KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	22-1276-UF	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	3/22/2023 11:54 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Amarillo Police Dept.	Agency Address:	200 SE 3rd Ave
Agency City:	Amarillo	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	79101		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Chief	Director First Name:	Martin
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Birkenfeld		
Reporter Name:	Cole Thurman	Reporter Email:	cole.thurman@amarillo.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: John

Middle Name: Todd

Last Name: Bigham

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 7/15/1969 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 53

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 7/17/2022 7:37 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 9/22/2022 8:41 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:

Undetermined range penetrating gunshot wounds of the left shoulder, chest and back

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?: 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?: 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:	3216 Hawthorne Dr.	City:	Amarillo
County:	Randall	Zip:	79109

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:

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: Scene of incident

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 With a Deadly Weapon- Against Public Servant

Offense 2:

Deadly Conduct-Discharge of Firearm

Offense 3:

Discharge of Firearm in Certain Municipalities

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: Displayed firearm without discharge; Discharged firearm

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?:	Unknown	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?:	Yes	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:	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 July 17th, 2022, Uniformed Officers were dispatched to the 3200 block of Hawthorne, Amarillo, Randall County, TX, on a subject discharging a firearm in a neighborhood. Numerous callers contacted 911 and reported a WM subject was shooting various weapons. Upon officers arrival, the decedent, ID as John Todd Bigham, fired upon officers as they sought cover behind their patrol cars. Two (2) Amarillo Police Officers in uniform returned fire using department authorized AR-15/M-4 rifles. Decedent Bigham was struck multiple times and was soon thereafter transported to NWTH in Amarillo, TX by ambulance where he succumbed to his wounds in the operating room at 0841 hours on July 17th, 2022. Bigham was found to have fired over twenty (20) rounds from various weapons prior to and during the incident. A nearby children's home was struck by suspect gunfire as well as the decedent's own residence being struck by his own gunfire. No other party including officers or citizens were injured during this incident.