



MEMORANDUM

SACRAMENTO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

THIEN HO
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DATE: 7/25/2023

TO: Supervising Deputy District Attorney Charles Gonzalez

FROM: Criminal Investigator(s) D.Stigerts #27 and R.McCloskey #48

SUBJECT: In-Custody Death Investigation, Sacramento Police Department #23-179508
Involved Officers: SPD Officers Gomez #0539 and Russell #0483
Subject: Joseph Lee Hendricks
X-Ref: 1500441
DOB: 04/13/1959

NOTIFICATION:

On 06/27/2023, at approximately 1000 hours, Sacramento County District Attorney's Office Criminal Investigators responded to 51st Avenue/Woodbine Avenue in South Sacramento regarding a possible in-custody death investigation.

At approximately 1045 hours, we were briefed about the incident and the circumstances known at the time. The following information was obtained:

On 06/27/2023, at approximately 0426 hours, Sacramento Police Officers Gomez #0539 and Russell #0483 responded to [REDACTED] 51st Avenue regarding a prowler call. When they arrived onscene, they located a vehicle accident in front of [REDACTED] 51st Avenue, with no driver around, and a subject (later identified as J.Hendricks) hiding in the bushes at the above location. After officers contacted J.Hendricks and were walking him back towards the scene of the accident for further investigation, J.Hendricks collapsed in the front yard of [REDACTED] 51st Avenue due to unknown medical issues. Subject J.Hendricks was transported to Kaiser South Hospital where he was pronounced deceased at 0540 hours. No use of force was reportedly used on J.Hendricks by the responding officers, and the Kaiser doctors found no obvious injuries that would of contributed to J.Hendricks death upon his arrival at the hospital.

SCENE:

I/We observed the scene to be the following:

[REDACTED] 51st Avenue was a single-story, single-family dwelling that was on the south side of 51st Avenue and it faced in a northern direction. The vehicle collision occurred on the north side of 51st Avenue, west of the Woodbine Avenue intersection and near the north curb, across the street from [REDACTED] 51st Avenue. From the

vehicles point of rest on scene, it appeared as if Vehicle #1 (J.Hendricks) had struck a parked car (Vehicle #2) at that location.

Vehicle #1: CA License # [REDACTED], 2012 Acura MDX, Black in color (J.Hendricks vehicle)

Vehicle #2: CA License # [REDACTED], 2003 Honda Accord, Silver in color

After the briefing, the above criminal investigators spoke with the lead Homicide Sergeant on scene, Sergeant Ellis. Sergeant Ellis informed us that due to the fact that there was no use of force by either of the two responding officers, he believed the current case was most likely due to an unknown medical issue of J.Hendricks and that it did not meet the criteria for an in-custody death investigation. Sergeant Ellis advised that the Sacramento Police Department was going to do a preliminary 'rule-out' investigation to help determine that fact. Due to this information, CI Stigerts contacted Assistant Chief Investigator T.King and advised her of the facts of the case. It was at that time that we were advised that we could clear the scene and return to our normal working assignments. No further investigation was conducted by the criminal investigators at that time.

Further details regarding this incident can be obtained from the investigating agency.