



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Critical Incident Review Board

In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: September 28, 2021

TIME: 6:08 p.m.

LOCATION: Las Colinas Detention and Reentry 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 September 28, 2021, at about 6:08 p.m., a Sheriff's deputy found Incarcerated Person Teresita Tuazon unresponsive inside her assigned cell at the Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility. Tuazon was the only person assigned to the cell and she was alone. Additional deputies responded and entered the cell. Deputies summoned facility medical staff and requested a notification to 911 for an emergency medical response. The deputies then initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Sheriff's medical staff arrived at about 6:13 p.m. to assist with lifesaving measures, including applying an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

At about 6:16 p.m., Santee Fire Department (SFD) personnel arrived and took over lifesaving measures, including using a Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System (LUCAS) CPR machine. At about 6:34 p.m., SFD paramedics detected a pulse and subsequently transported Tuazon to Sharp Grossmont Medical Center, where she continued to be treated. Despite the efforts of Sheriff's medical staff, emergency responders, and hospital staff, a doctor pronounced Teresita Tuazon deceased at 7:19 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.

The San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office conducted an independent investigation and post-mortem. The Medical Examiner determined the cause of death to be "complications of

diabetes mellitus" with "hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease" and "cirrhosis of liver" contributing. The manner of death was "natural." (ME Case #2021-03238)

The CIRB conducted a review of this incident on June 8, 2022, and listed the following as action items:

- 1.) Medical Services Division staff were tasked with clarifying whether the notes function of the electronic medical records management system includes the ability to indicate a patient's presentation, and whether the system allows for free text notes to describe specific behaviors. This item was clarified on June 8, 2022.