



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Critical Incident Review Board

In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: May 25, 2022

TIME: 12:12 a.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 May 25, 2022, at approximately 12:12 a.m., a deputy and sergeant were conducting a safety check and supervisory inspection in Module 7A at the San Diego Central Jail (SDCJ), when the deputy discovered Incarcerated Person Stephen Reynolds unresponsive on the floor of his cell. Reynolds was the only person assigned to the cell and he was alone. The deputy and sergeant entered the cell, requested facility medical personnel and immediately initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). At 12:16 a.m., a call was placed to 911 requesting paramedics. At 12:18 a.m. Sheriff's medical personnel took over lifesaving measures until they were relieved by paramedics at 12:28 a.m. Despite their efforts, they were unable to revive Mr. Reynolds, and a doctor pronounced him deceased at 12:48 a.m. San Diego Sheriff's Homicide investigators, a criminalist, and a field evidence technician responded to the facility to document the scene.

An investigator from the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office took custody of Mr. Reynolds' remains and conducted an independent investigation and post-mortem examination. The Medical Examiner's Office preliminarily determined the cause of death to be complications of liver cancer and the manner of death to be natural. (ME Case #2022-01749)

The CIRB initially reviewed this incident on June 15, 2022, and listed the following action item:

Item #1 – A policy recommendation that as the Detention Services Bureau (DSB) Body-Worn Camera (BWC) program comes online, deputies be required to use their BWC to document interactions during housing hard counts, safety checks and medication distribution. This

requirement was implemented in DSB P&P Section I.20 – Body Worn Cameras on November 9, 2022.

UPDATE:

The CIRB final report was received on July 10, 2023, and listed the following completed action item:

Item 1) The CIRB recommended Detention Services Bureau policy change to section I.20 – Body Worn Cameras was implemented on November 9, 2022.