KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	21-1633-UF	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	2/21/2022 9:19 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Weslaco Police Dept.	Agency Address:	901 N. Airport Dr.
Agency City:	Weslaco	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	78596		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Chief	Director First Name:	Joel
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Rivera		
Reporter Name:	Jennifer Vilches	Reporter Email:	jennifer.vilches@weslacotx.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Azarel

Middle Name:

Last Name: Gonzalez

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 11/20/1989 Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 32

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 11/21/2021 3:53 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 11/21/2021 3:53 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:

"Close Range" Gun Shot Wound under chin with extensive fracture bones of Face, Frontal Skull Bones, extensive brain injury.

Manner of Death Suicide

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

Medical Treatment: Yes

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?: Rifle/shotgun

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:	330 Block West Tierra Santa Street	City:	Weslaco
County:	Hidalgo	Zip:	78596

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 subsequent to 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: 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:

Aggravated Assault W/ Deadly Weapon

Offense 2:

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: Discharged firearm; Used vehicle as weapon

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

Attempt to Injure Others?: Unknown

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?:	No	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?:	No
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	No	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	Unknown	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 Sunday December 21, 2021 officers were dispatched to the area of 8th Street and James in reference to a verbal where the female complainant had reported that she had been followed to that location by a male. Later it was reported that the female had left location and that the male was armed with a rifle and threatened to shoot himself if officers arrived. The female reported that she was now driving to Panchitas Street. Officers responded to that area and located the parties at Rico Street and Tierra Santa Street (300 Block) by the front gate to the subdivision. The Officers exited their units drawing their weapons and noticed the male’s vehicle had struck the females vehicle. They then witnessed the male exit his vehicle with a rifle. The male subject identified as Azarel Gonzalez then shot himself. One of the Officers shot a rifle at the direction of the subject. The shots did not appear to strike any of the subject or any other personnel at location.

Azarel Gonzalez was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Department was called to location to conduct the criminal investigation.

The manner of death in the autopsy was ruled a suicide. The autopsy report did indicate that Mr. Gonzalez did sustain a small gunshot wound measuring less than a centimeter on the right posterior forearm. A fragment was found along the elbow.