



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

ANNE MARIE SCHUBERT
District Attorney

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Chief Deputy

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Assistant District Attorney

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: Gonzalo Ruiz Garcia (DOB 6/8/1965)
SSO Report No. MJD 2020-0357451
Date of Incident: November 11, 2020
Date of Death: November 22, 2020

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the death of inmate Gonzalo Ruiz Garcia on November 22, 2020, following a medical incident while Garcia was in the Sacramento County Main Jail on November 11, 2020. The case was submitted to the District Attorney's Office September 13, 2021.

Gonzalo Ruiz Garcia was arrested and booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail on September 15, 2020, on federal charges of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances.

On November 11, 2020, Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Deputies Scott Brom and Carlos Perez were working in the Sacramento County Main Jail as Control Officers. Inmate Garcia was housed alone in Cell #120 on floor 7 East.

At approximately 9:57 a.m., Deputy Perez used the cell speaker to direct Garcia to come to the cell door to receive his prescribed medications from the jail nurse.

Garcia's reply was unintelligible. Deputy Perez asked Deputy Brom to check on Garcia.

When Deputy Brom arrived at Cell #120, he saw that Garcia was unable to move his left leg and his left arm. Deputy Brom asked for jail medical staff and an ambulance as he suspected Garcia might be having a stroke.

At approximately 9:59 a.m., jail medical personnel and additional officers arrived at Cell #120. A nurse evaluated Garcia's medical condition and asked Deputy Nicholas Dragoo to request an

ambulance respond “Code 3.”¹

Sacramento Fire Department medics arrived at approximately 10:08 a.m. The medics immediately began providing medical care to Garcia. At approximately 10:25 a.m., Garcia was transported by ambulance to Sutter General Hospital for further treatment.

Garcia remained at Sutter General until November 22, 2020. On that date, Garcia’s condition worsened. Hospital staff began lifesaving procedures, including intubating Garcia. Their efforts were unsuccessful. Garcia was pronounced deceased at approximately 11:41 p.m. by Sutter General Dr. Richard Kim.

According to the death certificate, Dr. Kim listed the immediate cause of death as acute respiratory failure. No autopsy was performed.

According to jail medical records, Garcia was not seen or treated in the jail for any significant medical issues prior to the incident on November 11, 2020.

No evidence of criminal misconduct by any member of the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office 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.