SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
Critical Incident Review Board
In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: February 10, 2022

TIME: 12:59 p.m.
LOCATION: Tri-City Medical Center (Vista Detention Facility)

Due to the serious nature of these incidents, the Sheriff's Homicide Unit conducts a thorough investigation of every in-custody death. In addition to the investigation conducted by the Sheriff's Homicide Unit, the Sheriff's Critical Incident Review Board (CIRB) conducts a review of in-custody deaths. The CIRB is comprised of department leadership and the sheriff's legal advisor and performs a critical review of each incident. This review aims to identify misconduct, criminal negligence or behavior, policy violations, training deficiencies, or other areas where we can improve and make our facilities safer for staff and individuals in our custody. This release synopsizes the reviewed incident and any resultant actions taken to improve our operations.

On August 18, 2021, Incarcerated Person Doyle Marler was transferred from the Vista Detention Facility to the Sheriff's Hospital Guard Unit at Tri-City Medical Center (TCMC) due to a previous terminal cancer diagnosis. Based on his declining health and after discussions with his family, doctors transitioned Marler to comfort care on February 2, 2022. On February 10, 2022, at 6:20 p.m., a TCMC Supervising Nurse pronounced Marler deceased. San Diego Sheriff's Homicide investigators, a criminalist, and a field evidence technician responded to the hospital to document the scene.

An investigator from the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office took custody of Marler's remains and conducted an independent investigation and external post-mortem examination. They determined the cause of death to be esophageal cancer and the manner of death to be natural. (ME Case #2022-00570)

The CIRB conducted a preliminary review of this incident on April 13, 2022. Given the circumstances of Marler's passing, there were no policy recommendations or action items identified for this event.