



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

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Date: October 3, 2022

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

From: Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

Re: In-Custody Death – Peter Mata (DOB 9/2/1953)
SSO Report No. 2022-PSD-0501
Date of Incident – November 19, 2021

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the death of inmate Peter Mata at the Kaiser South Medical Center after a “compassionate release” from custody in the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center. The case was submitted to the District Attorney's Office on August 1, 2022.

Mata was arrested and booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail on August 19, 2021. He was charged with a violation of California Health and Safety Code section 11370.1 (unlawful possession of controlled substances while armed with a loaded firearm).

On August 20, 2021, Mata was placed in a cell in the North Main Jail 6E 100 Pod. This pod is designated for isolation of new inmates who have no signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

On August 27, 2021, Mata was tested for COVID-19. The results of Mata's sample were negative.

On August 30, 2021, Mata was moved to the North Main Jail 5W 200 Pod, which is designated as general population.

On September 2, 2021, Mata was transferred to the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center and placed in a cell in the Stewart Baird Facility 400 Pod. This pod is designated as a 10-day isolation intake pod for non-COVID-19 or non-symptomatic inmates arriving from outside facilities.

On September 10, 2021, Mata was tested for COVID-19. The results indicated Mata was positive.

Mata was immediately placed into the Stewart Baird Facility 100 Pod, which is designated for inmates with COVID-19. Mata was effectively quarantined from all other inmates.

On September 17, 2021, Dr. Veer Babu released Mata from isolation after Mata finished the quarantine period and had not exhibited COVID-19 symptoms for more than 24 hours. Mata was now housed in the Honor Facility H Dorm.

On October 19, 2021, Mata was moved to the Honor Facility G Dorm.

On October 29, 2021, medical staff requested that Mata be transported to the Kaiser South Medical Center for COVID-19 treatment. The medical staff reported that Mata was experiencing shortness of breath, low oxygen levels, and reduced motor function. Moreover, Mata tested positive for COVID-19 after a rapid antigen test. Mata was transported to the Kaiser South Medical Center that day.

On November 2, 2021, Kaiser South medical staff advised Lieutenant Aaron Marino of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office that Mata's health was deteriorating and he would need to be placed on a ventilator and transferred to the Intensive Care Unit.

Lieutenant Aaron Marino informed the Sacramento District Attorney's Office of Mata's prognosis. A compassionate release from incarceration was immediately requested and granted by the Superior Court. Mata remained at the Kaiser South Medical Center for treatment.

On November 19, 2021, Kaiser South Medical Center staff informed the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office that Mata passed away due to medical complications related to COVID-19. Dr. Gregory Paul Marelich pronounced Mata deceased at approximately 2:34 p.m. No autopsy was performed.

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: Francine Tournour, Sacramento County Office of Inspector General
Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Gail Vasquez
Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Quis Formoli
Kimberly Gin, Sacramento County Coroner's Office