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Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

THIEN HO  
District Attorney

Date: December 18, 2023

To: Captain Matthew Owens, 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 – Paul Joseph Borreson (D.O.B. 06/09/1955)  
SSO Report No. 2022-216688  
Date of Death – July 24, 2022

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the death of inmate Paul Joseph Borreson while in the custody of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office on July 24, 2022.

On July 12, 2022, Borreson was booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail under the name of Thomas Robert Mitchell. It was later determined that his true name was Paul Joseph Borreson. Borreson was charged with a violation of California Penal Code section 273.5 (inflicting corporal injury on a spouse or cohabitant) and had a pending arrest warrant from the State of Texas.

On July 23, 2022, Borreson was housed in cell #304 in the 300 Pod. At approximately 10:28 p.m., an inmate worker attempted to give Borreson his diabetic snack. The inmate worker asked Deputy Ze Lor to open the cell door. When the door opened, the inmate worker observed Borreson on the floor with his head under the toilet seat. The inmate worker asked Borreson if he was okay. Borreson mumbled a response. The inmate worker told a nearby nurse that Borreson did not look well. The nurse did not observe Borreson. The nurse instructed the inmate worker to tell the deputy to call for a "man down."

Deputy Michael Morgan and three nurses responded. Deputy Morgan observed Borreson on the floor next to his bunk. Borreson was awake and mumbling. The nursing staff entered the cell and attempted to take Borreson's vitals, without success. The nurses administered one dose of Narcan to Borreson but were still unable to detect his vital signs. A code 3 ambulance response

was requested.<sup>1</sup> As Borreson stopped breathing, a member of the jail nursing staff performed a sternum rub. Borreson started breathing weakly.

Borreson was brought out of the cell to allow more room for treatment. Borreson was unconscious. Jail nursing staff requested cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) be started. Deputy Mark Panasyuk immediately began performing chest compressions. Deputy Panasyuk and other deputies continued performing chest compressions until medics from the Sacramento Fire Department arrived.

The fire medics arrived at approximately 10:45 p.m. and immediately assumed responsibility for providing life saving measures to Borreson. Borreson was transported to Sutter General Hospital. During the transport, paramedics continued their efforts to stabilize Borreson. His eyes were open, but he remained unresponsive.

Borreson arrived in the emergency room at approximately 11:05 p.m., where he received treatment for several hours. When Borreson was moved to the fourth floor of the hospital, his heart again stopped beating. CPR and other life-saving measures were performed. At approximately 4:40 a.m., Dr. Mohammed Shaikh pronounced Borreson deceased.

Main Jail surveillance video was reviewed. The video depicts the events consistently with the description above.

No autopsy was performed by the Sacramento County Coroner's Office.<sup>2</sup> The death certificate lists the cause of death as cardiac arrest, septic shock, and right lower lobe pneumonia.

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 Office of Inspector General  
Sacramento Sheriff Lieutenant Janae Galovich  
Rosa Vega, Sacramento County Coroner's Office

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<sup>1</sup> Code 3 indicates to consider the call an emergency and respond immediately, including utilizing emergency lights and siren as reasonably necessary.

<sup>2</sup> Under California Government Code 27491, the Coroner's Office shall investigate and determine the circumstances, manner, and cause of death for all violent, sudden, unattended or unusual deaths. The Coroner's Office has discretion whether to investigate any death occurring under natural circumstances. If a physician of record has sufficient knowledge to reasonably state the cause of a death occurring under natural circumstances, the Coroner's Office may authorize that physician to sign the certificate of death.