



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Critical Incident Review Board

In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: July 26, 2022

TIME: 11:56 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 July 26, 2022, at about 11:56 p.m., while conducting a safety check of the Upper West housing unit at the Vista Detention Facility, a Sheriff's deputy found Incarcerated Person James Bousman unresponsive inside a cell. Bousman was the sole occupant of the cell. Deputies initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), administered Naloxone, and summoned medical staff. Sheriff's medical staff arrived at about 11:58 p.m. to assist with lifesaving measures, including applying an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and administering additional doses of Naloxone.

On July 27, 2022, at about 12:03 a.m., Vista Fire Department (VFD) personnel arrived and took over lifesaving measures, including applying a Lund University Cardiac Assist System (LUCAS) CPR machine. VFD paramedics were able to restore Bousman's pulse and transported him to the Tri-City Medical Center. Members of Bousman's family were with him at the hospital, prior to his passing. Despite the efforts of emergency responders and hospital staff, a doctor pronounced Bousman deceased at 11:18 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. Investigators recovered a white powdery substance that tested presumptively positive for fentanyl from Bousman's assigned cell.

The San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office conducted an independent investigation and post-mortem. Further testing and evaluation was determined necessary. The cause and manner of death are still pending completion of the final Medical Examiner's report. (ME Case #2022-02448)

The CIRB conducted a preliminary review of this incident on August 17, 2022, with no action items or policy recommendations at that time.

UPDATE:

The CIRB conducted its final review of this incident on May 17, 2023, with no additional action items recommended.