



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

ANNE MARIE SCHUBERT
District Attorney

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Chief Deputy

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 3, 2020

TO: Captain Charles Meeks, Commander
Sacramento County Sheriff's Department
Correctional Services Unit
651 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

SUBJECT: In-Custody Death – Donald Bell
SSD Report No. MJD 2018-0183480
Date of Incident: June 2, 2018

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the death of Sacramento County Main Jail inmate Donald Bell on June 2, 2018.

Bell was booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail on January 5, 2018. A nurse determined that he was fit for incarceration. At this time, Bell was 71 years old.

Over the next four months, Bell's medical condition required him to be hospitalized on multiple occasions. His conditions included open wounds to his legs, dementia, Type 2 diabetes, ulcers, hypertension, and cellulitis. He also received dialysis.

On May 31, 2018, Bell was transported to the UC Davis Medical Center due to open sores on his legs and low blood pressure. Hospital staff determined that Bell was not expected to live longer than 24 hours due to septic shock and complications from pneumonia. They also noted that Bell had major swelling and necrosis to his lower legs.

The hospital staff informed Sacramento Sheriff's Department (SSD) personnel that they had done all they could to medically treat Bell. The hospital thereafter administered medication to Bell to keep him comfortable. Bell remained nonresponsive.

On June 1, 2018, the Sacramento Superior Court released Bell on his own recognizance in his pending criminal case (Superior Court No. 18FE000446) due to his grave illness. SSD personnel notified the hospital staff of Bell's release.

Bell passed away on June 2, 2018, at approximately 1:33 p.m.

The Sacramento County Coroner's Office did not perform an autopsy. The Death Certificate was signed by UC Davis Medical Center Dr. Bradley Tokeshi. The immediate cause of death was listed as multi-organ failure. Other conditions noted as leading to his cause of death were septic shock, streptococcus pyogenes bacteremia, and bilateral lower extremities cellulitis and abscess-unknown etiology. Other significant conditions noted as contributing to death were right lower lobe pneumonia, atrial fibrillation, and pulmonary embolism.

No evidence of criminal misconduct is presented or suggested in any of the supporting reports. The District Attorney's Office will not take any further action in this matter.

cc: Office of the Inspector General
Sacramento County Sheriff's Department Lieutenant Gail Vasquez
Kimberly Gin, Sacramento County Coroner's Office