



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Critical Incident Review Board

In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: May 30, 2021

TIME: 3:59 p.m.

LOCATION: San Diego Central Jail

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 May 30, 2021, at about 3:59 p.m., while conducting a safety check of a housing unit at the San Diego Central Jail, Sheriff's deputies found Incarcerated Person Lester Marroquin on the floor of his cell, unresponsive. Marroquin was inside his assigned cell and was the sole occupant. Deputies entered the cell, found Marroquin to not have a pulse, and immediately initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and summoned Sheriff's medical staff. At about 4:06 p.m., Sheriff's medical staff arrived to assist with lifesaving measures, including applying an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). A call for a 911 emergency response was made shortly after the arrival of medical staff.

At about 4:11 p.m., San Diego Fire Department personnel arrived and took over lifesaving measures. Emergency Medical Technicians from American Medical Response (AMR) arrived to assist shortly thereafter. Despite the efforts of Sheriff's medical staff and emergency responders, a doctor pronounced Lester Marroquin deceased at 4:40 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 determined the cause of death was "acute water intoxication" and the manner was "suicide." (ME Case #21-01797)

The CIRB conducted a review of this incident on January 19, 2022, and listed the following as action items:

- 1.) The circumstances of this incident were referred to the Internal Affairs Unit for review.
- 2.) The Detentions Services Bureau was tasked with researching other California state correctional facilities for policies and procedures on limiting access to incarcerated persons' cell water supply when they are using water to self-harm or cause damage. This was completed on May 9, 2022.