



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 20-1420-UF

Version Type: AMENDED

Report Date: 2/4/2022 9:08 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: Joshua

Middle Name:

Last Name: De La Cedra

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 11/20/1989

Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 30

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 10/16/2020 3:30 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 10/16/2020 4:02 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:

Manner of Death was ruled a Suicide. Cause of Death was a single gunshot wound neck and head.

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?: 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: 2100 W. 18th Street

City: Houston

County: Harris

Zip: 77008

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

Location Category: Roadway/highway/street/sidewalk

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:

N/A

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:

Capital Murder of a Public Servant

Offense 2:

Arson

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: Other, specify

Type of Offense, Other:

Arson

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: Killed 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?: 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:

On Friday, October 16, 2020, at approximately midnight, the Houston Fire Department (HFD), Arson Bureau began conducting rolling surveillance in the Houston Heights area in an effort to collect evidence that would lead to a suspect in an ongoing arson investigation. Through their investigation, the suspect was believed to be driving a Hyundai Sonata, Grey/Silver in color.

At approximately 0330 hours and during the surveillance operation, Arson Investigator L. Bruce, relayed that the had located a gray Hyundai with no headlights, driving at a high rate of speed on West 18th Street and TC Jester. Arson Investigator L. Bruce began following the suspicious vehicle while advising the other arson investigators in the area of his location. Upon arriving at the 2100 block of West 18th Street, the other investigators discovered Arson investigator L. Bruce's vehicle to have multiple bullet strikes and Arson Investigator L. Bruce to have been shot multiple times as well. In addition, they discovered a Hispanic male, later identified as Mr. Joshua De La Cedra, in a gray Hyundai to be deceased from what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Arson Investigator L. Bruce was transported to Memorial Hermann Hospital where he succumbed to his gunshot wounds. No other civilian or officers was injured as a result of his incident. This investigation is still on-going.