



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 19-326-UF

Version Type: AMENDED

Report Date: 10/4/2019 1:17 PM

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: C

Director Last Name: McCraw

Reporter Name: Joanne
Scarborough

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

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Leonardo

Middle Name:

Last Name: Gallegos

Suffix: Jr.

Date of Birth: 7/14/1978

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: 3/27/2019 4:16 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 3/27/2019 6:10 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: Homicide (includes
Justifiable
Homicide)

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Gunshot Wounds of Chest and Leg.

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?: Law
enforcement/correctional
personnel

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?: Rifle/shotgun

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: 1200 FM 1337

City: Morton

County: Cochran

Zip: 79346

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

Location Category: Field/woods/lake/waterway/beach

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

Type of Custody: Pre-Custodial Use
of Force

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:

Failure to Register as a Sex Offender

Offense 2:

Possession of a Controlled Substance

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: Other, specify

Type of Offense, Other:

Traffic Violation

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 Attempted to injure

Injure Others: 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):	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?:	Yes
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	Yes	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 March 27, 2019, at 4:16 p.m., a Texas Highway Patrol Trooper, along with a DPS Special Agent, attempted to stop a 2006 Chevrolet pickup for failing to signal a turn in Levelland, Texas. The driver, later identified as Leonardo Gallegos Jr., failed to stop, and a pursuit ensued.

The pursuit lasted approximately two hours and six minutes. During this time, assisting officers successfully deployed spikes strips, deflating the fleeing vehicle's two front tires. Gallegos, however, continued to evade and ultimately led approximately ten Texas Highway Patrol units and one Hockley County Sheriff's Office unit into a field off of FM 1337 between Whiteface and Morton, Texas.

While driving through the field, Gallegos fired a sawed-off shotgun at the pursuing officers. Nine troopers and

the special agent returned fire, striking Gallegos four times.

The officers immediately pulled Gallegos from the vehicle, but they found no pulse. They attempted lifesaving measures without success. Gallegos was later pronounced deceased by a Cochran County Justice of the Peace.