KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	22-135-PF	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	10/4/2022 10:28 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Harrison County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	200 W. Houston Street
Agency City:	Marshall	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	75670		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Brandon
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Fletcher		
Reporter Name:	John Hain	Reporter Email:	johnh@co.harrison.tx.us

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Lonnetta

Middle Name: Neshae

Last Name: Johnson

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 11/12/1980

Sex: Female

Race: Black or African American

Age At Time Of Death: 41

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 12/30/2021 8:41 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 1/13/2022 10:10 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 are available

What was the manner of death? (select only one)

Manner of Death: Natural

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Cardiac arrhythmia due to hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease

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?:	Not applicable

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?:	Pre-existing medical condition

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?

Means of Death:	Not applicable, cause of death was illness/natural cause

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	811 South Washington Ave	City:	Marshall
County:	Harrison	Zip:	75670

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

Location Category: Other, specify

Other Location Category:

Medical Facility (Hospital)

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

Type of Custody: Private Facility

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Hospital/Infirmary

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?: 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:

Indecent Exposure

Offense 2:

Criminal Mischief

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: Crime Against Property

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):	No	Make suicidal statements?:	No
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Yes	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?:	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:	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:

Ms. Johnson began coming to the Harrison County Jail in May of 2011. The HCSO Jail staff became accustomed to handling and treating Lonnetta Johnson for her mental illness, as Johnson had been incarcerated 15 times. When Johnson was "off her medications", she would routinely remain undressed and attempt to show her female genitals to all the jail staff.

The most recent arrest of Ms. Johnson occurred on December 28, 2021, when the Marshall Police Department arrested her for Disorderly Conduct. Ms. Johnson was released on December 30, 2021, at 4:59 pm for time served. Shortly after being released, Marshall Police Department arrested her again on December 30, 2021, at 8:41 pm. She remained out of jail for three hours and forty minutes before being returned for Indecent Exposure and Criminal Mischief. When she arrived at the jail, she was undressed and had no personal belongings. She was booked into our jail management system based on information we had from the previous booking and her recent release from just hours before. Johnson has been known to be assaultive towards other inmates, and her behavior & language when not on her medications is combative & vulgar. Due to her behavior, she was immediately placed into the HCSO Main Jail Separation A, and a "Suicide Watch" began out of a precaution. Community Healthcore performed a mental health screening which resulted in her diagnosis being Psychosis with Homicidal Ideations, on January 2, 2022. The psychosis continued up to the day of her death on January 13, 2022.

On January 13, 2022, at 07:00 hours, Sergeant Haley Reed provided a brief synopsis of the events that

transpired during the shift, which included Ms. Johnson's condition to Sergeant Janna Vanwert. Sergeant Reed reported to Sergeant Vanwert that Ms. Johnson reported she had dizziness and muscle weakness and that she had fallen while retrieving her breakfast meal tray. When Sergeant Haley Reed arrived back for duty on January 13, 2022, at 19:00 hours, she asked Sergeant Vanwert how Ms. Johnson had been that day. Sergeant Vanwert advised that she had been quiet all day and that she had taken her medication without incident. Due to the information provided by Sergeant Vanwert, Sergeant Reed conducted a visual check on Ms. Johnson and observed her sitting in a hunched position with her legs spread facing her bunk, out of concern. According to Sergeant Reed, this behavior was "un-common for Johnson" with her experience from this arrest and previous. Sergeant Reed also observed what appeared to be urine on the floor. Sergeant Reed then asked jailer Stoker to come and observe her at this point. Jailer Stoker and Sergeant Reed both described Ms. Johnson as "zoned out," and this behavior was uncommon for Ms. Johnson.

At approximately 20:35 hours, Sergeant Reed and Jailer Stoker entered the cell in an effort to speak to her and get her off of the floor. When they reached for Ms. Johnson's shoulders to sit her upright, they immediately noticed her skin was cold to the touch, which did not cause
immediate concern as Ms. Johnson was sitting unclothed on a cold concrete floor and was incapable of supporting herself.

Marshall Fire Department EMS arrived at the jail at approximately 21:03 hours and observed her sitting on the floor, and attempted to speak with her. At this time, Sergeant Reed stated that Ms. Johnson's eyes were open and wandering, and she was breathing heavily and groaning. They then tried an ammonia inhalant and a sternum rub to provoke a response from Ms. Johnson, which it did not. Sergeant Reed then called Nurse Wayne Marcott and informed him of the situation, and he advised her to have her transported to the emergency room if she felt concerned. Sergeant Reed then decided to call for EMS and send her to the Emergency Room for medical clearance.

Once Marshall Fire EMS arrived they began examining Ms. Johnson as she was still looking around and began to moving her arms around as if reaching out. The EMS team physically rolled her onto a sheet, lifted her to the gurney, and secured her in place. While EMS prepared her for transport, Ms. Johnson was still moving her arms around, raising them above her head, and her eyes expanded more than before. The EMS team exited the jail at approximately 21:20 hours and arrived at the emergency room at approximately 21:22 hours. Jailer Foust, who was sent with the EMS team to the hospital, informed Sergeant Reed via text that Ms. Johnson's pulse had stopped at approximately 21:52 hours, thirty minutes after arriving at the emergency room. Jailer Foust stated that the hospital staff continued to work with Ms. Johnson, but after lifesaving efforts were exhausted, she was pronounced deceased at approximately 22:10 hours.