KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	17-203-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	11/6/2020 1:43 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Jefferson County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	PO BOX 3522
Agency City:	Beaumont	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	77704		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Zena
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Stephens		
Reporter Name:	Zena Stephens	Reporter Email:	sheriffs@co.jefferson.tx.us

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Byron

Middle Name: James

Last Name: Sessions

Suffix: N/A

Date of Birth: 3/2/1984 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 33

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 3/18/2017 9:15 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 3/18/2017 9:15 AM

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: Pending autopsy results

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Pending toxicology

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

Medical Treatment: No

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

Who caused the death?: Not applicable

If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of weapon that caused death?: Not Applicable

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?: Could not be determined

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

Means of Death: Unknown

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 5030 Hwy 69 South City: Beaumont

County: Jefferson Zip: 77705

What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred?

Location Category: Law Enforcement Facility

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

Type of Custody: County Jail

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Jail - day room/recreation area

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: 3/18/2017 9:15 AM

Where did the death occur?

Death Location: Law enforcement facility/booking center

General Information

Did any other law enforcement agencies respond to calls for service related to this incident?

Other Agencies Respond?: No

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:

Criminal Trespass

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: Filed

What were the types of charges or reason for contact? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of Offense: Crime Against Property

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent display or use a weapon?

Decedent display/use of weapons: No

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

Attempt to Injure Others?: No

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

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs): Yes

Make suicidal statements?: No

Exhibit any mental health problems?: No

Exhibit any medical problems?: No

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

Barricade self or initiate standoff?: No

Resist being handcuffed or arrested?: No

Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	No	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	No	Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody:	No
Attempt gain possession officer's weapon:	No		

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

Under Restraint:	No

Summary of Incident

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

Summary:

On 3/17/17, the Decedent was at the local Wal-Mart, committing theft and huffing duster spray. Decedent was transported to the local Medical Facility for treatment for symptoms related to huffing. He left the treatment center against medical staff opinion. He was served with a criminal trespass warning, forbidding his return to the property.

On 03/18/17 Decedent violated the trespass warning and returned to the property resulting in his arrest. He was arrested by the Port Arthur Police Department for the Class B misdemeanor offense of Criminal Trespass. At the time of his arrest he had in his possession two (2) aerosol cans. He was then transported to the Jefferson County Correctional Facility, located at 5030 Hwy 69 South, Beaumont, Texas.

Upon arrival at the Correctional Facility decedent was received by staff and was screened by medical staff. Decedent reeked with the smell of urine and asked to take a shower. As per County protocol decedent was immediately escorted to the men's change out room to be showered and placed in a county jumper.

At the completion of the change out process decedent was issued orange county slippers and bent over to place them on his feet and fell to the floor and reportedly started to have seizure activity. He loss consciousness as life saving maneuvers were implemented. EMS was notified and arrived, taking over resuscitation protocol.

Decedent was pronounced at approximately 10:20 am. by Justice of the Peace #7 Brad Burnett. Justice Burnett ordered an autopsy. Pathologist John. W. Ralston, MD, completed the autopsy on 3/20/17. Findings were 1) Cardiomegaly, 575g. 2) Hypertensive cardiovascular disease with left ventricular hypertrophy of the heart, 1.8 cm. 3) Nephrosclerosis of the kidneys. 4) Pending toxicology. Preliminary cause of death: Pending toxicology. Preliminary manner of death: Pending toxicology.