



CITY OF DURAND

POLICE DEPARTMENT

"COPS CARE"

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MEDIA RELEASE

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This press release is in reference to a letter sent to WI Attorney General Josh Kaul by the Eau Claire County Corporation Counsel and the City of Eau Claire City Attorney. The letter sent to AG Kaul references a call that occurred in the City of Durand in which the Durand Police Department voluntarily transported an individual to the City of Eau Claire for needed services at the Sojourner House.

On October 27, 2024 at approximately 7:37 PM our officer was dispatched to a suspicious person call in the 1100 block of Durand St. Our officer was advised that a female was lying in a yard.

The officer made contact with the subject who explained that she was from Fargo, ND. The subject was confused as to where she was and it was unclear as to how she arrived in Durand. She stated that she was waiting for a ride from someone coming from St. Paul and her ride would be in Durand in 10-15 minutes. She asked if there was a shelter nearby and our officer explained that there aren't any shelters close by. Our officer encouraged her to wait at a public place for her ride. Our officer was extremely polite and professional with her and she returned the same politeness.

Later that evening at approximately 10:30 PM our officer saw the subject in the Kwik Trip parking lot. He again stopped to see if her ride was still coming. The subject again asked about a shelter. The officer asked her if she had a credit card because if she did, we could give her a Salvation Army voucher to stay at our local hotel. The local hotel requires a credit card for a security deposit. She stated that she didn't have one. Our officer contacted me and I advised him to call Hope Gospel Mission, Sojourner House, and Bridge to Hope to see if we could find her a place to stay.

Our officer contacted all three and the only one that answered was the Bridge to Hope. They advised that they were full and couldn't take her. Our officer called me again and

gave me an update that he couldn't find a bed. I advised that we could take her to the Sojourner House and she could see if they had a bed for her.

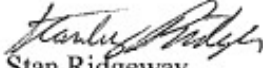
Our officer advised her several times that he couldn't guarantee that a bed would be available, she still wanted the transport to the shelter. Our officer told her that she was not under arrest. Our officer then transported her to the Sojourner House in Eau Claire. When they arrived, he again advised her that they may not have a bed. She thanked him for the ride.

During the entire contact the subject was respectful and thankful for our assistance. The subject didn't violate any laws while in the City of Durand. The subject also knew that she was not under arrest. I am releasing the full body camera footage so the public can see what truly happened in our case.

The letter to the AG and the follow-up interviews by Police Chief Rokus and Attorney Nick tried to paint us as being unprofessional and claimed that we transported the subject against her will. This is not true at all and I encourage them to review our body camera footage.

A search of the Sojourner House website shows that they accepted \$2.5M from the State of WI and the Federal government to build the facility. They also report receiving \$4M a year in Federal and state funds, grants and donations. Those funds come from tax payers throughout the state. Sojourner House is operated by Catholic Charities and their mission is to promote human dignity by alleviating poverty and strengthening individuals and families. Per their website, a frequently asked question is "What if I don't live in the city where your offices are located, can I still receive services?" The answer is "Absolutely".

In our small community, we care for our residents and visitors alike. We did the right thing by serving the needs of this particular subject to ensure her safety and care. We will not apologize for serving someone in need.


Stan Ridgeway
Police Chief