KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	17-328-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	6/22/2017 4:18 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Smith County Sheriff's Office	Agency Address:	227 N. Spring Ave.
Agency City:	Tyler	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	75702		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Larry
Director Middle Name:	R		
Director Last Name:	Smith		
Reporter Name:	Larry Smith	Reporter Email:	lsmith@smith-county.com

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Carlos

Middle Name: Jose

Last Name: Hernandez

Suffix: Jr.

Date of Birth: 2/16/1995 Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 22

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 6/11/2017 4:15 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 6/12/2017 12:20 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 are available

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

Manner of Death: Suicide

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Suicide/hanging

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?:	Decedent

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?:	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:	Hanging, strangulation

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	104 South Spring Avenue	City:	Tyler
County:	Smith	Zip:	75702

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 - single cell

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:	6/11/2017 3:04 AM

Where did the death occur?

Death Location:	Scene of incident

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:

Possession of Controlled Substance PG3 < 28 grams

Offense 2:

Possession of Controlled Substance PG2 < 1 gram

Offense 3:

Possession of Marijuana < 2 ounces & Immigration Customs Enforcement Detainer.

Were the Charges:: Not filed at time of death

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

Type of Offense: Alcohol / drug offense

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):	No	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 Monday, June 12, 2017 at 12:20 am, a Smith County Sheriff's Office Detention Officer observed an inmate, located in a side cell, hanging from the shower from a ligature. A code blue (medical emergency) was called immediately by jail staff and the inmate was taken down from the ligature. A short time later Tyler Fire personnel and Emergency Medical Services arrived and determined the inmate to be deceased.

All proper notifications of jail command staff were made immediately. The Texas Rangers were notified and they proceeded to the scene on the 2nd floor of the Smith County Central Jail. The Texas Rangers, assisted by Smith County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene, documented the scene and contacted the Justice of the Peace.
Justice of the Peace Precinct #1 Judge Quincy Beavers was notified and he arrived at the jail a short time later, held an inquest and ordered an autopsy be performed at the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Science (Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office) in Dallas.

The inmate is identified as 21 year old Carlos Jose Hernandez, Jr. Mr. Hernandez was booked into the Smith County Jail on Sunday, June 11th, 2017 at 4:15 am and was charged with Possession of Marijuana < 2 ounces, Possession or Delivery of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Controlled Substance in Penalty Group 2 < 28 grams and also had an Immigration Customs Enforcement detainer. Total bonds were $8,500.

Due to his response to pre-booking questions, Mr. Hernandez was placed in a side cell on suicide watch with ten minute observations. A check of the observation logs, as well as video camera footage, the side cell observations had been made properly and timely within the prescribed time period.
Mr. Hernandez had been last checked at 12:02 and 12:11 am and was observed to be sleeping. During the 12:20 am check, Mr. Hernandez was observed to be hanging by a ligature from the shower in the single man side cell.