



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Critical Incident Review Board

In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: July 20, 2021

TIME: 9:58 a.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 July 20, 2021, at about 9:58 a.m., a Sheriff's deputy conducting a safety check and count in a housing unit at the San Diego Central Jail, found Incarcerated Person Saxon Rodriguez unresponsive. Rodriguez was in his assigned cell with two other incarcerated people. Deputies immediately requested that medical staff respond to the module, requested 911 be notified for an emergency response, and began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). At about 10:03 a.m., Sheriff's medical staff arrived on scene and took over lifesaving measures including applying an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), administering doses of Naloxone, and performing chest compressions.

At about 10:11 a.m., San Diego Fire Department paramedics arrived on scene and assisted with the continuing lifesaving measures. Despite the efforts of Sheriff's medical staff and emergency responders, Saxon Rodriguez was pronounced deceased by a doctor at 10:23 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. Homicide detectives recovered an item inside the cell containing a substance that tested positive for heroin and fentanyl.

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 "combined fentanyl and methamphetamine toxicity," and the manner of death to be "accident." (ME Case #2021-02391)

The CIRB conducted a review of this incident on February 9, 2022, and listed the following as action items:

- 1.) The Detentions Training Unit was tasked with updating and disseminating lineup training topics on *Signs of Medical Distress and Life-Threatening Emergencies* and *Response to Life Threatening and Medical Emergencies*. This was completed on March 30, 2022.