



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Critical Incident Review Board

In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: April 17, 2023

TIME: 7:28 p.m.

LOCATION: Vista Detention 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 April 17, 2023, at about 6:59 p.m., a Sheriff's deputy conducting a safety check of the East housing unit at the Vista Detention Facility found Incarcerated Person Eddie Faulkner unresponsive inside a cell. Faulkner was the sole occupant of the cell. Deputies and a nearby nurse initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), administered Naloxone, summoned additional medical staff, and requested an emergency response by calling 911. Additional Sheriff's medical personnel arrived at about 7:05 p.m. to assist with lifesaving measures, including applying an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and administering additional doses of Naloxone.

At about 7:12 p.m., Vista Fire Department (VFD) personnel arrived and took over lifesaving measures, including applying a Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System (LUCAS) CPR machine. Despite the efforts of emergency responders, a doctor pronounced Faulkner deceased at 7:28 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 cause of death was determined to be "acute fentanyl, trazodone, and gabapentin intoxication" with "hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease" contributing, and the manner was "accident." (ME Case #2023-01276)

The CIRB conducted a preliminary review of this incident on June 14, 2023, with no action items or policy recommendations at that time.