



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 25-444-UF

Version Type: AMENDED

Report Date: 6/12/2025 3:13 PM

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: Chief

Director First Name: J. Noe

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Diaz

Reporter Name: Angeline Grimes

Reporter Email: angeline.grimes@houstonpolice.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Dennis

Middle Name: Walter

Last Name: Bell

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 8/7/1984

Sex: Male

Race: Black or African
American

Age At Time Of Death: 40

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

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 5/15/2025 5:24 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 5/15/2025 6:07 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:

Gunshot wounds of the torso

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: 9255 West Sam
Houston Pkwy
South

City: Houston

County: Harris

Zip: 77099

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: Dead on arrival at
medical facility

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:

Aggravated Assault -Peace Officer

Offense 2:

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: Medical / Mental
Health assistance
call

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:

Knife

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

Yes (select all that

Attempt to Injure Others?: 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):	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:	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 May 15, 2025, Officers with the Houston Police Department responded to a "Suicide in Progress" call for service at 9255 West Sam Houston Parkway South. Upon arrival, the officers located the apartment and knocked on the door. A female (the decedent's sister, Jessica Bell) answered, and the officers asked if she had called the police. She confirmed that she had and stated the call was regarding her brother.

At that moment, a male (Decedent Dennis Bell) appeared behind the female and suddenly charged out of the

apartment with a large knife in his hand. The decedent ran directly toward the officers, who were standing just outside the doorway. The officers began to retreat, but the decedent continued to advance. Fearing for their safety and the safety of the others, one officer discharged his duty weapon multiple times, striking the decedent. The decedent fell to the ground and dropped the knife. Once he was secured, the officers immediately began administering medical aid until Houston Fire Department personnel arrived and transported him to the hospital. Unfortunately, the male succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased at 1807 hours. No officers were injured during this incident. The autopsy is completed, the Cause of death is Gunshot wounds of the torso and the manner of death was determined to be Homicide.

During an interview with Jessical Bell, she stated that her brother had been suffering from mental illness for several years. She stated that the decedent had told her he wanted to kill himself by "suicide by cop". On the day of the incident, Jessica stated that the decedent had cut his own wrist and then sent her a text that stated, "Look j all I want you to do is call the cops and say I have a knife and about to kill someone I have on blue shorts blue tank top and white shoes please".