



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 26-827-C

Version Type: ORIGINAL
VERSION

Report Date: 10/20/2026 1:18
PM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Harris County
Sheriff's Dept.

Agency Address: 1200 Baker Street

Agency City: Houston

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 77002

Director Information

Director Salutation: Sheriff

Director First Name: Ed

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Gonzalez

Reporter Name: Kelly Murphy

Reporter Email: kelly.murphy@sheriff.hctx.net

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Samal

Middle Name: Costal

Last Name: Brown

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 9/24/1990

Sex: Male

Race: Black or African
American

Age At Time Of Death: 36

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

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 10/9/2026 2:04 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 10/9/2026 2:28 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
Evaluation?: pending

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

Pending autopsy

Manner of Death: results

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Pending autopsy report

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?: 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: 12223 Veterans
Memorial Drive

City: Houston

County: Harris

Zip: 77067

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

Location Category: Other, specify

Other Location Category:

Hotel room

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:

Custody of Law Enforcement Personnel subsequent to 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?: 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:

Trespassing

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: Other, specify

Type of Offense, Other:

Decedent refused to leave hotel room

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?: No

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

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs):	Unknown	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):	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: No

Summary of Incident

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

Summary:

On October 10, 2026, Harris County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a hotel disturbance involving a decedent who refused to check out. Deputies knocked and heard muffled speech inside. Concerned for his welfare, they repeatedly asked him to open the door. The decedent unlocked the door and told them to enter, then said to wait, continuing to speak unclearly. A deputy used a key card to open the door. Deputies remained behind the brick wall at the doorway and could not see inside when they ordered the decedent to show his hands and heard a single gunshot. Paramedics arrived and determined he showed no signs of life.

