



# SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## Critical Incident Review Board

### In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: December 29, 2021

TIME: 7:05 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 December 29, 2021, at approximately 7:05 p.m., a Sheriff's deputy was conducting a safety check and a count at the San Diego Central Jail (SDCJ) when the deputy discovered Incarcerated Person Dominique McCoy with apparent injuries inside his cell. McCoy was housed with another incarcerated person, John Medina, at the time. The deputy, with assistance from additional responding deputies, entered the cell and immediately requested facility medical staff and a 911 notification for an emergency medical response. Deputies evaluating McCoy's vital signs established he had a pulse and was breathing. At about 7:10 p.m., Sheriff's medical personnel arrived, and took over lifesaving measures including initiating cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and applying an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). San Diego Fire Department personnel arrived at about 7:20 p.m. and continued lifesaving measures. Paramedics transported McCoy to the University of California San Diego Medical Center in Hillcrest, where he was immediately taken to the operating room. Despite the efforts of Sheriff's medical staff, emergency responders, and hospital staff, a doctor pronounced Dominique McCoy deceased at 8:02 p.m.

The San Diego Sheriff's Homicide Unit investigated this incident and documented the scene. On December 30, 2021, Homicide detectives booked Medina for violation of California Penal Code section 187(A) – Murder, for the attack on McCoy. Medina remains in Sheriff's custody pending future court dates for the charge.

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 "blunt force injuries of the head" and the manner of death to be "homicide." (ME Case #2021-04377)

The CIRB reviewed this incident on November 9, 2022, and listed the following as action items:

- 1.) The circumstances of this incident were previously referred to the Internal Affairs Unit for review. The CIRB concurred with this action, and had no additional policy recommendations or action items.