



# SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## Critical Incident Review Board In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: August 16, 2022

TIME: 7:21 p.m.

LOCATION: George Bailey Detention 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 August 16, 2022, at about 7:21 p.m., while conducting a safety check of a housing unit at the George Bailey Detention Facility, Sheriff's deputies found Incarcerated Person Matthew Settles on his bed, unresponsive, with no pulse, and not breathing. Settles was inside his assigned cell and was the sole occupant. Deputies immediately initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), summoned Sheriff's medical staff, and called for a 911 response. At about 7:24 p.m., Sheriff's medical staff arrived to assist with lifesaving measures, including applying an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

At about 7:29 p.m., San Diego Fire Department personnel arrived and took over lifesaving measures. Despite the efforts of emergency responders, a doctor pronounced Matthew Settles deceased at 7:47 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. The Medical Examiner preliminarily determined the cause of Settles' death was asphyxia by hanging and the manner was suicide. The Medical Examiner's final report is still pending completion. (ME Case #22-02713)

The CIRB conducted a preliminary review of this incident on September 21, 2022, and listed the following as action items:

Item #1 – Research the purpose of Settles' August 16, 2022, court date, and identify if anything significant occurred during the court appearance. This was completed on September 21, 2022, with no significant findings pertaining to the court appearance.