



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Critical Incident Review Board

In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: December 19, 2021

TIME: 6:58 p.m.

LOCATION: Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla

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 November 30, 2021, Incarcerated Person Jerry Borunda was booked into custody at the San Diego Central Jail (SDCJ). Prior to being accepted for booking, Borunda was treated at a local hospital for a leg wound. On December 1, 2021, at about 9:48 a.m., a Sheriff's deputy conducting a safety check of a housing unit found Borunda in apparent medical distress. Borunda was the only person assigned to the cell and the cell's sole occupant. The deputy immediately initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and additional responding deputies summoned Sheriff's medical staff and notified 911 for an emergency response. Sheriff's medical staff arrived at about 9:50 a.m. and assisted with lifesaving measures including applying an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and administering several doses of Naloxone. San Diego Fire Department personnel arrived and took over lifesaving measures, and paramedics ultimately transported Borunda to Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla. Borunda was admitted as a patient to the hospital and continued his care for the next several days. A member of Borunda's family was contacted and visited the hospital to discuss care with hospital staff.

On December 17, 2021, Borunda was compassionately released from Sheriff's custody.

On December 19, 2021, Borunda's condition continued to decline and his family elected to withdraw care. Despite the efforts of Sheriff's medical staff, emergency responders, and hospital staff, a doctor pronounced Jerry Borunda deceased at 6:58 p.m. Members of his family were with him at the hospital, prior to his passing.

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 or paraphernalia were found in the cell in which Borunda was housed.

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 "anoxic encephalopathy" due to "resuscitated cardiorespiratory arrest" and "acute fentanyl toxicity" with "blunt force torso trauma" contributing, and the manner of death to be "accident." (ME Case #2021-04251)

The CIRB conducted a review of this incident on May 11, 2022, with no action items or policy recommendations at that time.