



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 21-719-UF

Version Type: AMENDED

Report Date: 12/14/2021 7:41 AM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: College Station
Police Dept.

Agency Address: PO BOX 9960

Agency City: College Station

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 77842

Director Information

Director Salutation: Chief

Director First Name: Billy

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Couch

Reporter Name: Thomas Brown

Reporter Email: tbrown@cstx.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Roderick

Middle Name: Devonne

Last Name: Merchant

Suffix: Junior

Date of Birth: 2/14/2000

Sex: Male

Race: Black or African
American

Age At Time Of Death: 21

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

Date/Time of Custody or 5/23/2021 12:14
Incident: PM

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

Death Date and Time: 5/23/2021 1:48 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 wound of chest.

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?: 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: 2400 Central Park Lane

City: College Station

County: Brazos

Zip: 77840

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

Location Category: Other, specify

Other Location Category:

Apartment complex

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: Medical facility

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:

Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon

Offense 2:

Felon in Possession of a Firearm

Offense 3:

Theft (Possession of Stolen Firearm)

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: Attempted to injure law enforcement personnel; Attempted to injure civilian(s) or other inmate(s)

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): Yes

Gain possession of officer's weapon: No

Verbally threaten other(s) including law: Yes

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:

Officers responded to a report of an armed individual attempting to push his way into apartments located at 2400 Central Park Lane, College Station, Brazos County, Texas. Shortly after contacting the decedent, he produced a rifle and fired a single shot into the ceiling of the apartment building. The officers retreated behind cover and, after a few seconds, the decedent came out of the front of the building firing the rifle. Officers returned fire striking the decedent. The decedent was taken to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead after life saving measures were exhausted.