



# SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## Critical Incident Review Board

### In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: January 6, 2021

TIME: 10:48 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 January 6, 2021, at about 10:48 p.m., Sheriff's deputies conducting a safety check and a count of booking holding cells at the San Diego Central Jail noticed Incarcerated Person Omar Moreno face down on the floor inside one of the cells. There were several other incarcerated people inside the holding cell. Deputies entered the cell, initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), summoned medical staff, and notified 911 for an emergency response. At about 10:52 p.m., a responding deputy applied an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Sheriff's medical staff arrived shortly after that to assist with lifesaving measures, including assisting with CPR and administering doses of Naloxone.

At about 11:03 p.m., San Diego Fire Department (SDFD) personnel arrived and took over lifesaving measures. Despite the efforts of Sheriff's medical staff and emergency responders, a doctor pronounced Omar Moreno deceased at 11:23 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 found a cloth surgical-style face mask and a "food bolus" lodged in Moreno's throat. The Medical Examiner determined the cause of death to be "choking" with "acute methamphetamine intoxication" contributing, and the manner to be "accident." (ME Case #2021-00099)

The CIRB conducted a review of this incident on May 12, 2021, and listed the following as action items:

- 1.) Update Detentions Policies and Procedures section I.64-Safety Checks of Housing and Holding Areas, to add supervisory follow-up if all or part of a safety check cannot be completed. This was completed December 17, 2021.