KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	20-1965-UF	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	12/18/2024 12:57 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Mesquite Police Dept.	Agency Address:	PO BOX 850137
Agency City:	Mesquite	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	75149		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Chief	Director First Name:	David
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Gill		
Reporter Name:	Cody Ketron	Reporter Email:	cketron@mesquitepolice.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Zachary

Middle Name: David

Last Name: Pearson

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 10/3/1990 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 30

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 12/5/2020 1:42 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 12/5/2020 2:25 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: Homicide (includes Justifiable

Homicide)

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Decedent died as a result of gunshot wounds.

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?: 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: 15300 SB IH-635
City: Mesquite
County: Dallas
Zip: 75150

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

Location Category: Roadway/highway/street/sidewalk

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:

Custody of Law Enforcement Personnel during/fleeing arrest

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: Medical facility

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:

Aggravated Assault Against Public Servant

Offense 2:

Aggravated Assault w/Deadly Weapon (Dallas PD Offense)

Offense 3:

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: Violent Crime Against Persons

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: Used vehicle as weapon

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

Yes (select all that

Attempt to Injure Others?:	apply)
Ways Decedent Attempted To Injure Others:	Injured civilian(s) or other inmate(s)

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?:	No
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Unknown	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?:	No	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	Yes
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	Yes	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:

An off-duty Jefferson Police Officer and an off duty Seven Points Police Officer were working as traffic safety officers for a major construction project on IH635 at Forest Lane in Dallas, Dallas County, Texas when a white Toyota truck being driven by ZACHARY DAVID PEARSON crossed the barricades and struck a construction worker. Both off duty officers attempted to detain PEARSON, but he got back into his vehicle and continued west on IH635. PEARSON stopped about one minute later, exited his vehicle, and the officers attempted to detain him. A physical struggle ensued and included the officers using pepper spray and baton strikes in their attempt to detain PEARSON. PEARSON was able to get back to his vehicle after the struggle

and continued west on IH635 while the off duty officers were following him. Both officers were in vehicles equipped with emergency lighting and the Jefferson officer's vehicle was marked with decals identifying the vehicle as a police vehicle. PEARSON continued on IH635 into the 15000 block where he stopped. The Jefferson officer pulled his marked vehicle partially in front of PEARSON'S truck and he (the Jefferson officer) exited his vehicle. PEARSON began accelerating his vehicle into the Jefferson officer's vehicle causing the Jefferson officer to begin discharging his pistol at PEARSON.

After the shooting, aid was rendered by multiple officers and suspected party ZACHARY DAVID PEARSON was transported to Baylor University Medical Center Dallas, where he succumbed to his wounds.