Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST CASE # 14-14635



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST SUMMARY REPORT



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Case Number: 14-14635

OIG Inspector: Inspector Richard Perkinson

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Alphonso Williams

Date Assigned or Initiated: 11-12-2014

Complaint Against: N/A

Location of Incident - Institution/Facility/Office: Lake Correctional Institution

Complainant: Captain Jeffery Johnson

Outside Agency Case #: OR-37-0018 Use of Force Number: N/A PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Death Investigation

Confidential Medical Information Included: X Yes No

Whistle-Blower Investigation: Yes X No

Chief Inspector General Case Number: N/A



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I. AUTHORITY

The Florida Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General, by designation of the Secretary and § 944.31, Florida Statutes, is authorized to conduct any criminal investigation that occurs on property owned or leased by the department or involves matters over which the department has jurisdiction.

The testimony references included in this report are summations of oral or written statements provided to inspectors. Statements contained herein do not necessarily represent complete or certified transcribed testimony, except as noted. Unless specifically indicated otherwise, all interviews with witnesses, complainants, and subjects were audio or video recorded.

II. METHODOLOGY

The investigation reviewed the derivations of the allegation advanced by the complainant. The scope of this investigation does not seek to specifically address tort(s), but violations of criminal statutes. The criterion used to evaluate each contention or allegation was limited to the following standard of analysis:

1. Did the subject's action or behavior violate Florida criminal statutes?

III. ANALYSIS

The standard and analysis in this investigation is predicated with the burden of proving any violation of law, established by probable cause. The evidence considered for analysis is confined to the facts and allegations stated or reasonably implied. The actions or behavior of the subject are presumed to be lawful and in compliance with the applicable Florida law, unless probable cause indicates the contrary.



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IV. DEFINITIONS

Unfounded:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause does not exist to suggest the suspect's behavior or action occurred nor is an arrest or formal charge being initiated.

Closed by Arrest:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified subject committed the offense and one for which an arrest or formal prosecution has been initiated.

Exceptionally Cleared:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified suspect committed the offense, but one for which an arrest or formal charge is not initiated, or in the case of a death investigation, one for which no evidence exists that the death was the result of a crime or neglect.

Open-Inactive:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which a criminal investigation commenced, but where evidence is insufficient to close as unfounded, closed by arrest, or exceptionally cleared.

Investigative Assist Closed

Refers to a disposition of an investigative assist, where the conduct being investigated by the outside agency did not concern allegations against a Department employee, contractor, inmate, offender, or other person either employed or under the supervision of the Department.



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V. PREDICATE

On November 09, 2014, at approximately 8:24am, Inspector Richard Perkinson was contacted by Inspector Supervisor Katouree Jackson and directed to respond to Lake Correctional Institution along with Agents from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to assist in a suicide investigation. Allegedly Inmate Mark Calamari (DC#107448) hung himself from a shower pipe in A-Dorm on November 09, 2014. Upon initial review of the information, the Office of the Inspector General assigned an Investigation Assist to Inspector Richard Perkinson on November 12, 2014.

VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Based on the exhibits, witnesses' testimony, subject officer's statements, and the record as a whole, presented or available to the primary inspector, the following findings of facts were determined:

On November 09, 2014, at approximately 9:15 AM, Inspector Supervisor Katouree Jackson advised me, Inspector Richard Perkinson, of an inmate suicide at Lake Correctional Intuition. Jackson also notified FDLE. At approximately 10:00 AM, I arrived at Lake CI and proceeded to A-Dorm. At approximately 10:37 AM, Lake County Evidence Tech. Ron Sherley entered institution en route to A-Dorm. At approximately 11:04 AM, FDLE Agent Alphonso Williams arrived at Lake CI. At approximately 11:05 AM, we arrive at A-Dorm and observe Inmate Comenzo lying on the shower floor covered with a blue sheet. At approximately 11:19 AM, FDLE Agent Steve Brenton arrived at Lake CI. At approximately 11:28 AM, Lake County Evidence Tech. R. Sherley began collecting evidence. At approximately 12:20 PM, Medical Examiner Transport Specialist Jim Hopkins and Forensic Investigator Krystal Locklear arrived and began processing the deceased. At approximately 12:32 PM, FDLE Agent Williams's interviews Inmate Desmond Holt, Noah Box, David Smith, Billy Bostick and Mark Shores. At approximately 12:35 PM, FDLE Agent Steve Brenton

Officers Jamar Williams and Sergeant Strong and Captain Jeffery Johnson. At approximately 1:13 PM, Medical Examiner Transport Specialist Jim Hopkins and Forensic Investigator Krystal Locklear departed with the deceased. At approximately 1:14 PM, Lake County Evidence Tech. R. Sherley exits Lake CI. At approximately 1:15 PM, FDLE Agent Williams and I depart Lake CI. At approximately 1:36 PM, FDLE Agent Brenton departs Lake CI.

A synopsis of the case is as follows:

On November 09, 2014, at approximately 8:24 AM, Sergeant Lawrence Tinkey initiated Incident Command System due to Officer Jamar Williams reported finding Inmate Mark Comenzo DC#107448 hanging from a shower pipe in A–Dorm. Sergeant Brandon Strong and Captain Jeffery Johnson responded to A-Dorm Shower. Strong assisted in lifting Inmate Comenzo while Tinkey untied a bed sheet tied to his neck. At 8:30 AM, Captain Johnson notified the control room to call, 911. Sergeant Maxie Harris called 911. At 8:36AM

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A-Dorm. Comenzo was pronounced deceased

at approximately 9:55AM.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Inmate Comenzo hung himself utilizing a bed sheet tied around a shower pipe and around his neck. During count Inmate Comenzo went into the shower. It was learned that he was trying to have a relationship with an unknown inmate in C-Dorm. When the unknown inmate refused Comenzo asked questions about count time. There was not any evidence collected or discovered to suggest this was not a suicide.

This Inspector, along with Agent Williams received the housing logs for A-Dorm from Captain Jeffery Johnson.

On April 15, 2015, I received the final case report (FDLE Case #OR-37-0018) for Inmate Mark E. Comenzo prepared by FDLE Special Agent Alphonso Williams. Agent Williams closed his case listing Inmate Comenzo's death as a suicide. Agent Williams based his conclusion from the finding of the Medical Examiner's Office. The Medical Examiner's Office determined that Inmate Comenzo

VII. CHARGES List alleged violations of Florida Law:

N/A

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the Florida Department of Law Enforcements investigative findings that Inmate Mark E. Comenzo's death was suicide, this investigative assist is closed.

1. Exceptionally Cleared

I reviewed the investigation completed by FDLE, and there were no administrative issues identified.