



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Critical Incident Review Board

In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: February 21, 2023

TIME: 8:40 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 February 21, 2023, at approximately 7:56 p.m., deputies and a sergeant were conducting a safety check and supervisory inspection in Module 5C at the San Diego Central Jail (SDCJ), when the sergeant discovered Incarcerated Person Roberty Shuey unresponsive in his assigned cell. Shuey was the only person occupying the cell at the time. The deputy and sergeant entered the cell, requested facility medical personnel and a 911 notification, and immediately initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). At 8:14 p.m. Sheriff's medical personnel took over lifesaving measures to include continuing CPR and applying an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). They were relieved by San Diego Fire Department paramedics at 8:20 p.m., who applied a Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System (LUCAS) CPR machine. Despite the efforts of all involved personnel, a doctor pronounced Mr. Shuey deceased at 8:40 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 Medical Examiner's Office preliminarily determined the cause of death to be "cardiopulmonary arrest due to hypertensive atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease with cardiomegaly," with "Type II diabetes and COVID-19" contributing, and the manner of death to be "natural." The final Medical Examiner's report is still pending completion. (ME Case #2023-0632)

The CIRB conducted a preliminary review of this incident on April 12, 2023, with no action items or policy recommendations at that time.