



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

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Date: July 13, 2022

To: Captain Anthony Paonessa, Commander
Sacramento County Sheriff's Office
Correctional Services Unit
651 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

Re: In-Custody Death – Michael Bazley (DOB 3/19/1949)
SSO Report No. 2020-355484
Date of Incident – November 9, 2020

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the death of inmate Michael Bazley while in the Sacramento County Main Jail on November 9, 2020. The case was submitted to the District Attorney March 1, 2022.

Inmate Bazley was arrested and booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail on October 28, 2020. He was charged with a felony violation of Penal Code section 273.5, Infliction of Injury on a Spouse or Cohabitant.

On November 9, 2020, Bazley was being housed on the medical floor of the Main Jail due to a heart condition and difficulty breathing.

At approximately 12:47 p.m., Sacramento Sheriff's Office Deputy Alexander Haw was conducting hourly cell checks on the medical floor of the Main Jail. As Deputy Haw passed Bazley's cell, he looked inside the cell and noticed Bazley on his knees on the floor of the cell. Bazley was slouched over the bed with his face on the mattress.

Deputy Haw knocked on the cell door and called out Bazley's name. However, Bazley did not respond. Deputy Haw entered the cell and noticed that Bazley did not appear to be breathing.

Deputy Haw and a member of the jail nursing staff lowered Bazley onto the floor. Deputy Haw could not locate a pulse and began to perform CPR. Deputy Haw noted that Bazley had no visible injuries to his face or person. He further noted that Bazley's limbs did not show any tension or signs of rigor mortis.

As Deputy Haw was performing CPR, jail nurse Trinidad Ballesteros checked the oxygen level

in Bazley's blood. Bazley's blood oxygen level was 35%. A normal level is 95-100%. Nurse Ballesteros felt a "faint to no pulse" on Bazley's wrist.

At approximately 12:48 p.m., Deputy Guil Mongalo requested an ambulance respond to the main jail Code 3.¹ Deputy Haw, Deputy Mongalo, and Deputy Scott Brom continued to provide medical assistance to Bazley. These efforts included chest compressions, use of an automated external defibrillator, and providing oxygen.

Emergency Medical Technicians from the Sacramento Fire Department arrived at approximately 12:55 p.m. and took over resuscitation efforts. At approximately 1:23 p.m., Bazley was pronounced deceased by Firefighter Blake Enderlin.

Other inmates in the surrounding cells on the medical floor were interviewed. None reported witnessing anything unusual.

Main Jail surveillance video was reviewed. The video depicts the events as described above. Further, the video confirms that hourly cell checks of Bazley's cell were performed by jail deputies for the six hours preceding the incident.

An autopsy was performed by a qualified forensic pathologist with the Sacramento County Coroner's Office. Bazley's cause of death was determined to be Hypertensive and Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease. Bazley's manner of death was classified as natural.

No evidence of criminal misconduct is presented or suggested in any of the supporting reports. Accordingly, the District Attorney's Office will take no further action in this matter.

Cc: Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Janae Galovich
Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Quis Formoli
Kimberly Gin, Sacramento County Coroner's Office
Sacramento County Office of Inspector General

¹ Code 3 indicates to consider the call an emergency response and proceed immediately, including utilizing emergency lights and siren as reasonably necessary.