



# SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## Critical Incident Review Board

### In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: November 27, 2021

TIME: 4:42 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 November 27, 2021, at about 4:34 a.m., Incarcerated Person Robert Moniger asked a Sheriff's deputy at the San Diego Central Jail to be seen by Sheriff's medical staff. After contacting facility medical staff, deputies returned to Moniger's housing area at about 4:42 a.m. with a wheelchair to bring Moniger to the facility medical clinic to be evaluated. When they arrived at his assigned cell, they found him lying on the cell floor, breathing but verbally unresponsive. There was another incarcerated person inside the cell at the time.

After the deputies lifted Moniger into the wheelchair he stopped moving. The deputies immediately summoned Sheriff's medical staff to the area. They placed Moniger in a recovery position on the floor and checked his vital signs. Moniger was breathing and had a weak pulse. During a subsequent vital sign check, deputies could not detect a pulse and immediately initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). At about 4:48 a.m., Sheriff's medical staff arrived and assisted with lifesaving measures including continuing CPR and applying an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). At about 4:57 a.m., San Diego Fire Department (SDFD) personnel arrived and took over lifesaving measures. At about 5:04 a.m., paramedics from American Medical Response (AMR) arrived to assist with lifesaving measures.

Despite the efforts of Sheriff's medical staff and emergency responders, a doctor pronounced Robert Moniger deceased at 5:18 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. Through their investigation, Homicide detectives did not suspect foul play.

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 "COVID-19 viral pneumonia" with "atherosclerotic and hypertensive cardiovascular disease" contributing, and the manner of death to be "natural." (ME Case #2021-03959)

The CIRB conducted a review of this incident on May 11, 2022, and listed the following as action items:

- 1.) The circumstances of this incident were referred to the Internal Affairs Unit for review.