



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

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Date: April 18, 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 – Nicholas Samuel Overbey (DOB 1/13/1989)
SSO Report No. 2019-255337
Date of Incident – July 19, 2019

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the death of inmate Nicholas Samuel Overbey while in the Sacramento County Main Jail on July 19, 2019. The case was submitted to the District Attorney's Office September 13, 2021.

Overbey had been in custody at the Main Jail since May 25, 2019, after his arrest for a violation of Penal Code section 245(a)(1), assault with a deadly weapon.

On July 19, 2019, Sacramento Sheriff's Office Deputies James Caravallo, Joseph Chantry and Robert Robinson were working in the Sacramento County Main Jail. They were assigned to Unit 3 West. Unit 3 West houses outpatient psychiatric inmates.

At approximately 1:47 p.m., an inmate pressed the Emergency Call Button located on the inside door of the 100 pod of Unit 3 West. The inmate told the assigned deputies through the intercom he thought an inmate was not breathing in cell #105.

Deputy Robinson immediately responded to cell #105. He could see an inmate, later identified as Nicholas Samuel Overbey, lying motionless on his back. Overbey did not appear to be breathing. Deputy Robinson saw foam coming from Overbey's mouth. Deputy Robinson requested additional deputies respond to the 100 pod in Unit 3 West.

Deputies Chantry and Caravallo joined Deputy Robinson at cell #105 at approximately 1:50 p.m. The cell door was unlocked. Deputy Robinson entered the cell and attempted to wake Overbey by vigorously rubbing his sternum. As Deputy Robinson did so, blood and other fluids expelled from Overbey's nose and mouth. Deputy Robinson immediately radioed for emergency medical

personnel to respond to cell #105.

At approximately 1:52 p.m., Main Jail Dr. Janet Abshire arrived at cell #105 with nursing personnel. The medical staff applied an automated external defibrillator device to Overbey's chest and began performing CPR.

The efforts of the medical staff were unsuccessful. Overbey was pronounced deceased by Dr. Abshire at approximately 1:57 p.m.

Main Jail Deputies interviewed each of the inmates present in the 100 pod. None of the inmates interviewed reported hearing anything suspicious or unusual.

Overbey's cellmate was interviewed. The cellmate told Deputy Robinson that Overbey had not been moving for at least a day. He stated he tried to wake Overbey in the morning, but Overbey was motionless. The cellmate told Deputy Robinson he believed Overbey was just sleeping.

The cellmate also told Deputy Robinson Overbey had been limping for about a week after falling in the shower.

The inmate who had pressed the Emergency Call Button was interviewed. He stated that he was a pod worker, meaning he helped with cleaning and other duties while other inmates are locked in their cells. He said that an inmate in cell #105 started banging on his cell door, yelling at him to come over. He went to cell #105 and saw Overbey wasn't moving and had foam coming from his mouth. He then pressed the emergency call button to alert the deputies assigned to the unit.

An autopsy was performed by Dr. Jason Tovar, a forensic pathologist working for the Sacramento County Coroner's Office. Dr. Tovar found the cause of death to be Hypertensive Heart Disease. He classified the manner of death as natural.

Samples of Overbey's femoral blood were tested by the Sacramento County District Attorney Laboratory of Forensic Services. No alcohol or illegal drugs were present in the samples.

Main Jail Surveillance video was reviewed. The events as shown in the video occur in the same manner as described in the reports.

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 Matt Tamayo
Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Quis Formoli
Kimberly Gin, Sacramento County Coroner's Office
Sacramento County Office of Inspector General