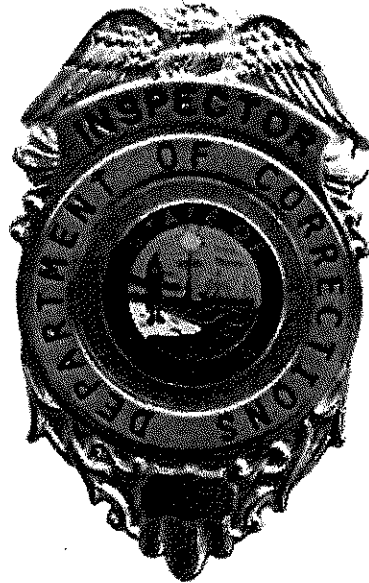


Florida Department of Corrections  
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"I, the undersigned, do hereby swear, under penalty of perjury, that, to the best of my personal knowledge, information, and belief, I have not knowingly or willfully deprived, or allowed another to deprive, the subject of the investigation of any of the rights contained in ss.112.532 and 112.533, Florida Statutes."

"Furthermore, under penalties of perjury, I declare I have read the attached report and the contents of the report are true and accurate based upon my personal knowledge, information, and belief."

Paul C. Smith  
Inspectors Signature

02/01/11  
Date



Florida Department of Corrections  
Office of the Inspector General  
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Inspector General Case #: 10-1-9911

Facility: Bay Correctional Facility (CCA)

Classification of Incident: [REDACTED]

Field Office/Region: Tallahassee West/1

Incident Date: 11/30/10

Time: 2:05 p.m.

Inspector: Cecil C. Smith

Date of Report: 02/01/11

Case Type: A

- Case of Special Interest
- Confidential Medical Information
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Number (if applicable)
- Department of Corrections presented to State Attorney  Declined  Accepted
- Use of Force (UOF) Number (if applicable)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
- Addendum
- Wing Video Camera(s) Present in the Area of Incident

**SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS:**

On November 24, 2010, Officer Raymond Davis reported while conducting rounds in disciplinary confinement, at approximately 2:03 p.m., he discovered Inmate Joey Mixon, in cell #A-109, (*housed alone*) hanging by a piece of cloth tied to the heater vent in his cell. Officer Toriano Peterson responded and the two officers entered the cell and relieved pressure on the inmate's neck until Officer Tara Bibbs arrived with the "cut-down" tool. The inmate was cut loose,

[REDACTED] pronounced Inmate Mixon deceased at 2:22 p.m.

The incident was reported through the emergency action center and Inspectors Cecil Smith, Debra Carter, Rodney Coffey, Jennifer Skipper, Chris Hubbard (*Bay C.F. Inspector*) and the Medical Examiner Investigator Whit Majors responded to the scene. The incident was reported through MINS and assigned as an investigative issue on November 30, 2010.

**SUMMARY OF DISPOSITION/JUSTIFICATION FOR DOWNGRADE/EXONERATION:**

As a result of this investigation, it is determined that Inmate Joey Mixon, DC# 099788 did [REDACTED] at the Bay Correctional Facility while housed in confinement cell #A-109, by use of a strip of cloth to fashion a noose, secured the other end to the heater vent in his cell [REDACTED]. This is based on the fixed-wing video footage, autopsy results, physical evidence and witness statements.

Additionally, there appears to be no administrative violations surrounding this incident. It is recommended the investigation be downgraded.



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	Name	Title / DC #	D.O.B.	Employee ID # or Non-Employee Contact Information
<b>Complainant:</b>	Spivey, Richard	Warden (Bay C.F.)	[REDACTED]	Private Contractor (CCA) 5400 Bayline Drive, Panama City, Fl 32404
<b>Victim:</b>	n/a			
<b>Witness(es):</b>	Davis, Raymond	Correctional Officer	[REDACTED]	Private Contractor (CCA)
	Peterson, Toriano	Correctional Officer	[REDACTED]	Private Contractor (CCA)
	Bibbs, Tara	Correctional Officer	[REDACTED]	Private Contractor (CCA)
	Spivey, Richard	Warden (Bay C.F.)	[REDACTED]	Private Contractor (CCA)
	Piccioni, Joseph	DC# L05084	07/09/67	
	Peck, Bradley	DC# P15298	07/20/82	
<b>Subject(s):</b>	Mixon, Joseph	DC# 099788	10/01/65	

Arrest:  Employee  Inmate  Other  Addendum Pending

**Charges:**

Felony  Misdemeanor Date of Arrest: n/a Date Reported: n/a

**Final Court Action(s):**

**Other Agency Case Number:** District Fourteen Medical Examiner # 2010-MLA-0390

**FINDINGS:**

In his digitally recorded interview, dated November 24, 2010, Officer Raymond Davis indicated the following:

He was conducting his rounds in confinement and observed through the window of cell #A-109, Inmate Mixon hanging from a noose, tied to the vent in his cell. He called for assistance and when Officer Peterson arrived, they entered the cell and took the pressure off the inmate's neck. Officer Bibbs entered and assisted in cutting the inmate down.

[REDACTED] There were no prior problems and no indication of trouble in Inmate Mixon's cell.

(Exhibit B1)



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In her digitally recorded interview, dated November 24, 2010, Officer Tara Bibbs indicated the following:

She heard a call over the radio that an inmate was hanging in confinement. She entered the confinement unit and heard Officers Peterson and Davis calling for the cut down tool. She recovered the tool and returned to assist. She attempted to cut the noose but due to the positioning of the officers and her short stature, she could not reach the sheet to cut it. Officer Davis took the tool and cut the strap. The inmate

[REDACTED]

Officer Peterson [REDACTED] She exited the area and proceeded to the front of the facility to escort [REDACTED] Upon arrival back to the confinement cell, [REDACTED] declared the inmate deceased. (Exhibit B2)

In his digitally recorded interview, dated November 24, 2010, Officer Toriano Peterson indicated the following:

He returned back inside confinement from exercising an inmate in the exercise pen outside the unit. Officer Davis began his rounds as he was still at the inmate's cell. He heard a call from Officer Davis stating he had an inmate hanging. He arrived at cell #A-109, entered the cell with Officer Davis and assisted in holding up the inmate to relieve pressure. When the cutting tool arrived, she (Officer Bibbs) had a problem in reaching the sheet. He grabbed the tool, cut the sheet and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There were no prior indications of problems with Inmate Mixon. (Exhibit B3)

In her digitally recorded interview, dated November 24, 2010, [REDACTED] indicated the following:

[REDACTED]

(Exhibit B4)

In her digitally recorded interview, dated November 24, 2010, Officer Katina Biggs indicated the following:

She heard a radio call for assistance in confinement. Officer Davis called out in reference to an inmate was hanging in cell #109 and needed a cutting tool. She recovered the tool [REDACTED] and handed it to Officer Bibbs. She remained in the control room. (Exhibit B5)

In her digitally recorded interview, dated November 24, 2010, Officer Frieda Baker indicated the following:

She responded to the confinement area. She observed [REDACTED] She provided security for the unit and departed after lock-down procedures were initiated and returned to her duties. (Exhibit B6)



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In his digitally recorded interview dated November 24, 2010, Warden Richard Spivey indicated the following:

On his way home he received a telephone call from the facility that a man (*inmate*) was down in confinement. He returned to the facility [REDACTED]. He entered confinement with a Bay County Sheriff's Deputy who had arrived on the scene. The Sheriff's Deputy discovered several letters on the bunk, positioned so they would be discovered. There was [REDACTED] along with a letter the inmate had received from his girlfriend. The verbiage in the letter indicated she [REDACTED]. The Sheriff's Deputy indicated if this was a state inmate the Inspector General's Office would handle the investigation. He escorted the Deputy out and maintained control of the letters until handing them over to Inspector Hubbard. (Exhibit B7)

Two handwritten letters were recovered by Warden Richard Spivey, discovered on the top bunk in cell A-109, housing Inmate Joey Mixon DC# 099788.

The first envelope contained a handwritten letter, written on three-hole notebook paper, which had written instruction on the outside to "Chief Hollon." Inside the envelope was a letter from [REDACTED]

The second envelope is addressed to Laura Mixon, [REDACTED] from Joey Mixon. [REDACTED] On the reverse, a note stated "[REDACTED]" signed "Love Joey." (Exhibits A1 & A2)

In his digitally recorded interview, dated November 24, 2010, by Inspector Jennifer Skipper, Inmate Joseph Piccioni DC# L05084 indicated the following:

He was housed cell #A-110. He did recreation with Inmate Mixon, earlier that day. Inmate Mixon talked about problems [REDACTED]. He talked to Inmate Mixon for a while and he stated [REDACTED]. Inmate Mixon stated he didn't eat much that morning, only juice and milk. He talked about a phone call he had approved to call his girlfriend. [REDACTED] (Exhibit B8)

Inmates Thomas Larson DC# B05355, cell #107 and Charles Chaney DC# Q01163, cell #104 were digitally interviewed by Inspector Skipper and had no information of importance to the case. (Exhibits B9 & B10)



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In an affidavit, recovered by Senior Inspector Debra Carter, dated November 24, 2010, Inmate Bradley Beck, DC# P15298 indicated the following:

He had been in confinement for nine days. He knew the inmate cell #109, named Mixon, as "Jewie". "Jewie" told him he had received some bad news from his family. He didn't talk about it much and did not go into details. On this date (11/24) he did not hear much from the inmate. (Exhibit A3)

A Bay Correctional Facility Confinement A-Segregation housing log indicated a "Watch Tour" was conducted [REDACTED] At 2:05 p.m., it was noted that an inmate is "hanging" and assistance is requested.

Inmate MIXON is pronounced deceased at 2:20 p.m.

(Exhibit A4)

A Daily Record of Segregation dated November 24, 2010, completed on Inmate Joseph Mixon, DC# 099788, indicated that he received recreation at 7:54 am and his noon meal was served at 10:26 am. The notation on both incidents indicated [REDACTED] (Exhibit A5)

The fixed-wing camera footage, Bay Correctional Facility, dated November 24, 2010, for A-dormitory, confinement, Channel [REDACTED] 13:00 hours through 15:00 hours, was recovered and indicated the following:

Video footage confirmed the A-dormitory count at 13:01:00 (video time). At [REDACTED] an officer made a check of Inmate Mixon's cell. The inmate is last seen moving in front of his cell door window at 13:40:19. At 14:03:12, an inmate is being escorted back to his cell on the second floor by Officers Peterson and Davis. At 14:04:47, Officer Davis began his rounds on the second floor as Officer Peterson remained at the second floor cell. At 14:05:49, Officer Davis discovered Inmate Mixon hanging. At 14:06:56 Officer Davis and Peterson entered the cell. At 14:07:00, Officer Bibbs entered the confinement unit and proceeded out of the dormitory. She returned at 14:07:42 and entered the cell.

[REDACTED] At 14:22:58, staff exited the cell and the door to the cell is closed. (Exhibit B11)

A review of Inmate Joseph Mixon's [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He was sentenced to the Department of Corrections for Grand Theft and Criminal Mischief in May of 2009.

On November 27, 2010, an autopsy was conducted by Doctor Michael D. Hunter of the District Fourteen Medical Examiner's Office in Panama City, Florida. Inspector Rodney Coffey attended the autopsy. The preliminary findings indicated death was caused [REDACTED] No indications of foul play were noted.



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In a Case Summary dated January 17, 2011, by Forensic Investigator Whit Majors, District Fourteen Medical Examiner's Office, Investigator Majors indicated the following:

On November 24, 2010, at 3:20 p.m., he was contacted by Senior Inspector Debbie Carter, Department of Corrections, Inspector General's Office, in reference to a hanging at Bay Correctional Facility. He was informed that at 2:05 p.m., the victim, Joseph Mixon, was found hanging from a white fabric ligature from a ventilation duct in his cell.

Upon his arrival to the scene he discovered the body lying inside cell #A-109. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Jurisdiction was accepted and the body transported to the District Fourteen Medical Examiner's Office, by Southern Star Mortuary Service. Multiple digital photographs of the body and scene were taken. The autopsy was performed on November 27, 2010. (Exhibits A6 & B12)

On January 20, 2011, a final autopsy [REDACTED] were received from the medical examiner's office. The autopsy report was dated November 27, 2010 and [REDACTED]. The summary of the autopsy findings indicated the cause of death: "Suicide." The [REDACTED]. Multiple photographs of the autopsy were taken. (Exhibits A7, A8 & B13)



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*Cecil C. Smith*

Cecil C. Smith Senior Inspector

02/01/11

Date

Regional Supervisor / Debbie Carter Arrant  
 Lead Inspector

02/08/11

Date

Lead Supervisor

Date

Interim Deputy Inspector General / Deputy Inspector General  
 Chief of Investigations Chief of Special Operations

Date

Interim Inspector General

Date





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**EXHIBIT/ATTACHMENTS SECTION**

**A. EXHIBIT(s) - attached:**

1. A envelope addressed to Chief Hollon containing a letter from Laura
2. A envelope addressed to Laura Mixon from Inmate Joey Mixon [REDACTED]
3. An affidavit completed by Inmate Beck dated 11/24/10
4. A Confinement A-Segregation Housing log dated 11/24/10
5. A Daily Record of Special Housing for Inmate Mixon dated 11/21/10 ~ 11/24/10
6. A Case Summary by Forensic Investigator Whit Majors dated 01/17/11
7. An Autopsy Report from the 14<sup>th</sup> Circuit Medical Examiner's Office dated 11/27/10
8. [REDACTED] from the 14<sup>th</sup> Circuit Medical Examiner's Office dated 12/29/10

**B. EXHIBIT(s) - not attached:**

1. A CD recording of an interview with Officer Raymond Davis dated 11/24/10
2. A CD recording of an interview with Officer Bibbs dated 11/24/10
3. A CD recording of an interview with Officer Peterson dated 11/24/10
4. A CD recording of an interview with Officer Shirley Davis dated 11/24/10
5. A CD recording of an interview with Officer Biggs dated 11/24/10
6. A CD recording of an interview with Officer Baker dated 11/24/10
7. A CD recording of an interview with Warden Spivey dated 11/24/10
8. A CD recording of an interview with Inmate Piccioni dated 11/24/10
9. A CD recording of an interview with Inmate Larson dated 11/24/10
10. A CD recording of an interview with Inmate Chaney dated 11/24/10
11. Fixed-wing camera footage, dated 11/24/10, for confinement, 13:00 through 15:00 hours
12. A CD of photographs of the body and crime scene taken by Investigator Majors dated 11/24/10
13. A CD of photographs of the autopsy conducted by Doctor Hunter dated 11/27/10