



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 17-168-C

Version Type: AMENDED

Report Date: 4/5/2017 8:00 AM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Texas Department
Of Public Safety

Agency Address: PO BOX 4087

Agency City: Austin

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 78773

Director Information

Director Salutation: Director

Director First Name: Steven

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: McCraw

Reporter Name: Joanne
Scarborough

Reporter Email: joanne.scarbrough@dps.texas.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Matthew

Middle Name: Joseph

Last Name: Gambaro

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 9/23/1990

Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 26

Date/Time of Custody (arrest, incarceration) (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 3/24/2017 1:17 PM

Date/Time of Death (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Death Date and Time: 3/24/2017 1:17 PM

Manner / Cause of Death

Has a medical examiner or coroner conducted an evaluation to determine a cause of death?

Medical Examiner/Coroner Yes, results
Evaluation?: pending

What was the manner of death? (select only one)

Manner of Death: Suicide

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Suicide

Had the decedent been receiving treatment for the medical condition that caused the death after admission to your jail's jurisdiction?

Medical Treatment: Not Applicable

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, who caused the death?

Who caused the death?: Decedent

If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of weapon that caused death?: Handgun

Was the cause of death the result of a pre-existing medical condition or did the decedent develop the condition after admission?

Pre existing medical condition?: Not Applicable; cause of death was accidental injury, intoxication, suicide or homicide

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?

Means of Death: Firearm

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: Interstate 20
Milepost 329

City: NA

County: Eastland

Zip: 76448

What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred?

Location Category: Roadway/highway/street/sidewalk

What type of custody/facility was the Decedent in at the time of death:

Type of Custody: Police Custody
(pre-booking)

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Custody of Law Enforcement Personnel during/fleeing arrest

What was the time and date of the deceased's entry into the law enforcement facility where the death occurred (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Entry Date Time:

Entry Date Time N/A: ☒

Where did the death occur?

Death Location: Scene of incident

General Information

Did any other law enforcement agencies respond to calls for service related to this incident?

Other Agencies Respond?: Yes

What were the most serious offense(s) with which the deceased was (or would have been) charged with at the time of death?

Offense 1:

Aggravated Assault on Public Servant

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: Not filed at time of death

What were the types of charges or reason for contact? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of Offense: Violent Crime
Against Persons

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent display or use a weapon?

Decedent display/use of weapons: Yes, mark all that apply

Decedent Display or Use Weapon Details: Discharged firearm

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Attempt to Injure Others?: Yes (select all that apply)

Ways Decedent Attempted To Injure Others: Attempted to injure law enforcement personnel; Attempted to injure civilian(s) or other inmate(s)

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs): Yes

Make suicidal statements?: Yes

Exhibit any mental health problems?: Yes

Exhibit any medical problems?: No

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Barricade self or initiate standoff?: Yes

Resist being handcuffed or arrested?: No

Physically attempt/assault officer(s): No

Gain possession of officer's weapon: No

Verbally threaten other(s) including law: No

Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody: Yes

Attempt gain possession officer's weapon: No

Was the deceased under restraint in the time leading up to the death or the events causing the death?

Under Restraint: No

Summary of Incident

Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

Summary:

On 03/24/2017, at approximately 7:30 a.m., a one vehicle crash was reported along I-20, near milepost 327, in Eastland County. The driver/suspect was observed fleeing the scene on foot, and in possession of a handgun. Over the next several hours, several calls to law enforcement were received, reporting a man with a gun along I-20. At approximately 1:15 p.m., local law enforcement observed the suspect, still in possession of a handgun, near milepost 329, along the south shoulder of the eastbound lanes of I-20. The suspect was reported to appear in and out of a culvert, holding said handgun to his head, and then placing the handgun in his mouth several times. Troopers observed the suspect pointing his handgun at civilians. Several Troopers, along with a Texas Ranger, armed with M-4 rifles, approached the suspect from the east, commanding the suspect to drop his weapon. The suspect dropped to his knees with the handgun held against his right temple. The suspect is reported to have lowered the handgun toward approaching officers, and again raised the handgun back to his right temple, then shooting himself in the head. Near simultaneous of the suspect's self-inflicted gunshot, a Trooper fired his M-4 rifle, striking the suspect just above the suspect's mouth. The suspect was reported deceased at the scene. During a search of the suspect's person, scales and numerous small clear plastic baggies were discovered in the suspect's pants pockets.

