

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Case # 15-4154



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
CASE SUMMARY REPORT



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CASE SUMMARY REPORT



Case Number: 15-4154

Inspector: Senior Inspector E. J. Whatley

Date Assigned or Initiated: 03-18-2015

Complaint Against: N/A

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: [REDACTED]

Complainant: Sergeant Teresa Burgess

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

Equal Employment Opportunity 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 a preponderance of the evidence exists to suggest the suspect's alleged behavior or action did not occur.

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.



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V. PREDICATE

Sergeant Teresa Burgess reported Inmate Joe Jones #786919, was pronounced deceased due to [REDACTED] causes by [REDACTED] Stella Rodriguez-Barrios on March 14, 2015, while [REDACTED] in J-Dormitory, at [REDACTED] MINS (*Management Information Notes System*) #608609 was entered and a Criminal Investigation was assigned to Senior Inspector E. J. Whatley on March 18, 2015.

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 March 14, 2015, I (*Senior Inspector E. J. Whatley*) was dispatched to [REDACTED] in Lake Butler, Florida, in reference to the reported natural death of Inmate Joe Jones DC# 786919. Upon arrival I proceeded to bed 4109 in J-Dormitory at [REDACTED] Present by Inmate Jones' bed was Sergeant James Cox who initiated a Crime Scene Log. I photographed Inmate Jones and observed that his body was partially covered with a sheet and wearing a hospital gown. There were [REDACTED] Inmate Jones was pronounced deceased by [REDACTED] Stella Rodriguez-Barrios [REDACTED] at 8:50 a.m. on March 14, 2015. At approximately 11:08 a.m., I advised Sergeant Cox and [REDACTED] the body could be released to the Gainesville Medical Examiner's Office.

Information contained in the autopsy report submitted by Dr. William Hamilton, Chief Medical Examiner at the Gainesville Medical Examiner's Office revealed the probable cause of death for Inmate Jones [REDACTED] [REDACTED] A contributing factor in the death was [REDACTED] The manner of death is classified as an accident. The examination revealed no signs of foul play.

Jones was involved in an automobile crash on October 03, 2005 [REDACTED] Jones who was operating the vehicle was charged with Driving While License Suspended or Revoked and DUI Manslaughter. His wife Sarah Jones, a passenger in the vehicle expired as a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and listed as the victim of the crime. Jones was received by the Florida Department of Corrections on March 14, 2007 and not in the custody at the time the crash occurred. A search concluded Jones is not a victim or suspect of any other crimes.

VII. CHARGES

N/A



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VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during this investigation, it is the recommendation of Senior Inspector E. J. Whatley the investigation is termed as follows:

1. Exceptionally Cleared

No administrative issues were identified.