

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 18-05988**



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST SUMMARY REPORT



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Case Number: 18-05988

OIG Inspector: Inspector Tracy Burge

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Travis Lawson

Date Assigned or Initiated: March 29, 2018

Complaint Against: N/A

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: Gulf Correctional Institution - Annex

Deceased inmate: Inmate Frederick West DC# 719101

Outside Agency Case #: PE-73-0129

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Inmate Death

Confidential Medical Information Included: Yes No

Whistle-Blower Investigation: Yes 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 March 29, 2018, the Department of Corrections Office of the Inspector General (OIG) received notification Inmate Fredrick West DC# 719101, had been pronounced deceased inside his cell at Gulf Correctional Institution [REDACTED] on his bunk. Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) notification was made, and Inspector Tracy Burge responded to Gulf C.I. Annex, and provided investigative assistance to FDLE Special Agents Travis Lawson and Dyana Chase for FDLE Case # PE-73-0129.

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:

Upon arrival to Gulf Correctional Institution Annex, Inspector Burge obtained logs and facilitated interviews for FDLE Special Agents Lawson and Chase. Inspector Burge took photographs of Inmate West [REDACTED]. Inspector Burge took photographs of Inmate West's cell area.

Upon the arrival of the District Fourteen Medical Examiner's Staff Whit Majors, to Gulf Correctional Institution Annex, Majors took possession of Inmate West's body, and departed Gulf C.I. Annex. [REDACTED] for Inmate West were forwarded to District 14 Medical Examiner's office.

There were no video/audio recording devices inside Inmate West's cell; however, the original fixed wing video was provided to FDLE Special Agent Lawson and a copy placed in the temporary storage locker.

The [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Inmate West's specimens.

The autopsy conducted by District Fourteen Medical Examiner Dr. Jay M. Radtke, revealed Inmate West's Manner of Death was an Accident and the Cause of death [REDACTED]

FDLE's Final Report for FDLE case # PE-37-0129, submitted by FDLE Special Agent Lawson noted Inmate West was alone in his cell when he was [REDACTED]. Life saving measures were taken but Inmate West was subsequently pronounced deceased.

Special Agent Lawson reviewed a copy of Inmate West's autopsy report and toxicology reports from the District Fourteen Medical Examiner's Office and noted the cause of death was [REDACTED] and the Manner of Death was an Accident.

FDLE did not complete a case summary report due to this case not being presented to the State Attorney's office for consideration of criminal prosecution and the Autopsy Report and the Toxicology was maintained by FDLE. FDLE did not retain any evidence in this case.



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No violation of Florida Administrative Code or Florida Department of Correction policy was determined during this investigation.

VII. CHARGES

There were no charges. Doctor Radtke ruled Inmate West's death was an Accident.

VIII. CONCLUSION

- **Exceptionally Cleared**