KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	25-1091-UF	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	1/8/2026 6:25 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Slaton Police Dept.	Agency Address:	175 N. 8th St.
Agency City:	Slaton	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	79364		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Chief	Director First Name:	Grady Ross
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Hester		
Reporter Name:	Grady Ross Hester	Reporter Email:	rhester@slaton.texas.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Alex

Middle Name:

Last Name: Melgar

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 9/19/2009 Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 16

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 12/31/2025 7:27 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 12/31/2025 7:27 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:

Gunshot to the head

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

Medical Treatment: No

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?: 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:	415 S. 7th Street	City:	Slaton, texas
County:	Lubbock	Zip:	79364

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:

N/A

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?: 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 Habitation - commit other Felony

Offense 2:

Aggravated Assault - Domestic Violence

Offense 3:

Unlawful Restraint

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 other weapon, specify:

Specify Weapon Displayed:

Long-bladed Knife

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Attempt to Injure Others?: Yes (select all that apply)

Ways Decedent Attempted To Injure Others:	Injured civilian(s) or other inmate(s)

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?:	No
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	No	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):	Yes	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	Yes	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:

Officers Jose Gonzalez and Beau Harper received a police radio call regarding checking the welfare of a female at 415 S.7th Street. The Lubbock County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) dispatcher could hear a female asking for help, heavy breathing, and some "fighting" in the background on the other end of the phone line.

The officers arrived at the scene. They checked to outside of the residence and walked up to the front porch. The bottom front storm door window was shattered and the front door was open. Officers entered the living room and identified themselves several times and their weapons were drawn for officer safety. Officer Harper stated, "police department. If you're in here make yourself known." They heard a female holler, "Help! Help!

from the rear area of the house. The officers were wearing distinctive Slaton Police Department winter uniforms and outer vests with clearly distinctive badges signifying their authority as peace officers with Slaton Police Department shoulder patches on their sleeves. A suspect, later identified as Alex Melgar, was seen standing just passed the doorway, in the hallway that separates the living room from the kitchen. Melgar's back was turned to the officers. He was ordered to turn around and show the officer his hands. Melgar turned around and deliberately started to walk toward the officers. He was seen clearly carrying a long-bladed knife in his right hand, just above waist level.

Melgar refused to obey commands given by the officers and continued to to deliberately walk toward the officers displaying the knife in a manner calculated to cause alarm and in a manner of it's intended use could cause serious bodily injury or death. Both officers were forced to defend themselves and they discharged their weapons. A total of four (4) rounds were fired. Melgar fell to the floor and rolled over on his back. The knife was laying on the floor near the right side of his body. Lifesaving measures were well beyond those skills of the officers because of the wounds to the suspect. The officer's attention was diverted to the second suspect who was seen in the rear of the house and who was refusing to obey commands given to him in English and in Spanish. Officers had to detain the second person and check on the condition of the woman who hollered for help. The LCSO Comm Center was advised that shots were fired and a subject was down.

The second suspect, later identified as Alex Martinez, was found in the kitchen laying on the floor. He was detained. Two women were located in the back of the kitchen as well.

University Medical Center Paramedics arrived at the scene. Melgar was pronounce deceased at the scene. Time of death was listed as 07:34 hours.

The Texas rangers have assumed responsibility for the investigation.

Supplement(s) to this report to follow.
1. On 03-23-2026, I, Company "C" Texas Ranger Nathaniel Washburn, received the toxicology and autopsy report for Alex Melgar-Matheu from the Lubbock County Medical Examiner's Office. See attached reports.
2. Forensic Pathologist Casey Bitting found the cause of death "Gunshot wounds" and the manner of death "Homicide".
3. NMS Labs conducted the toxicology testing.
a. Cannabinoids - Presumptive Positive.
b. Ethanol - 178 mg/dL.
c. Blood Alcohol Concentration – 0.178 g/100 mL.
d. Cocaine – 73 ng/mL.