



# SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## Critical Incident Review Board

### In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: July 5, 2021

TIME: 11:56 p.m.

LOCATION: Vista 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 July 5, 2021, at about 10:25 a.m., while providing security during medication distribution in a housing unit at the Vista Detention Facility, a Sheriff's deputy found Incarcerated Person Ronaldino Estrada unresponsive inside a cell. Estrada was inside his assigned cell with another incarcerated person. Deputies and the Sheriff's Detentions Nurse on scene initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), administered Naloxone, summoned additional medical staff, and requested a 911 notification for an emergency response. Additional Sheriff's medical staff arrived at about 10:32 a.m. to assist with lifesaving measures, including applying an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), providing supplemental oxygen, and administering additional doses of Naloxone.

At about 10:47 a.m., Oceanside Fire Department (OFD) personnel arrived and took over lifesaving measures. At about 11:04 a.m., OFD paramedics transported Estrada to the Tri-City Medical Center. Despite the efforts of Sheriff's medical staff, emergency responders and hospital staff, a doctor pronounced Ronaldino Estrada deceased at 11:20 a.m.

As is the protocol for all in-custody deaths, the San Diego Sheriff's Homicide Unit investigated this incident and documented the scene. There were no illicit substances 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 "hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease" contributing, and the manner of death to be "accident." (ME Case #2021-02238)

The CIRB conducted a review of this incident on January 12, 2022, and listed the following as action items:

- 1.) Revise Detentions Policies and Procedures section I.64-Safety Checks of Housing and Holding Areas. This was completed on May 9, 2022.