



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Critical Incident Review Board

In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: November 1, 2022

TIME: 1:08 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 September 1, 2022, Aaron Bonin returned to Sheriff's custody from the Department of State Hospitals forensic psychiatric facility in Patton, California for further court proceedings in San Diego. Mr. Bonin was evaluated and treated for several documented chronic medical and mental health concerns. Sheriff's medical staff referred him to local hospitals multiple times for acute care.

On October 24, 2022, at about 3:16 a.m., while conducting a safety check of a housing unit at the San Diego Central Jail, Sheriff's deputies found Bonin unresponsive in his assigned cell. Bonin was the sole occupant of the cell. A deputy immediately began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and summoned Sheriff's medical staff. Sheriff's medical staff arrived at 3:23 a.m., and continued life-saving efforts to include CPR, providing oxygen, and applying an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to Mr. Bonin.

At about 3:31 a.m., San Diego Fire Department (SDFD) personnel arrived and took over lifesaving measures. Falck paramedics arrived shortly after and applied a Lund University Compression Assist System (LUCAS) CPR machine to Mr. Bonin. At 4:05 a.m., paramedics departed SDCJ and transported Bonin to the University of California San Diego Medical Center in Hillcrest for further treatment.

Mr. Bonin remained at the hospital under treatment for the next several days. Members of Bonin's family were with him at the hospital prior to his passing. Despite the efforts of emergency

responders and hospital staff, Aaron Bonin was pronounced deceased by a doctor on November 1, 2022, at 1:08 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's Office preliminarily determined the cause of death to be "end stage renal failure, with high blood pressure and high cholesterol contributing," and the manner of death to be "natural." The final Medical Examiner's report is still pending completion. (ME Case #2022-3676)

The CIRB preliminarily reviewed this incident on January 11, 2023, and listed the following action item(s):

Item #1 – A Division of Inspectional Services sergeant will follow-up with the Medical Services Division on an ongoing basis to track the improvement of workflow processes on patient charting by outside medical providers.