



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Critical Incident Review Board

In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: November 8, 2021

TIME: 12:11 p.m.

LOCATION: Scripps Mercy Hillcrest Medical Center

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 October 19, 2021, Incarcerated Person Richard Eshbach experienced a medical emergency while housed at the George Bailey Detention Facility. Following an emergency response, Eshbach was transported to the Scripps Mercy Hillcrest Medical Center. Early examinations noted Eshbach was COVID-19 positive and had pulmonary fibrosis, severe emphysema, liver cirrhosis, and portal venous hypertension. He was subsequently admitted into the Intensive Care Unit.

On November 8, 2021, Eshbach's condition continued to decline. Despite the efforts of Sheriff's medical staff, emergency responders, and hospital staff, a doctor pronounced Richard Eshbach deceased at 12:11 p.m. Members of his family were with him at the hospital, prior to his passing.

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 determined the cause of death to be "complications of COVID-19," and the manner of death to be "natural." (ME Case #2021-03721)

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