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Florida Department of Corrections
Office of the Inspector General
Report of Investigation
Gene Hatcher, Inspector General

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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

FEB 08 2011

BUREAU OF
STATE INVESTIGATIONS



Inspector General Case #: 10-3-4984

Facility: Tomoka C.I. [REDACTED]

Classification of Incident: [REDACTED]

Field Office/Region: Orlando / Reg. III - East

Incident Date: 08/31/2010

Time: 8:12 PM

Inspector: John Joiner

Date of Report: 01/26/2011

Case Type: A

Check all that apply:

- 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 August 31, 2010, at approximately 8:12 PM, Inmate Watson was discovered by Sergeant Myers in his assigned cell (E3-201) hanging. Inmate Watson [REDACTED] died on September 8, 2010, [REDACTED]

This incident was reported via MINS on August 31, 2010, and assigned for investigation on September 1, 2010. The related death of Inmate Watson on September 8, 2010 was also properly reported and investigated in this Report.

SUMMARY OF DISPOSITION/JUSTIFICATION FOR DOWNGRADE/EXONERATION:

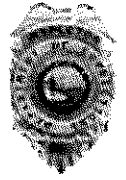
As a result of this investigation, it is determined that Staff responding to Inmate Watson's [REDACTED] acted within the Policies and Procedures established by the Department of Corrections. No Administrative Violations were noted concerning Departmental Staff's response and actions surrounding this incident.

The results of an Autopsy Performed by the Volusia County Medical Examiner's Office indicated that Inmate Watson's cause of death [REDACTED]

 ORIGINAL



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	Name	Title / DC #	D.O.B.	Employee ID # or Non-Employee Contact Information
Complainant:	Myers, James	CO Sergeant	[REDACTED]	37207
Witness(es):	Davis, Andrew	Correctional Officer	[REDACTED]	56748
	Soto, Jesse	Correctional Officer	[REDACTED]	59742
	Sedges, Rudolph	Inmate DC # E31792	02/21/1967	
	Ehrmann, Jorin	Inmate DC # 099142	09/17/1966	
	Almeida, David	Inmate DC # L07511	02/19/1974	
	Williams, Rontavious	Inmate DC # H20178	12/07/1980	
	Baldwin, Charles	Inmate DC # V31665	08/06/1978	
Subject(s):	Watson, Brian	Inmate DC #533327	10/01/1971	

Arrest: Employee Inmate Other Addendum Pending

Charges:

Felony Misdemeanor Date of Arrest: Date Reported:

Final Court Action(s): N/A

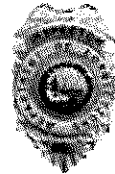
Other Agency Case Number: N/A

FINDINGS:

On August 31, 2010, Sergeant Myers (*E-Dormitory Confinement Supervisor*) reported that at approximately 8:12 PM, while conducting a safety and security check of Wing # 3, second floor, he observed a bed sheet tied to the cell door window screen of cell (E3-201). Sergeant Myers conducted an immediate inspection of the cell and observed Inmate Watson (*who was housed alone*) sitting on the floor with his back to the door. Sergeant Myers opened the food tray flap and discovered that Inmate Watson had the sheet around his neck and [REDACTED]. Sergeant Myers used his two-way communication and called for assistance to Officers Davis and Soto. He indicated that he untied the loose knot. Inmate Watson [REDACTED] and Sergeant Myers [REDACTED]. He determined that Inmate Watson [REDACTED]. Sergeant Myers sent Officer Soto to retrieve the dormitory's [REDACTED].



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[REDACTED] Sergeant Myers indicated at approximately 8:13 PM, [REDACTED] was in E-Dormitory [REDACTED]. The Institutional [REDACTED] was activated with additional security [REDACTED] responded to E-Dormitory and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Inmate Watson was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The cell was secured and photo's taken by Shift Supervisor Captain Romo.

(Exhibit A1)

On August 31, 2010, at approximately 9:45PM, On-Call Inspector Supervisor Harrison advised Senior Inspector Joiner of an EAC notification concerning [REDACTED] at Tomoka C.I. [REDACTED]. Inspector Joiner contacted Shift Captain Romo, he advised that Inmate Watson was discovered in his assigned cell E3-201 at approximately 8:12 PM, during a [REDACTED] minute Confinement Check and [REDACTED] with a sheet tied around his neck (*Inmate Watson was housed alone as [REDACTED] Status*). Sergeant Myers notified [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Inmate Watson was reported to be [REDACTED]

Inspector Joiner contacted Officer Ponder (*Transport Officer*) [REDACTED]

A review of the fixed wing video for wing 3, second floor E-Dormitory captured Sergeant Myers' response and actions and the responses of other personnel associated with this incident. During the course of this review safety and security checks conducted by security staff on a minimum of [REDACTED] was viewed as security checks being completed within the appropriate time frames. The following is an account of times and actions during the review of the fixed wing video. At 7:18 PM - Sergeant Myers is observed at Inmate Watson's cell door and retrieves a pair of shower slides from down the wing and brings them to Inmate Watson's cell accompanied by Officer Delong. At 7:39 PM - Inmate Watson can be seen at his cell door. At 7:45:31 - Officer Soto enters wing 3, second floor for an inmate count. At 7:46:05 - Officer Davis also enters wing 3 for count. At 7:46:36 - Both officers exit wing 3 and camera view. At 7:47:03 - what appears to be a sheet is observed being feed through the cell door window screen of cell (*E3-201*) from the inside of the cell housing only Inmate Watson. At 8:12:15 - Sergeant Myers is observed entering wing 3 and immediately responds to cell (*E3-201*). At 8:12:21 - Sergeant Myers is observed using his radio to call for assistance. At 8:12:30 - Sergeant Myers opens the food flap and reaches into the cell. At 8:12:49 - Sergeant Myers radio's for door to open and opens the cell door. At 8:12:51 - Officer Davis arrives and Sergeant Myers reaches into the cell and begins to pull Inmate Watson into the hallway of wing 3. At 8:13:06 - Inmate Watson [REDACTED] of wing 3 in view of the fixed wing camera system. At 8:13:38 - Sergeant Myers retrieves [REDACTED] At



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[REDACTED] Officers Soto and Davis are present. [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] It should be
 noted that this fixed wing video does not [REDACTED]

(Exhibit B1)

On September 1, 2010 a search of cell (E3-201) was conducted by Senior Inspectors Glover and Joiner with [REDACTED]. Digital photos were taken of the cell and all personal items in the cell including the sheet used during this incident were recovered as evidence. Personal letters were removed for further review. This further review did not indicate any type of [REDACTED] that were of planning for his release and of future events. The letters did indicate statements concerning [REDACTED]

A review of documentation associated with this investigation indicated that prior to Inmate Watson being discovered. Inmate Watson and his roommate, Inmate Baldwin, were removed from Cell (E3-210) and placed in a holding area of E-Dormitory while their assigned cell was searched for contraband. It was noted that contraband was discovered and removed from cell (E3-201). Inmate Watson was returned to cell (E3-201) and Inmate Baldwin was moved to another cell (E3-208) on wing 3, second floor of E-Dormitory. Documentation also indicated that Inmate Watson was being held in Administrative Confinement pending a review [REDACTED] in I.G. Case # 10-3-4715.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On September 9, 2010, Senior Inspector Joiner attended the Autopsy of Inmate Watson at the Volusia County Medical Examiner's Office. During the course of the Autopsy the Medical Examiner verbalized that the cause of death was [REDACTED]. On January 24, 2011, a copy of the Autopsy Report was received from the Volusia County Medical Examiner's Office indicating the cause of death was [REDACTED]

(Exhibit A2)

A review [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]



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During the course of this investigation, sworn recorded interviews of Sergeant Myers, Officers Soto and Davis were conducted. All staff denied that Inmate Watson [REDACTED]. They also stated that he did not [REDACTED].

(Exhibits B2, B3 & B4)

Several inmates who were identified as being housed near Inmate Watson's cell (E3-201) at the time of this incident were interviewed. In their sworn recorded statements Inmates Sedges, Ehrmann, Williams and Almeida all denied any knowledge or hearing any statements made by Inmate Watson [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] These inmates indicated that, the security staff acted appropriately and that Sergeant Myers [REDACTED] acted in a professional manner. Inmates Sedges, Ehrmann and Williams indicated that the person Inmate Watson talked to on the wing was Inmate Almeida. Inmate Almeida acknowledged this as well and repeated that at no time did Inmate Watson give any indication [REDACTED].

Inmate Almeida also indicated that Inmate Watson and his roommate, (Inmate Baldwin) were not getting along earlier that day on August 31, 2010. The testimony from these inmates is in conflict with allegations made by Inmate Baldwin. Inmate Baldwin made several allegations that Inmate Watson [REDACTED]

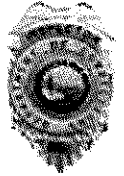
[REDACTED] had already made a noose out of his state bed sheet earlier in the day of August 31, 2010. He alleged that staff ignored Inmate Watson's [REDACTED] and antagonized Inmate Watson. He alleged that security staff cut and removed the sheet (used by Inmate Watson) from the door and that an inmate security runner took it away. These allegations are inconsistent with the fixed wing video, physical evidence and statements made by all other inmates and staff. When Inmate Baldwin was challenged concerning the validity of his allegations he consistently changed his allegations and his descriptions of the alleged scenarios that he alleged occurred.

(Exhibits B5, B6, B7, B8 & B9)

During the course of this investigation [REDACTED]



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John Joiner

John Joiner Senior Inspector

01-26-11

Date

[Signature] *[Signature]*
 Regional Supervisor / Lead Inspector

01/26/2011
 Date

Kathleen Howell

Lead Supervisor

1/27/11

Date

[Signature]
~~INTEREST~~ Deputy Inspector General / Deputy Inspector General
 Chief of Investigations Chief of Special Operations

2/3/11
 Date

[Signature]
 Inspector General

2/3/11
 Date



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EXHIBIT/ATTACHMENTS SECTION

A. EXHIBIT(s) - attached:

1. Incident Report (*Myers*)
2. Autopsy Report

B. EXHIBIT(s) - not attached:

1. Fixed Wing Video – Wing #3, Second Floor, E-Dorm (*August 31, 2010*)
2. Sworn Recorded Interview, (*Myers*)
3. Sworn Recorded Interview, (*Soto*)
4. Sworn Recorded Interview, (*Davis*)
5. Sworn Recorded Interview, (*Sedges*)
6. Sworn Recorded Interview, (*Ehrmann*)
7. Sworn Recorded Interview, (*Williams*)
8. Sworn Recorded Interview, (*Almeida*)
9. Sworn Recorded Interview, (*Baldwin*)