KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	20-1715-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	4/27/2021 2:59 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Nueces County Sheriff's Office	Agency Address:	PO BOX 1940
Agency City:	Corpus Christi	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	78403		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	John
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Hooper		
Reporter Name:	Martin Arnold	Reporter Email:	martin.arnold@nuecesco.com

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Donald

Middle Name: Oscar

Last Name: Cruz

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 12/23/1971 Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 48

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 11/13/2020 2:24 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 11/18/2020 6:20 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: Natural

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Complications

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

Medical Treatment:	Unknown

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

Who caused the death?:	Unknown whether decedent sustained a fatal injury

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:	901 Leopard Street	City:	Corpus Christi
County:	Nueces	Zip:	78401

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 - multiple occupancy 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:	11/13/2020 2:24 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?:	Yes

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:

Poss CS PG1 < 1G

Offense 2:

Tampering/Fabricating Physical Evidence w/ Intent to Impair

Offense 3:

Evading Arrest/Detention

Were the Charges:: Filed

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):	Unknown	Make suicidal statements?:	Unknown
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Unknown	Exhibit any medical problems?:	Yes

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

Barricade self or initiate

Resist being handcuffed or

standoff?:	No	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 Wednesday November 18, 2020 at 0559 hrs, a 35U (Unknown Medical Emergency) was called in unit 4R Cell #21 of the Nueces County Jail by Correctional Officer Nathaniel Armadillo. Correctional Officers Nathaniel Armadillo and Angel Salinas were passing out breakfast trays and discovered inmate Donald Cruz unresponsive on the lower bunk; they both observed that he did not appear to be breathing and had foam on his mouth. Both Officers attempted to awaken inmate Cruz until Nurses Cassie Guzman and Janet Cordero arrived at 0602 hrs.
Nurses Guzman and Cordero performed life saving measures with CPR until Nurse Sandra Nuss arrived with an AED Device. After the AED Device was attached the Nurses continued with CPR and life saving measures. During this time Nurse Nuss ordered Sgt. Zachary Syler to call 911.
At 0618 hrs, Corpus Christi Fire Department Medic Unit 1 arrived in the unit. At 0620 hrs EMS staff stated that inmate Cruz had flatlined and pronounced him deceased. CCFD Medic 1 departed the facility at 0630 hrs. Inmate Cruz’s body was secured in 4R Cell #21 under guard.
At 0622 hrs, Captain Patrick Whitmore (On-Call Jail Captain) and Lt. Eduardo Nunez (CID) were notified of the death in custody.
Shortly thereafter Captain Whitmore, Lt. Nunez and CID Sgt. Marilyn King arrived. Captain Whitmore provided copies of all booking file and shift paperwork to Lt. Nunez.
At 0847 hrs, Sgt. King and Texas Ranger Cody Lankford accessed Cell #21 to take photographs.
At 0854 hrs, Medical Examiners Officer Staff Diana Ybanez, Sophia Bayder and Veronica Vaiz arrived and departed with inmate Cruz’ body at 0915 hrs.