



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 19-1280-C

Version Type: AMENDED

Report Date: 1/3/2020 8:51 AM

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: Lieutenant

Director First Name: Melissa

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Countryman

Reporter Name: Kimberly Fowler

Reporter Email: kimberly.fowler@houstonpolice.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Manuel

Middle Name: Edward

Last Name: Mendez

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 3/12/1979

Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 40

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 11/22/2019 3:16 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 11/26/2019 3:42 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: Accidental

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Complications of acute opiate toxicity.

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

Medical Treatment: Unknown

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?: Not Applicable

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: Drug overdose

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 1001 Pinemont
Drive #12

City: Houston

County: Harris

Zip: 77018

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

Location Category: Residence/Home

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:

Hospital/Infirmary

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: Medical facility

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 Controlled Substance (PCS)

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: Filed

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

Type of Offense: Alcohol / drug offense

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: No

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

Attempt to Injure Others?: No

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?: No

Exhibit any mental health problems?: Unknown

Exhibit any medical problems?: Yes

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

Barricade self or initiate standoff?:	No	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:	No
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: Yes, mark which restraint devices were used

Type of restraint

Type of Restraint: Handcuffs

Summary of Incident

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

Summary:

On Friday, November 22, 2019 at approximately 0316 hours, Officers with the North Patrol Division received a call from dispatch in regards to an Assault in Progress at 1001 Pinemont Dr. #12. Officers arrived and made several attempts to make contact with the occupants inside the apartment. After hearing knocking and loud noises coming from inside the apartment, officers obtained permission from a supervisor to enter the apartment. Once officers made entry, they found Complainant Manuel Mendez sitting on the master bedroom floor foaming at the mouth and thrashing around. Officers immediately notified dispatch to have Houston Fire Department ambulance make the scene due to Mr. Mendez being in an unknown medical distress. Before HFD arrived on scene, officers located a small bag containing black tar heroin along with a spoon and syringe in the bathroom. HFD arrived on scene and transported Mr. Mendez to Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital located at 1635 North Loop West. Before leaving the scene, at the request of HFD personnel, Mr. Mendez was handcuff to the gurney to secure him during transport to the hospital.

A short time later, HFD paramedics requested officers remove the handcuff in or to administer CPR to Mr. Mendez. Mr. Mendez was transported to Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital for medical treatment. Officers contacted Harris County District Attorney's Office-Intake Division, who accepted charges on Mr. Mendez for Possession of a Control Substance.

On Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 1542 hours, Mr. Mendez, who was still being treated at Memorial Hermann Greater Height Hospital was pronounced deceased by Dr. Sadeghi. Preliminary cause of death was determined to be a drug overdose.

