



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Critical Incident Review Board

In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: March 12, 2022

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: San Diego Central Jail

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. The focus of the CIRB is to assess the department's civil exposure because of a given incident. The review may identify potential misconduct, criminal negligence or behavior, policy violations, training deficiencies, or other areas where we can improve and make our facilities safer for staff and those in our custody. This release synthesizes the reviewed incident and any resultant actions taken to improve our operations.

On March 12, 2022, at about 1:00 p.m., an incarcerated person inside a housing unit at the San Diego Central Jail alerted Sheriff's deputies that Incarcerated Person Derek Baker was injured. At the time, Baker was housed with another incarcerated person, Patrick Ferncase, inside the cell. Deputies responded and found Baker inside his assigned cell with apparent injuries. Deputies initiated first aid and summoned medical staff. At about 1:02 p.m., medical staff arrived and continued first aid medical treatment.

At about 1:09 p.m., San Diego Fire Department (SDFD) personnel arrived and took over medical treatment. Additional paramedics arrived, placed Baker onto a backboard, and transported him to the University of California San Diego Medical Center in Hillcrest for further treatment. Baker's prognosis from medical providers at the hospital was poor. The San Diego Sheriff's Homicide Unit responded to investigate due to the severity of Baker's injuries.

On March 22, 2022, the San Diego District Attorney's Office dismissed the charges pending against Baker and he was released from Sheriff's custody. Baker remained at the hospital where he continued to be treated.

On March 29, 2022, despite the efforts of emergency responders and hospital staff, a doctor pronounced Derek Baker deceased at 10:20 a.m.

The San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office conducted an independent investigation and post-mortem. The cause of death is still pending laboratory results, further evaluation, and completion of the Medical Examiner's final report. The manner of death is homicide. (ME Case #22-01138)

Sheriff's Homicide detectives continued their investigation and identified Ferncase as the person who attacked Baker. Homicide Detectives are working with the District Attorney's office to file appropriate charges against Ferncase, which will be determined upon completion of the Medical Examiner's final report.

The CIRB conducted a preliminary review of this incident on April 13, 2022, and listed the following as action items:

Item #1 – Statistical information was requested from the Jail Population Management Unit.