KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	22-1850-C	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	10/3/2024 11:52 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Victoria Police Dept.	Agency Address:	306 S. Bridge
Agency City:	Victoria	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	77901		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Chief	Director First Name:	Roberto
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Arredondo		
Reporter Name:	Charles Young	Reporter Email:	cyoung@victoriatx.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: John

Middle Name: Eric

Last Name: Seals

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 6/8/1982 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 39

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 3/4/2022 5:22 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 3/4/2022 5:22 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:

Pending but the preliminary is:

Self Inflicted gunshot wound to the chest

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

Medical Treatment: Not Applicable

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?: 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: 625 LCR 216
City: Hallettsville
County: Lavaca
Zip: 77964

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

Location Category: Other, specify

Other Location Category:

gravel field on the south side of a community center

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

Type of Custody: Police Custody (pre-booking)

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:

Murder

Offense 2:

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: 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

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):	Yes	Make suicidal statements?:	Unknown
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	N/A	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:	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 March 2, 2022, at approximately 11:25 p.m., Subject John Seals shot and killed Destinee Dawn Verno at 1204 Poplar Street Victoria Texas as reported on Victoria police report number 2022-001965. A murder warrant was secured for Seals' arrest for that murder offense. After the offense, Seals traveled by vehicle to a Lavaca county address, just outside of the city of Hallettsville, near where his mother lived. After a continuous search throughout the night for Seals, law enforcement officers located Seals the next morning shortly after 5:00 a.m., as Seals sat in his vehicle on the south side of the Shiloh Community Center. Law enforcement attempted to communicate with subject Seals as he sat in his pickup truck. As officers attempted to make contact with Seals, at 5:22 a.m., Seals shot himself in the chest with a handgun. The handgun used was the same caliber and type involved in the murder offense in Victoria Texas. After the shooting, first aid was administered with negative results. The Texas Rangers were contacted and assumed responsibility for the investigation.