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Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

THIEN HO  
District Attorney

**DATE:** September 7, 2023

**TO:** Captain Vanessa Vaden, Commander  
Sacramento County Sheriff's Office  
Correctional Services Unit  
651 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

**SUBJECT:** In-Custody Death – Karen McDaniel-Weaver (DOB 1-17-1958)  
SSO Report No. 2022-142092  
Date of Incident – May 17, 2022

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the death of inmate Karen McDaniel-Weaver in the Sacramento County Main Jail on May 17, 2022. The case was submitted to the District Attorney's Office on April 28, 2023.

McDaniel-Weaver was arrested and booked into the Main Jail on July 19, 2021. She was charged with a felony violation of California Penal Code section 273.5 (corporal injury on a spouse or cohabitant) and a misdemeanor violation of Penal Code section 148(a) (resist, obstruct or delay a peace officer).

On March 2, 2022, the Sacramento Superior Court found McDaniel-Weaver incompetent to stand trial pursuant to Penal Code section 1368. Beginning May 17, 2022, McDaniel-Weaver was housed in the Mental Health Housing Unit of the Main Jail while awaiting transfer to the Department of State Hospitals. She shared cell #28 in the 100 pod of Floor 3-West with another inmate.

At approximately 6:51 a.m. on May 17<sup>th</sup>, Sacramento Sheriff Deputy Travis Brewer was conducting a facility count in the 100 pod. As he approached cell #28, Deputy Brewer noticed that McDaniel-Weaver was lying on her stomach on the bottom bunk, with a blanket covering her to the shoulders. Her cellmate was on the top bunk.

Deputy Brewer shined his light into the cell and tapped on the window to wake McDaniel-Weaver. McDaniel-Weaver did not respond. He noticed McDaniel-Weaver was not moving.

Deputy Brewer called over his radio for additional deputies to assist him. He also called the control room to unlock the door to cell #28. Deputy Brewer and Deputy Ronald Gonzalo then entered the cell.

Deputy Brewer called out to McDaniel-Weaver and tried to shake her awake. McDaniel-Weaver did not respond. Deputy Brewer noticed McDaniel-Weaver did not have a pulse and was cold to the touch. McDaniel-Weaver's cellmate told the deputies that McDaniel-Weaver did not wake up for breakfast that day.

Deputy Gonzalo requested an emergency ambulance response. At approximately 6:55 a.m., additional deputies arrived and helped Deputy Brewer move McDaniel-Weaver to the floor. Deputy Brewer noticed McDaniel-Weaver's limbs were stiff and would not move. Deputy Brewer also observed dried blood on McDaniel-Weaver's shirt collar.

Deputies immediately began performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Jail medical personnel arrived approximately one minute later and took over resuscitation efforts. At approximately 7:00 a.m., Dr. Michael Medvin pronounced McDaniel-Weaver deceased.

A canvass was conducted of the other cells in the pod. No inmates reported seeing or hearing anything unusual.

Jail surveillance video from outside cell #28 was reviewed. It depicts the events consistently with how they are described above.

An autopsy was performed by Dr. Jason Tovar of the Sacramento County's Coroner's Office. Dr. Tovar found the cause of death to be hypertensive cardiovascular disease. He determined the manner of death to be natural.

No evidence of 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 Sheriff Lieutenant Janae Galovich  
Rosa A. Vega, Sacramento County Coroner's Office  
Francine Tournour, Sacramento County Office of Inspector General