



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 24-1677-UF

Version Type: ORIGINAL
VERSION

Report Date: 1/2/2025 8:40 AM

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: Freeman

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Martin

Reporter Name: Joanne
Scarborough

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

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Jose

Middle Name: Manuel

Last Name: Ruiz-Sanchez

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 9/24/1978

Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 45

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 12/18/2024 6:03 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 6/17/2024 6:17 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 pending

What was the manner of death? (select only one)

Manner of Death: Homicide (includes Justifiable

Homicide)

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Gun shot wounds

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: 2405 Church Street
Lot #54

City: Gonzales

County: Gonzales

Zip: 78629

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:

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:

Arson

Offense 2:

Attempted Capital Murder of Peace Officer

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: Crime Against
Property

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 other weapon, specify:

Specify Weapon Displayed:

Large kitchen knife

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

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs): Yes 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?: Yes 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: 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:

On December 17, 2024, Jose Manuel Ruiz-Sanchez ("Ruiz") was identified on video setting fire to a residence in Gonzales County. Law enforcement officers went to Mr. Ruiz' residence to speak with him about

the arson. Mr. Ruiz yelled expletives at officers, refused to exit, and discharged a fire extinguisher from a window. Officers established a perimeter around the residence. A district judge signed a warrant to arrest Mr. Ruiz and search his home.

On December 18, 2024, at approximately 5:00 AM, officers re-initiated negotiations with Mr. Ruiz to effectuate his peaceful surrender. Instead, Mr. Ruiz held a large kitchen knife at his residence's front door. Officers commanded Mr. Ruiz to drop his knife. When Mr. Ruiz refused, officers deployed less-than-lethal weapons to get him to drop his weapon so they could arrest him peacefully. Mr. Ruiz continued to ignore officers' repeated verbal commands to put down his knife. When Mr. Ruiz approached officers with his knife, they shot him.