KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	17-633-UF	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	12/1/2017 2:58 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Matagorda County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	2308 Ave. F
Agency City:	Bay City	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	77414		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	frank
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	osborne		
Reporter Name:	Douglas Pruitt	Reporter Email:	dpruitt@co.matagorda.tx.us

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Chester

Middle Name: Randolph

Last Name: Ward

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 12/24/1948

Sex: Male

Race: Black or African American

Age At Time Of Death: 68

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 11/16/2017 1:25 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 11/16/2017 1:25 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)

Pending autopsy

Manner of Death: results

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Pending autopsy results

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 personnel

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?: Handgun

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

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	1786 FM 2611	City:	Cedar Lane
County:	Matagorda	Zip:	77415

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

Location Category: Residence/Home

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

Type of Custody: Pre-Custodial Use of Force

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

N/A

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: 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:

Terroristic Threat-Felony

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: Violent Crime Against Persons; Medical / Mental Health assistance call

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: Yes, mark all that apply

Decedent Display or Use Weapon Details: Discharged firearm

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

Attempt to Injure Others?:	Yes (select all that apply)
Ways Decedent Attempted To Injure Others:	Attempted to injure law enforcement personnel

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

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs):	Unknown	Make suicidal statements?:	Yes
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Yes	Exhibit any medical problems?:	Unknown

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

Barricade self or initiate standoff?:	Yes	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	Yes
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:	Yes
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:

For 2 days leading up to this incident the deceased continually called 911 and our administrative line cursing and making nonsensical statements. Officers tried to talk with deceased but it appeared that he was having mental issues. Several officers went to deceased residence for a welfare check. Upon knocking on door the deceased stated that if the officers entered the residence he would kill the officers or make them kill him. The officers were unable to check the mental health of the deceased. The next day after continued calls the

deceased became more aggressive threatening to shoot officers on sight and also at cars on the road going by his residence. In response to that imminent threat a Felony Terroristic Threat warrant was obtained. Information from family members indicated the deceased had mental issues and had recently threatened a subject bringing food to deceased by answering the door with 2 pistols in his hands. Due to this information the SRT team was notified in an effort to serve the warrant. During service of the warrant officers gained entry into the residence and deceased fled to a bedroom at the back of the residence. As officers were going down the hallway toward the room deceased fled into the deceased produced a rifle and discharged it at the officers. Two officers returned fire, the lead officer firing 5 rounds and another officer firing 2 rounds. The deceased was struck 7 time and died almost immediately on scene. Texas Rangers are investigating.