



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

ANNE MARIE SCHUBERT
District Attorney

Rod Norgaard
Chief Deputy

Michael M. Blazina
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 – Anthony Sciosciolo (DOB 08/01/94)
SSO Report No. MJD 2019-0281526
Date of Incident – August 8, 2019

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the death of inmate Anthony Sciosciolo while in the Sacramento County Main Jail on August 8, 2019. The case was submitted to the District Attorney's Office September 13, 2021.

Sciosciolo was arrested and booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail on June 7, 2019, by parole agents with the Division of Adult Parole Operations. He was charged with a parole violation pursuant to Penal Code Section 3056. During the booking process, Sciosciolo attacked two booking officers, causing injuries. As a result, Sciosciolo was later charged with a violation of Penal Code section 69.

On August 8, 2019, Sciosciolo was housed in cell 307 in the 300 Pod of the Main Jail with inmate Brandon Flores. At approximately 1:40 p.m., Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Deputy Corey Jackson conducted a routine cell check of the 300 Pod and observed Sciosciolo on the phone. Sciosciolo's cellmate was in court. At approximately 2:08 p.m., Sciosciolo was observed by Deputy Jackson walking back to his cell with his shirt off.

At approximately 2:40 p.m., Deputy Jackson and Deputy Tyler Carrozza heard inmates from the 300 Pod banging on the pod glass windows. Deputy Carrozza used the intercom system located in the control room to ask for additional deputies to respond to assist. Deputy Daniel Poroli and Deputy Jackson entered the 300 Pod. Inmates yelled for them to go to cell 307.

Upon arriving at cell 307, Deputy Jackson observed Sciosciolo lying face down on the floor. Sciosciolo was alone inside the locked cell. Sciosciolo had what appeared to be a torn strip of a white jail-issued shirt wrapped around his neck. Deputy Poroli removed the strip from

Scioscirole's neck and dragged Scioscirole out of the cell and began to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. At approximately 2:41 p.m., Deputy Robert Robinson arrived to assist and determined that Scioscirole did not have a pulse. Deputy Poroli applied an automated external defibrillator to Scioscirole to perform chest compressions.

Main Jail medical staff arrived to assist. Medical staff intubated Scioscirole to create a clear airway and ventilate Scioscirole. They were unable to restore a pulse.

At approximately 2:48 p.m., the Sacramento Fire Department arrived and placed a heart monitor on Scioscirole. The heart monitor showed no cardiac activity. Scioscirole was pronounced deceased by Fire Department medical personnel at approximately 2:55 p.m.

Scioscirole was wearing his jail-issued orange pants, with no shirt. Deputies Jackson and Poroli indicated that Scioscirole appeared blue in the face when they entered the cell. Further, they observed Scioscirole's right eye was swollen and there was foam in and around Scioscirole's mouth. Scioscirole was warm to the touch but no pulse was found.

It was later determined by Sheriff's Office personnel that the ligature around Scioscirole's neck had been manufactured from torn t-shirt materials.

Main Jail Intelligence Officer Deputy Daniel Rouse checked jail phone records and noted that Scioscirole used the phone on August 8, 2019, from 1:53 p.m. to 2:07 p.m. to speak with a woman. Deputy Rouse listened to a recording of that phone call. During the conversation, Scioscirole and the woman argued. Scioscirole called the woman by her first name during the conversation. Scioscirole ended the phone call by saying he was "finally going to do it."

Multiple inmates were interviewed and recalled seeing Scioscirole on the phone prior to returning to his cell. Some indicated that Scioscirole had been arguing with his girlfriend and would often be "stressed" about her and their relationship.

Two inmates said they allowed Scioscirole to use their phone log-ins to make phone calls earlier in the day. They heard Scioscirole on the phone yelling, "Tell me who it is!" After the phone call, Scioscirole was observed walking back to his cell crying and visibly upset. Scioscirole entered his cell alone and the cell door was closed and locked.

The two inmate witnesses also confirmed that Scioscirole's body was discovered by Scioscirole's cellmate. One inmate witness stated that when Scioscirole's cellmate returned to the 300 Pod from court, the cellmate found Scioscirole slumped face forward on the floor of the cell. Inmates yelled, "Man Down!" and started banging on the doors to get the deputies' attention.

The second inmate witness recalled seeing Scioscirole return to the cell alone, then seeing Scioscirole's cellmate return about 25 minutes later. Upon his return from court, the cellmate waited to be let into the locked cell and began yelling for someone to open the door. The cellmate then ran to the pod window and started banging to get the attention of deputies in the control room.

Both inmate witnesses indicated that Scioscirole and his cellmate were on good terms and got along well.

Deputy Jarrod Hopeck visually inspected the cellmate's condition and clothing. The cellmate's hands and body showed no sign of injury or struggle. His jail clothing was neat and untoned with no blood or bodily fluids visible. According to Deputy Hopeck, the cellmate appeared mentally and emotionally distressed. The cellmate stated he was upset that his cellmate committed suicide. Deputy Hopeck heard the cellmate repeatedly state that he ran and hit the glass to get the deputies' attention.

The cellmate was interviewed by Deputy Jose Villalobos. He told Deputy Villalobos he went to court in the afternoon. When he came back to the pod, he saw that they were "on dayroom" ("dayroom" means that the inmates were free to leave their cells and utilize the common area) so he made some phone calls. After his calls, he looked around for Scioscirole. When he could not find Scioscirole, he went to their cell and observed Scioscirole laying on the ground. He immediately knew something was wrong. Scioscirole's face was purple, and it was not like Scioscirole to lay on the ground. The cellmate ran back towards the control booth and started pounding on the pod windows in order to get custody staff's attention. He believed he saw something wrapped around Scioscirole's neck.

The cellmate told Deputy Villalobos that Scioscirole frequently argued with his girlfriend, but never made comments about suicide or wanting to hurt himself. He also noted that Scioscirole was a "normal guy" who did not do drugs.

Main Jail video surveillance for the 300 Pod was reviewed. The video showed that Scioscirole was on the phone in the dayroom until approximately 2:07 p.m. At that time, Scioscirole hung up the phone and walked back to his cell. Scioscirole entered the cell alone and no one else entered after him. At approximately 2:38 p.m., Scioscirole's cellmate returned to the front of the locked cell door. He then appears to alert other inmates and deputies that Scioscirole was on the floor inside the cell and yells for assistance.

Jail phone records show that Scioscirole made three phone calls to his wife, whose first name is the same as the woman in the previously noted call. Deputy Cristobal Lara and Sheriff Records Officer Suzanne McClary listened to the calls. SRO McClary located a call where Scioscirole and his wife ended their relationship. In another phone call listened to by Deputy Lara, Scioscirole told his wife that he was going to kill himself. During the conversation, Scioscirole spoke to his young child to "say goodbye."

An autopsy was performed by Forensic Pathologist Katherine Raven M.D. from the Sacramento County Coroner's Office. The cause of death was listed as asphyxia due to hanging by ligature. The manner of death was classified as suicide. During the autopsy, a sample of Scioscirole's blood was taken and later tested by the Sacramento County District Attorney Laboratory of Forensic Services. No controlled substances or alcohol were confirmed in the sample.

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: Office of the Inspector General
Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Janae Galovich
Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Quis Formoli
Kimberly Gin, Sacramento County Coroner's Office