



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Critical Incident Review Board

In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: July 2, 2022

TIME: 5:26 a.m.

LOCATION: Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility

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 June 27, 2022, at about 9:00 p.m., Erica Wahlberg was transported from the Vista Detention Facility (VDF) to the Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility (LCDRF). Although VDF accepts female arrestees, those who are ineligible or unable to post bail are transferred to LCDRF for housing. On June 28, 2022, at about 2:30 a.m., while in the process of being housed, Wahlberg when began showing signs of being in medical distress. At about 3:40 a.m., Wahlberg was being treated and monitored by facility health staff when staff determined an emergency medical response was needed. At about 3:45 a.m., paramedics from the Santee Fire Department arrived on scene and transported Wahlberg to Alvarado Hospital. While in the emergency room at Alvarado Hospital, Wahlberg went into cardiac arrest and hospital staff undertook lifesaving efforts. Wahlberg continued being treated at Alvarado Hospital for the next several days. Despite the efforts of emergency responders and hospital staff, Wahlberg was pronounced deceased by a doctor on July 2, 2022, at 5:26 a.m.

As is the protocol for all in-custody deaths, the San Diego Sheriff's Homicide Unit investigated this incident and documented the scene.

The San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office conducted an independent investigation and post-mortem. The Medical Examiner's Office preliminarily determined the cause of death to be "methamphetamine intoxication", and the manner of death to be "accidental." Further testing and evaluation was determined necessary and the final Medical Examiner's report is pending completion. (ME Case #2022-2165)

The CIRB conducted a preliminary review of this incident on July 20, 2022, with no action items or policy recommendations at that time.