



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 23-759-UF

Version Type: AMENDED

Report Date: 1/10/2024 1:17 PM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Wortham Police
Dept.

Agency Address: PO BOX 186

Agency City: Wortham

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 76693

Director Information

Director Salutation: Chief

Director First Name: Kelly

Director Middle Name: P

Director Last Name: Butler

Reporter Name: Kelly Butler

Reporter Email: kbutler@worthamtx.com

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Hulen

Middle Name: Lee

Last Name: Howell

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 9/27/1934

Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 88

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

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 6/23/2023 6:45 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 6/23/2023 6:45 PM

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:

Based on the case history and autopsy findings, it is my opinion that Hulen Lee Howell, an 88-year-old male, died as the result of multiple firearm wounds.

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;
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: 1463 FM 80 N

City: Streetman

County: Freestone

Zip: 75859

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

Location Category: Residence/Home

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: Elsewhere, specify

Death Location Elsewhere:

Deceased residence

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:

AGG ASSLT MV DISCH FRARM RKLS HAB/BLDG/VEH SBI

Offense 2:

AGG ASSAULT W/DEADLY WEAPON

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: Displayed firearm without discharge;
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; Injured civilian(s) or other inmate(s); 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?: Unknown

Exhibit any medical problems?: Unknown

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: 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 06/23/2023 the Wortham Police Department responded to a shooting incident at 405 E Lubbock St. in Streetman Texas. The Wortham Police Department has an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Streetman to provide Law Enforcement services. As a result of the shooting at 405 E Lubbock, that was a drive by shooting, there was one gunshot victim that was transported to the hospital. The gunshot victim had been shot in the upper right arm with a small caliber weapon. There were multiple bullet holes in the residence as the owner was shot at as he was running back into the house. During the investigation and reviewing a neighbors security video we were able to identify the suspect as Hulen Howell. The Freestone County Sheriff's Office was also assisting with this incident and investigation because Mr. Howell lived outside the City of Streetman in Freestone County. A search warrant for Mr. Howell's home and an arrest warrant were issued for Mr. Howell and Officers with the Wortham Police Department and Deputies with the Freestone County Sheriff's Office went to Mr. Howell's residence located at 1463 FM 80 N to attempt to serve those warrants. Upon arrival we positioned ourselves at the entrance to the property as a safety precaution due to the lack of cover around the house. We attempted to contact Mr. Howell by phone and were able to speak to him. He was asked to come out of the house to speak with us. Mr. Howell exited the house but attempts to communicate with him from the distance we were was not working. We were not communicating with him on the phone as he did not have a cell phone. Officers approached the house to better communicate with him. As officers were attempting to speak with Mr. Howell about what they were there for Mr. Howell pulled a small caliber handgun from his pocket. Officers attempted to take cover around the corner of the house while giving commands to Mr. Howell to drop the gun, and that they did not want to hurt him. Mr. Howell began walking toward officers and moved to where he could see officers and they no longer had cover. Mr. Howell then raised the handgun in the direction of officers and Mr. Howell was struck by several bullets. Officers attempted to provide medical attention to Mr. Howell but it was apparent by the injuries and the lack of a pulse that Mr. Howell was deceased.