



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Critical Incident Review Board

In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: April 11, 2022

TIME: 11:05 a.m.

LOCATION: San Diego Central Jail (SDCJ)

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 April 11, 2022, at 11:05 a.m., incarcerated persons in Module 4D alerted deputies that an individual housed cell #6 was in medical distress. Upon their arrival, deputies found Jerrell Lacy lying on the floor. Lacy told deputies he was experiencing chest pain and was having difficulty breathing. Lacy said he was having an asthma attack, but did not have an inhaler. The deputies immediately escorted Lacy to the third floor Medical clinic where nurses completed an electrocardiogram (EKG) on Lacy and ordered chest x-rays. As Lacy was being escorted back to his cell pending review of the test results and x-rays, a nurse practitioner compared the EKG with a previous EKG and determined Lacy should be transported to an emergency room via ambulance. While deputies were preparing to transport Lacy, he again collapsed in his cell at about 12:01 p.m.. A deputy immediately began chest compressions and was relieved by Medical staff at 12:03 p.m., who continued CPR, provided oxygen, and applied an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

At about 12:13 p.m., San Diego Fire Department (SDFD) personnel arrived and took over lifesaving measures. At 12:41 p.m., SDFD departed SDCJ and transported Lacy to the UCSD Medical Center for further treatment. At 1:08 p.m., Lacy was pronounced deceased by a doctor at the UCSD Medical Center.

As is our protocol for all in-custody deaths, the San Diego Sheriff's Homicide Unit investigated this incident.

The San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office conducted an independent investigation and post-mortem. They determined the cause of death to be pulmonary thromboemboli due to deep venous thromboses of the lower extremities and the manner of death to be natural. (ME Case #2022-01298)

The CIRB initially reviewed this incident on May 18, 2022 and listed the following action item(s):

Item #1 – The Sheriff's Detention In-Service Training Unit was directed to publish a training bulletin related to initiating a 911 response per Detention Services Bureau P&P section M.6 – Life-threatening Emergencies: Code Blue. This was completed on June 3, 2022, for all sworn DSB staff.

UPDATE:

The CIRB conducted its final review of this incident on February 15, 2023, with no additional action items recommended.