



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

Homicide Unit

Media Information

SUBJECT: Death Investigation and Related Arrest

LOCATION: 1173 Front Street, San Diego

DATE/TIME: April 2, 2020 / 5:00 p.m.

DECEASED: Blake Edward Wilson, 35

SUSPECT: Taylor Mitchell Barnes, 21

On Sunday, January 26, 2020, at 8:30 a.m., San Diego Sheriff's Deputies assigned to San Diego Central Jail were alerted by an inmate stating their male cellmate was unresponsive inside his cell. The unresponsive male was later identified as thirty-five-year-old Blake Edward Wilson. Deputies and jail medical staff immediately responded to the cell and began life-saving measures. San Diego Fire Department personnel arrived at 8:38 a.m. and continued life-saving efforts. Unfortunately, Wilson was pronounced deceased at 8:59 a.m.

The Sheriff's Homicide Unit and the Detentions Investigations Unit responded to conduct the death investigation. Based on the investigation, detectives found another inmate, twenty-one-year-old Taylor Mitchell Barnes, had supplied controlled substances to Wilson while in custody. Barnes was found to be in possession of over 20 grams of heroin laced fentanyl. On March 4, 2020, Barnes plead guilty to HS 11352 – Sale/Furnish of Fentanyl and PC12022.7(b) – Personal Infliction of Great Bodily Injury.

The Medical Examiner has concluded their autopsy report and provided it to the Homicide Unit. The Medical Examiner determined the cause of death as acute fentanyl, acetyl fentanyl, butyryl fentanyl, and heroin intoxication and the manner of death to be an accident.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Sheriff's Homicide Unit at (858) 258-6330/after hours at (858) 565-5200. You can also remain anonymous by calling Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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