



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Critical Incident Review Board

In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: May 5, 2022

TIME: 5:55 p.m.

LOCATION: San Diego Central Jail (SDCJ)

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 May 5, 2022, at about 5:55 p.m., a Sheriff's deputy walking past a booking holding cell at the San Diego Central Jail noticed Incarcerated Person Leonel Villasenor slumped over a partition wall inside the cell. Villasenor was unresponsive and the sole occupant of the cell. Deputies entered the cell, initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), administered Naloxone, and summoned medical staff. Medical staff arrived at about 5:59 p.m. to assist with lifesaving measures, including applying an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and administering additional Naloxone.

At about 6:04 p.m., San Diego Fire Department (SDFD) personnel arrived and took over lifesaving measures. At about 6:09 p.m., Falck paramedics arrived to assist with lifesaving measures, to include the application of a Lund University Cardiac Assist System (LUCAS) CPR device. Despite the efforts of emergency responders, a doctor pronounced Leonel Villasenor deceased at 6:28 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. Villasenor tested positive for methamphetamine and fentanyl during a presumptive test. The cause and manner of death are still pending the completion of the Medical Examiner's final report. (ME Case #2022-01550)

The CIRB conducted a preliminary review of this incident on June 15, 2022. There were no policy changes or action items identified during that review.