KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	23-1837-CJ	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	3/1/2023 9:40 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Smith County Sheriff's Office	Agency Address:	227 N. Spring Ave.
Agency City:	Tyler	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	75702		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Larry
Director Middle Name:	R		
Director Last Name:	Smith		
Reporter Name:	John Shoemaker	Reporter Email:	jshoemaker@smith-county.com

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Nathan

Middle Name: Lee

Last Name: Johns

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 10/15/1994 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 28

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 2/1/2023 4:37 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 2/9/2023 12:53 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 pending

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

Manner of Death: Suicide

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause 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?: Other Weapon,
specify:

Other weapon, specify:

extension cord

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: Hanging, strangulation

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	214 S. Spring St	City:	Tyler
County:	Smith	Zip:	75702

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

Location Category:	Law Enforcement Facility

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:
Jail - single cell

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:	2/1/2023 4:37 PM

Where did the death occur?

Death Location:	Law enforcement facility/booking center

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:

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF >=$2,500<$30K State Jail Felony

Offense 2:

EVADING ARREST DET W/VEH Third Degree Felony

Offense 3:

RESIST ARREST SEARCH OR TRANSPORT Class A Misdemeanor

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: 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?: Yes

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?:	Yes	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 the 9th day of February 2023 at approximately 1250 Officer Khasoh alerted a code blue to side cell 309 where inmate Nathan Johns was housed. According to Staff inmate Johns pulled the electrical plug from the inmate phone box. He then proceeded to tie the door of the cell to the bunk located in the cell where the cell door could not be opened. He then constructed some type of noose out of the electrical cord. He then proceeded to hang himself from the noose. A code blue was called at approximately 1250 and other staff responded. When staff attempted to open the door to the cell the key would not go in the lock. Officers attempted for several minutes and determined something was stuffed in the locking mechanism not allowing the key to insert fully. Maintenance was called to the door and attempted several different ways to open the door but, were also unsuccessful in their attempts. Maintenance was finally able to open the door by burning the trash stuffed in the lock causing the release of the key. Officers then made entry in the cell. Once inside the door Officers were able to cut Johns down. EMS performed CPR but, were not able to revive inmate Johns. Texas Ranger Baggett was notified of the incident and responded to the scene. Judge Johnson (JP5) pronounced Johns dead at 1253pm. Autopsy was ordered by Judge Johnson.