



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 19-916-C

Version Type: AMENDED

Report Date: 3/2/2021 9:50 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: Brandon

Middle Name:

Last Name: Bell

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 11/12/2001

Sex: Male

Race: Black or African
American

Age At Time Of Death: 17

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

Date/Time of Custody or 9/12/2019 10:30
Incident: PM

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

Death Date and Time: 9/12/2019 10:42
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 are
Evaluation?: 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 upper extremity.

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?: 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?: 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: 3906 Tolnay Street

City: Houston

County: Harris

Zip: 77021

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

Location Category: Other, specify

Other Location Category:

Backyard

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:

Agg-Robbery (DW)

Offense 2:

Agg Assault on Peace Officer

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: Injured 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: Yes

Verbally threaten other(s) including law: Unknown

Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody: Yes

Attempt gain possession officer's weapon: Yes

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 Thursday, September 12, 2019, at approximately 10:23 p.m. a Houston Police Officer was shot while assisting in searching for robbery suspects. Officers were attempting to stop four black males that were described as suspects in several aggravated robberies (Deadly Weapons). As officers attempted to detain the males all four males took off running on foot. Officer Roccaforte chased Mr. Bell behind a residence located at

3906 Tolnay Street. As Officer Roccaforte attempted to place Mr. Bell under arrest a struggle ensued over the officer's duty weapon. Officer Roccaforte was struck once in front upper left of his vest, once in the front lower right of his vest and once in the front right side of his abdomen just under his vest. Officer Zaunbrecher heard screaming from the back of the residence. Officer Zaunbrecher once in the back of the residence observed Officer Roccaforte had been shot and was pleading for help. Officer Zaunbrecher then noticed Mr. Bell raising a firearm towards him and Officer Roccaforte. Officer Zaunbrecher in fear of his life fired once at the male. Officer Roccaforte was transported to Memorial Herman and treated for one gunshot wound. It was later learned during autopsy that Mr. Bell was shot once in the left elbow and front upper chest area striking his heart.