



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Critical Incident Review Board

In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: March 17, 2022

TIME: 10:48 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 17, 2022, at 10:48 p.m., while conducting a safety check of a housing unit at the San Diego Central Jail, Sheriff's deputies found Incarcerated Person Lonnie Rupard on his bed, unresponsive, with no pulse, and not breathing. Rupard was inside his assigned cell and was the sole occupant. Deputies initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and summoned medical staff. Medical staff arrived to assist with lifesaving measures, including applying an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

At about 11:01 p.m., San Diego Fire Department personnel arrived and took over lifesaving measures. At about 11:10 p.m., Falck paramedics arrived to assist with lifesaving measures, to include the application of a Lund University Cardiac Assist System (LUCAS) CPR device, and ultimately transported Rupard to the University of California San Diego Medical Center in Hillcrest. Despite the efforts of emergency responders and hospital staff, a doctor pronounced Lonnie Rupard deceased at 11:51 p.m. As is the protocol for all in-custody deaths, the San Diego Sheriff's Homicide Unit investigated this incident.

The San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office conducted an independent investigation and post-mortem. Rupard was found to have a peptic ulcer and possible signs of pneumonia. The cause and manner of death are still pending the completion of the Medical Examiner's final report. (ME Case #22-01007)

The CIRB conducted a preliminary review of this incident on April 20, 2022, and listed the following as action items:

Item #1 – The circumstances of the incident were referred to the Sheriff's Internal Affairs Unit for review.