



# SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## Critical Incident Review Board

### In-Custody Death Information Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: June 26, 2023

TIME: 8:55 p.m.

LOCATION: Alvarado Hospital Guard Unit (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 June 16, 2023, Paul Heimark was remanded into custody by the court and booked into Sheriff's custody at the San Diego Central Jail. Heimark disclosed several preexisting medical conditions at the time of his booking, and was admitted to Alvarado Hospital after completing the booking process. While at the hospital, Heimark was diagnosed and treated for additional medical conditions. On June 24, 2023, Heimark was transferred to Alvarado Hospital's Intensive Care Unit. Despite the efforts of hospital medical staff, Heimark's condition continued to decline and a doctor pronounced him deceased on June 26, 2023, at 8:55 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 "complications of pneumonia," and the manner of death to be "natural." The final Medical Examiner's report is still pending completion. (ME Case #2023-2077)

The CIRB conducted a preliminary review of this incident on September 13, 2023, with no action items or policy recommendations at that time.