KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	26-436-C	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	6/3/2026 3:42 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: Ruben

Middle Name:

Last Name: Del Rio Jr.

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 8/26/1986 Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 39

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 5/8/2026 6:27 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 5/9/2026 4:37 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: Pending autopsy results

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Pending Autopsy

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?:	Unknown

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:	Unknown

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	659 Regal Street	City:	Houston
County:	Harris	Zip:	77034

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: Police Custody (pre-booking)

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Hospital/Infirmary

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?: 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:

Arson

Offense 2:

Emergency Detention Order

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:

Knives

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

Attempt to Injure Others?: No

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?:	Yes
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Yes	Exhibit any medical problems?:	Yes

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?:	Yes
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:	Yes, mark which restraint devices were used

Type of restraint

Type of Restraint:	Handcuffs

Summary of Incident

Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

Summary:

On May 8, 2026, officers with the Houston Police Department (HPD) Clear Lake Patrol were dispatched to a person down call at 659 Regal Street at approximately 1817 hours. Upon arrival, officers learned that Ruben Del Rio Jr. had set his bed on fire and jumped onto the burning bed as residents attempted to put out the fire. Residents also reported that Del Rio Jr. then grabbed two knives from the kitchen and ran out of the house. They reported that they believed that Del Rio Jr. was on an unknown narcotic substance.

Officers arrived on scene and observed Del Rio Jr., lying on the ground, holding at least one knife. Del Rio Jr. made repeated statements for officers to kill him. Officers were able to place Del Rio Jr. into handcuffs with minimal force at approximately 1827 hours. Officers immediately requested the Houston Fire Department to the scene for medical treatment due to the Del Rio Jr. bleeding and possibly under the influence of unknown substance(s).

At approximately 1824 hours, officers found Del Rio Jr., no longer had a pulse and began to do chest compressions until HFD arrived at approximately 1847 hours. At approximately 1848 hours, HFD placed an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) onto Del Rio Jr. and continued lifesaving efforts.

Del Rio Jr. was then transported to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital and then later transferred to University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) Galveston Burn Unit. HPD officers completed an Emergency Detention Order at UTMB Galveston; however, Del Rio Jr. was pronounced deceased at 0437 hours on May 9, 2026. The cause and manner of death if pending autopsy by the Galveston County Medical Examiner but did report finding soot in del Rio Jr.'s airways.