multiple threats towards Officers and bar staff captured on video. The following are all direct quotes.

"I should've punched him in his f\*\*\*\*\*g jaw." - Woman 1 in reference to the bouncer that took her ID.  
"I'm (unintelligible) beat this n\*\*\*\*a's a\*\* dude" - Woman 1 in reference to the bouncer.  
"We'll see how that happens." - Woman 2 when told Woman 1 would be arrested if she walked away.  
"I don't got time for this n\*\*\*a to be smiling in my face because I will punch him." - Woman 2 towards ECPD Officer.

After saying that she was going to punch our Officer, the woman was warned that Threats Against Law Enforcement is a Felony, and she needed to stop that behavior. Shortly after that, she looked at an Officer while she was on the phone, and said "This n\*\*\*\*a smiling and s\*\*\* like I won't smack the s\*\*\* out of him."

At that point, after repeated attempts to diffuse the situation and a warning that threats towards law enforcement is a crime, which she would be arrested for, Officers approached the woman and told her she was going to be arrested and taken to jail. They began to take her into custody and she attempted to pull away and yelled for them not to touch her. She resisted efforts to place her in handcuffs, and Officers decentralized her to a prone position for handcuffing.

The body camera footage we are releasing shows this incident in detail. The accompanying video has parts sped up to be concise, and angles from multiple body cameras to show the clearest audio and video of what happened. The full-length video from the cameras of the Officers involved will be posted to YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxKb-rp8xXI&t=4s> for anyone that feels more footage is necessary to process the incident.

Our Officers hold the safety and rights of our residents in the highest regard. We understand the present concern. This incident is being thoroughly reviewed and we will remain transparent as we examine the totality of the events.

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