KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

PA Number:

Report Date: 2/15/2017 2:41 PM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Department ID:		Department Type:	Police
Agency Name:	Odessa Police Dept.	Agency Number:	
Agency Phone:	432-335-3327	Agency Address:	205 N. Grant
Agency City:	Odessa	Agency County:	
Agency State:	TX	Agency Zip:	79760

Director Information

Director Salutation:

Chief

Director First Name:

Timothy

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name:

Burton

Reporter Name: Sgt. David Lara

Reporter Email: dlara@odessa-tx.gov

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 1209 Douglas

City: Odessa

County: Ector

What type of custody/facility was the Decedent in at the time of death:

Type of Custody:

Police Custody (pre-booking)

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Custody of Law Enforcement Personnel during/fleeing arrest

Custody Type Facility:

What was the time and date of the deceased's entry into the law enforcement facility where the death occurred (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Entry Date Time:

Entry Date Time N/A: ✓

Where did the death occur?

Death Location: At the crime/arrest scene

Death Location Elsewhere:

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Jason

Middle Name: Wade

Last Name: Meador

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 7/18/1965 Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Anglo

Date/Time of Death (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Death Date and Time: 3/10/2016 5:00 PM

Date/Time of Custody (arrest, incarceration) (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Date/Time of Custody or Incident:

3/10/2016 4:25 PM

Manner / Cause of Death

Has a medical examiner or coroner conducted an evaluation to determine a cause of death?

Medical Examiner/Coroner Evaluation?:

Yes, results pending

What was the manner of death? (select only one)

Manner of Death:

Other - specify

Manner of Death Description:

Peace Officer's use of force

Death Reason:

Not applicable

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Gun shot wound to the chest

Had the decedent been receiving treatment for the medical condition that caused the death after admission to your jail's jurisdiction?

Medical Treatment:

Not Applicable

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, who caused the death?

Who caused the death?:

Law enforcement/correctional staff

Death Causer Other:

If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (mark all that apply)

Type of Death Weapon:

Rifle/Shotgun

Was the cause of death the result of a pre-existing medical condition or did the decedent develop the condition after admission?

Pre existing medical condition?:

Not Applicable; cause of death was accidental injury, intoxication, suicide or homicide

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?

Means of Death:

Firearm

General Information

What were the most serious offense(s) with which the deceased was (or would have been) charged with at the time of death?

Offense 1:

Emergency Detention Order

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

Were the Charges::

Not filed at time of death

What were the types of charges or reason for contact?

Type of Offense:

Other, specify

Type of Offense, Other:

Emergency Detention Order

Injuries of Decedent

Injured By: Injured by Officer

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs): Yes

Exhibit any mental health problems?: Yes

Exhibit any medical problems?:

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Threaten the officer(s) involved: Yes

Resist being handcuffed or arrested?: N/A

Try to escape/flee from custody:

Grab, hit or fight with the officer(s):

Other Behavior:

☑

Specify Other Behavior:

Subject was pouring gas on himself

Use weapon threaten/assault officer(s): Yes

Specify weapon used to threaten/assault:

Pointed handgun at officers

Was the deceased under restraint in the time leading up to the death or the events causing the death?

Under Restraint:

Summary of Incident

Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

Summary:

At approximately 4:25 pm, on 3-10-2016, I heard OPD dispatch patrol officers to the 1200 block of Douglas because of a suicidal man. According to dispatch, a man from Kansas called OPD and stated his father was an ex-law enforcement officer, suicidal, had access to funs, and was dowsing himself with gasoline in the north alley of the 1200 block of Douglas. OPD Detective Wilma Rodriguez was familiar with the suicidal man and advised responding officers the man, later identified as Jason Meador (50 years of age), had attempted "suicide by cop" in the past and it took three OPD officers to wrestle Meador into custody.

I was the first OPD patrol unit to arrive in the alley. As I drove West in the alley from Everglade Street, I saw a man standing next to a trash dumpster halfway down the block. The red and blue emergency lights of my patrol vehicle were still activated. The man, later identified as Meador, was throwing something into the dumpster. Meador looked towards me and suddenly jumped inside the dumpster. I advised dispatch what I was seeing so responding officers would also know.

I immediately ordered Meador to show me his hands. While concealed inside the dumpster, Meador yelled back at me "Hand!!!", I soon realized Meador yelled that word because he in fact was missing his right hand so he only had one. Within a couple of minutes, Meador tossed a black colored handgun holster out of the dumpster indicating he probably had a handgun. Meador soon stood up I the dumpster and dowsed himself with gasoline stored in a small red plastic gas can. I requested Odessa Fire and Rescue be sent to the scene and staged in a nearby safe location in case they were needed. I gave continuous orders for Meador to show me his hands and talk with me. Meador refused to cooperate. I retrieved my patrol rifle from its case and moved to the passenger side front quarter so I could negotiate with Meador from a safer location.

I spent approximately the next 20 minute attempting to negotiate Meador into surrendering his handgun so I could talk with him. Meador pointed a silver colored revolver to his head but soon held it down to his side as he erratically paced around inside the dumpster. I continued to plead with Meador to talk to me and I tried to emphasize burning himself up and/or shooting himself was not the correct thing to do. Meador made statements like, "There is nothing you can do for me" and "You can shoot my ass if you want there is no way out" Meador stated, "You didn't help me last month". I replied "I was not here last month but I'm here now, talk to me". I tried to keep Meador aware that he wasn't in trouble and I just wanted to help him receive the help he needed. Meador got to the point he cursed at me multiple times and eventually stated, "I don't want to hurt you, I just want to die!"

Throughout the negotiation, Meador tucked the revolver under his right armpit and held it there while he repeatedly poured more gasoline on himself. Deputy US Marshal Brent Sheets arrived. He stood next to me with a ballistic shield and provided us some additional cover. I discussed multiple options and plans to bring the situation to a successful positive ending but Meador's actions negated those options.

Approximately 20 minutes into the negotiation, Meador, held the revolver to his head, paced around and stretched. Seconds later, Meador looked at me and pointed the revolver directly at me. At that moment, I feared Meador was going to shoot Brent or myself. My only option to stop, control or neutralize the threat of deadly force was to fire my patrol rifle at Meador. I fired a single shot just as Marshal Sheets fired a single shot from his handgun. Meador instantly fell to the bottom of the dumpster. A few seconds later a muffled gunshot was heard coming from the dumpster. Marshal Sheets and I approached the dumpster and found Meador suffering from what appeared to be a gunshot wound to his chest.