



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 19-1304-MJ

Version Type: AMENDED

Report Date: 12/11/2020 12:21 PM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: San Benito Police Dept.

Agency Address: 485 N. Sam Houston Blvd.

Agency City: San Benito

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 78586

Director Information

Director Salutation: Chief

Director First Name: Fred

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Bell

Reporter Name: Mario Perea

Reporter Email: mperea@cityofsanbenito.com

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Ernesto

Middle Name: Alonso

Last Name: Gonzalez

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 11/7/1985

Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 34

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 11/22/2019 4:28 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 11/23/2019 3:12 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:

Asphyxiation by hanging.

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?: 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: Hanging, strangulation

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 601 N Oscar
Williams Rd.

City: San Benito

County: Cameron

Zip: 78586

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

Location Category: Law Enforcement
Facility

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

Type of Custody: Municipal Jail

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Jail - single cell

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: 11/22/2019 4:28
PM

Where did the death occur?

Death Location: Law enforcement
facility/booking
center

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:

Theft < \$2500 W/Two previous convicitons

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: Crime Against
Property

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): No

Make suicidal statements?: No

Exhibit any mental health
problems?: No

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?:	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: No

Summary of Incident

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

Summary:

Mr. Ernesto GONZALEZ was arrested on 11/22/2019 at approximately 1628hrs for the charge of theft. While GONZALEZ was in custody he was placed alone in a jail cell to await arraignment. At approximately 2200hs Officer Rodney Serna went into the jail area to speak with GONZALEZ who was requesting medication. Officer Serna noted that when he asked GONZALEZ if he had medication in his property he replied no that he just wanted a phone call. Officer Serna stated that GONZALEZ was not provided with a phone call because he had already received one before being placed in the jail cell.

At approximately 0255hrs Officer Manuel Cisneros entered the jail area to take a bathroom break and conduct a jail check. When Officer Cisneros walked past the cell where GONZALEZ was located, he observed that GONZALEZ had wrapped his shirt around his neck and was hanging from a rail in the jail cell. Officer Cisneros immediately notified the Patrol Supervisor. Officer Cisneros and Officer Jose Benavides, who arrived to assist, cut the shirt and assisted GONZALEZ to the ground. Officer Cisneros stated that GONZALEZ was limp and cold to the touch.

Texas Rangers were called to investigate the incident.