KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	23-1519-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	3/26/2024 3:16 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Dallas County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	133 N. Riverfront Blvd.
Agency City:	Dallas	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	75207		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Marian
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Brown		
Reporter Name:	TERESA HERNANDEZ	Reporter Email:	tahernandez@dallascounty.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Spencer

Middle Name: Wayne

Last Name: Swearnger

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 9/16/1971

Sex: Male

Race: Black or African American

Age At Time Of Death: 52

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 8/2/2023 7:40 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 11/15/2023 4:43 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)

Could not be

Manner of Death:	determined

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Water intoxication and its sequelae.

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?:	Could not be determined

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:	5200 Harry Hines Blvd.	City:	Dallas
County:	Dallas	Zip:	75235

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

Location Category: Other, specify

Other Location Category:

Parkland Hospital

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

Type of Custody: County Jail

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:

Burglary of a Building

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: 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):	Unknown	Make suicidal statements?:	Yes
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Yes	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:	Yes, mark which restraint devices were used

Type of restraint

Type of Restraint:	Leg Shackles

Summary of Incident

Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

Summary:

On November 11th, 2023, Spencer Wayne Swearnger B/M 09-16-1971 (Decedent) was transported to Parkland Hospital for a medical condition.
On November 15th, 2023 the Decedent was pronounced deceased by Dr. Michael Ruben.

Dallas County Sheriff's Department
Detective J.M. Cox #435
Criminal Investigation Section

Office of the Medical Examiner
Cause of Death Report

An Autopsy was performed and the cause of death is: Water Intoxication and its Sequelae.
Conclusions:
Based on the case history and autopsy findings, it is our opinion that Spence Wayne Swearnger, a 52-year-old male, died as the result water intoxication and its sequelae. Compulsive water drinking, also known as psychogenic polydipsia, has a strong association with psychiatric illnesses, most commonly schizophrenia (with up to 18% of patients displaying polydipsic behavior). However, given the decedent's extensively documented issues with recurrent suicidal ideation as well as psychosis, it is unclear whether the decedent's excessive water drinking behavior was intentional. Therefore, the manner of death is best classified as Undetermined. Should additional clinical or investigative information become available, the manner of death may be amended. In addition, both gross and microscopic examination of the brain are pending Neuropathology consultation, and the findings may be incorporated into an amended report.
Manner of Death: Undetermined.

Fabiola Righi, D.O.
Pathologist
02-28-2024

Jessica B. Dwyer, M.D.
Chief Deputy Medical Examiner
02-29-2024

Jeffrey J. Barnard, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Examiner
03-01-2024