



# SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## Critical Incident Review Board

### In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: April 27, 2021

TIME: 5:43 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 April 27, 2021, at about 5:43 p.m., Sheriff's deputies had just completed a safety check and count in a housing unit at the George Bailey Detention Facility (GBDF), when the incarcerated population inside the housing unit notified them of someone in medical distress. Deputies responded and found Incarcerated Person Jonathan Whitlock unresponsive. Deputies immediately requested that medical staff respond to the module, notified 911, and began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). At about 5:46 p.m., Sheriff's medical staff arrived on scene and took over lifesaving measures including administering doses of Naloxone and performing chest compressions. At about 5:54 p.m., San Diego Fire Department paramedics arrived on scene and assisted with the continuing lifesaving measures. Paramedics transported Whitlock to the Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center, where hospital staff continued lifesaving measures. Despite the efforts of Sheriff's medical staff, emergency responders and hospital staff, Jonathan Whitlock was pronounced deceased by a doctor at 6:43 p.m.

As is the protocol for all in-custody deaths, the San Diego Sheriff's Homicide Unit investigated this incident and documented the scene. No illicit substances were found at the scene.

The San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office conducted an independent investigation and post-mortem. The Medical Examiner's Office determined the cause of death to be "acute fentanyl intoxication" with "obesity" contributing, and the manner of death to be "accident." (ME Case #2021-01398)

The CIRB conducted a review of this incident on October 13, 2021, with no action items or policy recommendations at that time.