



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 17-663-C

Version Type: ORIGINAL
VERSION

Report Date: 12/14/2017 2:51
PM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Houston Police
Dept.

Agency Address: 1200 Travis, 16th
Floor

Agency City: Houston

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 77002

Director Information

Director Salutation: Chief

Director First Name: Art

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Acevedo

Reporter Name: Kimberly Fowler

Reporter Email: kimberly.fowler@houstonpolice.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Keith

Middle Name: Lowery

Last Name: Townsend

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 10/6/1970

Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 47

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

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 12/4/2017 8:20 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 12/5/2017 3:30 AM

Manner / Cause of Death

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

Medical Examiner/Coroner
Evaluation?: Yes, results are
available

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

Manner of Death: Suicide

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Suicide-Gunshot wound of the head

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

Medical Treatment: No

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: 1205 East 33rd
Street

City: Houston

County: Harris

Zip: 77002

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

Location Category: Other, specify

Other Location Category:

Vacant Lot

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?: No

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:

Possession of narcotics

Offense 2:

Aggravated Kidnapping

Offense 3:

Aggravated Assault on a Peace Officer

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: Other, specify

Type of Offense, Other:

Decedent driving a stolen vehicle

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: Displayed firearm without discharge; 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

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?: Unknown

Exhibit any medical problems?: Unknown

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?: Unknown

Physically attempt/assault officer(s): Yes

Gain possession of officer's weapon: No

Verbally threaten other(s) including law: Yes

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:

A Harris County Pct. 1 Deputy engaged in vehicular pursuit with stolen U-Haul van, and Houston Police Department (HPD) officers subsequently join the pursuit. The van became disabled with a flat tire at Omega and 33rd in north Houston. The suspect exited the stolen van with a female hostage and threatened to kill her. While fleeing with the female, the suspect discharged a pistol in the direction of HPD Officers. The

suspect barricaded himself and female, the suspect discharged a pistol in the direction of HPD Officers. The suspect barricaded himself and female inside another vehicle in the backyard of a nearby residence. HPD SWAT and Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) were called to the scene and a several-hour standoff ensued. HNT ultimately convinced the suspect to release the female hostage. After the suspect refused to give himself up, SWAT deployed CS gas and a single gunshot was heard coming from inside the vehicle. The suspect was found deceased from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, ultimately confirmed by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (Medical Examiner's Office)