



Florida Department of Corrections
 Office of the Inspector General
 Report of Investigation
 Jeffery T. Beasley, Inspector General



Inspector General Case #: 12-2-5876

Facility: Reception and Medical Center

Classification of Incident: 15B [REDACTED]

Field Office/Region: GFO East / 2

Incident Date: 05/27/2012

Time: 2:33AM

Inspector: Joseph Hamner

Date of Report: 10/24/2012

Case Type: C

- Case of Special Interest
- Confidential [REDACTED]
- 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:

At approximately 2:33AM on May 27, 2012, Inmate Dercy Long was found hanging in cell K1104 at the Reception and Medical Center (RMC). [REDACTED] however, Inmate Long was declared deceased shortly thereafter. On-call Inspector Joseph Hamner was notified of the death and responded to the institution. This information was entered into MINS on May 27, 2012 and was officially assigned for investigation to Inspector Hamner on May 29, 2012.

SUMMARY OF DISPOSITION/JUSTIFICATION FOR DOWNGRADE/EXONERATION:

As a result of this investigation, it is determined that Inmate Dercy Long [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No evidence of foul play was discovered during the course of this investigation. Doctor Carolyn Hopkins performed an autopsy of Inmate Long's body and determined the manner of death as suicide with the cause of death [REDACTED]

This investigation concerning the death of Inmate Dercy Long is CLOSED.

RECEIVED
 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
 OCT 26 2012
 BUREAU OF
 STATE INVESTIGATIONS



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	Name	Title / DC #	D.O.B.	Employee ID # or Non-Employee Contact Information
Complainant:	Jerry Wilkison	Correctional officer	06/09/19[REDACTED]	64553
Victim:				
Witness(es):	Targon Ridley	DC# 297796	08/02/1972	
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Unknown	[REDACTED]
	Winfred Warren	Captain	05/23/19[REDACTED]	22380
	Andrew Parrish	Correctional Officer	02/14/19[REDACTED]	61699
	Lieutenant Adams	Correctional Officer	07/21/19[REDACTED]	47253
	Richard Knight	Sergeant	09/24/19[REDACTED]	11704
	David Harley	DC# 085554	11/02/1952	
	Kurtiz Mercy	DC# V31636	02/02/1986	
	David Freeman	DC# C06635	01/09/1975	
	Jeremiah Goode	DC# V40883	11/21/1983	
	Macio McQuay	DC# I11308	07/07/1993	
	Gilberto Tagle	DC# W36456		
Subject(s):	Dercy Long	DC# J30530	02/23/1983	

Arrest: Employee Inmate Other Addendum Pending

Charges:

Felony Misdemeanor Date of Arrest: Date Reported:

Other Agency Case Number:

FINDINGS:

At approximately 4:17AM on May 26, 2012, Inspector Hamner received notification of the death of Inmate Dercy Long from on-call Inspector Supervisor M. Henderson. Henderson advised Hamner that the death was being reported [REDACTED] however, the decedent (Long) had a cellmate in the cell with him at the time of his death. Senior Inspector Joseph Hamner, as well as Inspectors Jonathan Boone and Peter Lindboe, responded to the institution.

In an incident report dated May 27, 2012, Officer Jerry Wilkison reported the following:

At approximately [REDACTED] he was conducting a security check of K-dormitory confinement, wing one, and observed that the window to cell K1104 (*housing Inmates Dercy Long and Targon Ridley*) was covered with an unknown object. Officer Wilkison ordered the inmates to remove the items from the window and continued his security check. Upon completing his check, he observed that the window



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was still covered. Officer Wilkison approached the cell door, knocked and ordered for the item to be removed from the window. Inmate Ridley came to the door and removed the item from the window. Officer Wilkison then noted Inmate Long "sitting on the floor" with a sheet tied to the top bunk and around his neck. Officer Wilkison began ordering Inmate Long to remove the sheet from around his neck, but Long did not comply. Additional staff were notified and responded. Wilkison reported that once entry into the cell was made, Wilkison [REDACTED] were notified and responded to the cell. Inmate Long was removed from the cell and taken [REDACTED] but was subsequently declared deceased at approximately 3:25AM.

(Exhibit A-1)

In an incident report dated May 27, 2012, Sergeant Richard Knight reported the following:

At approximately 2:36AM on May 27, 2012, Knight was summoned via radio by Officer Wilkison to K1104 which housed Inmates Long and Ridley. Knight observed Long sitting on the floor with a sheet tied to the top bunk and around his neck. Knight ordered Long to remove the sheet from his neck, but Long was [REDACTED]. Inmate Ridley was placed in hand restraints and escorted to a shower cell. Knight and Wilkison then entered the cell and placed Long in hand restraints. Knight then untied the sheet from the top bunk and from around Long's neck. [REDACTED] and the shift OIC were notified.

(Exhibit A-2)

In an incident report dated May 27, 2012, [REDACTED] indicated the following:

At approximately 2:43AM, [REDACTED] arrived at K-dormitory to assess the situation. Upon approaching cell K1104, Singleton observed Inmate Long laying on the floor of the cell. [REDACTED] to which none was detected. [REDACTED] pronounced dead at 3:25AM.

(Exhibit A-3)

In incident reports dated May 27, 2012, Captain Winfred Warren, Officer Andrew Parrish, and Officer Lieutenant Adams reported that they responded to [REDACTED] K-dormitory on May 27, 2012. All reported that they observed Inmate Long on the floor, that Long was being attended to [REDACTED]

(Exhibit A-4)

Inspector Hamner [REDACTED] Inmate Long did have what appeared to be [REDACTED] consistent with the report of a sheet being tied around his neck. Inmate Long's body was photographed by Inspector Hamner.

(Exhibits A-5 & B-1)

Inmate Targon Ridley was the inmate housed with Inmate Long when Long was found hanging. Department records reflect that Ridley was moved into the cell with Inmate Long at approximately 9:02PM on May 26, 2012 due to his receiving a disciplinary report. Prior to interview by inspectors, [REDACTED] by Inspector Hamner [REDACTED] Inmate

Ridley's body was photographed by Inspector Hamner.

(Exhibits A-6, A-7 & B-1)



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In a sworn audio recorded interview obtained on May 27, 2012, Inmate Targon Ridley indicated the following:

Upon his initial placement in the cell with Long, Ridley did not have a mattress for his upper bunk assignment. Prior to receiving a mattress for his upper bunk, he and Inmate Long spoke about general things, getting acquainted. After receiving his mattress (approximately 10:30PM), Ridley made up his bunk and got in bed. He and Long spoke for about another 45 minutes before Ridley fell asleep. Long expressed concern over being returned to a previous facility, and Ridley believed Long mentioned Washington CI. Ridley denied having any problems with Long, or part in or knowledge of [REDACTED] until the officer beat on the door and yelled for the cover over the window to be removed. Ridley explained that when he got up to respond to the officer, he initially thought long was sitting on the floor next to his bunk. He then noticed the sheet attached to Long and the upper bunk. (Note: After the recorder was turned off, but before Inmate Ridley left the room, a comment was made between inspectors concerning Inmate Long being deceased. At this time, Inmate Ridley made the statement "He's dead?" Inmate Ridley's demeanor, facial expression and voice inflection was that of someone genuinely surprised about something. Inmate Ridley explained that he knew Inmate Long [REDACTED] when he was removed from the cell, but he did not realize he had died.) (Exhibit B-2)

Cell K1104 was searched by inspectors, during which time, the copy of a grievance form dated May 15, 2012 was discovered in an envelope laying on top of a religious booklet. The envelope and booklet was found on a foot locker next to where Inmate Long had been hanging. In the grievance, [REDACTED] (Note: Inmate Long's allegations of abuse were investigated in IG #'s 11-1-9916 & 12-1-1974) The grievance response section indicates that his grievance was scanned and emailed to [REDACTED] May 16, 2012. The envelope containing the grievance and a very few other items, along with the religious booklet were photographed and collected as evidence. The sheet used by Inmate Long was untied by staff members upon their entry into the cell. Therefore, an examination of the knot could not be conducted. However, the sheet contained wrinkles at both ends consistent with having been tied in knots and under pressure. The sheet was photographed and collected as evidence. (Exhibits A-8, A-9 & B-1)

[REDACTED] confinement status due to receiving a disciplinary report. Department records further reflect that Inmate Long was [REDACTED] (Note: on Long's grievance) and was [REDACTED] Inmate Long was removed [REDACTED] (Exhibit A-10)

Inmates David Harley, Kurtiz Mercy, David Freeman, Jeremiah Goode, Macio McQuay and Gilberto Tagle were identified as the inmates housed in the cells around Inmate Long's cell. All six of these inmates were interviewed with no report of an altercation being observed or heard by anyone. (Exhibit B-2)

A review of the K-dormitory wing video for May 26, 2012 through May 27, 2012 was conducted by Inspector Hamner. The video supports information provided by witnesses in this investigation as to Inmate Ridley being placed in the cell, a mattress subsequently being placed in the cell, the officer banging on the door and something being removed from the inside of the window and staff members' response into the cell. During the video review, it was noted that it appears the window to cell K1104 was covered during checks previous to the



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one when Inmate Ridley removed the object at the officer's order. This information was reported in MINS# 441241 and is not further addressed in this investigation. (Exhibit B-3)

On May 28, 2012, Inspector Hamner attended the autopsy of Inmate Dercy Long, which was conducted by Dr. C. Hopkins at the Gainesville District 8 Medical Examiner's Office. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The final autopsy report and death certificate were received and note the manner of death as suicide, with the cause of death being [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Exhibits A-11 & A-12)

The sheet, clothing recovered at autopsy and a disk containing confidential autopsy photographs will be maintained in the Gainesville Field Office West's evidence room.

This investigation concerning the death of Inmate Dercy Long is **CLOSED**.



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EXHIBIT/ATTACHMENTS SECTION

A. EXHIBIT(s) - attached:

1. Officer J. Wilkison's incident report dated 05/27/2012.
2. Sergeant R. Knight's incident report dated 05/27/2012.
3. Nurse O. Singleton's incident report dated 05/27/2012.
4. Supporting incident reports from Captain W. Warren, Officer A. Parrish & Officer L. Adams.
5. Photographs of Inmate Long's body.
6. Housing logs for Inmates Ridley and Long.
7. Photographs of Inmate Ridley's body.
8. Copy of Inmate Long grievance form.
9. Photographs of cell, sheet, envelope and booklet.
10. [REDACTED]
11. Autopsy report for Inmate Long.
12. Inmate Long's death certificate.

B. EXHIBIT(s) - not attached:

1. Compact Disk containing: digital images of Long, Ridley, cell and contents.
2. Compact Disk containing recorded interviews of Inmates J. Ridley, D. Harley, K. Mency, D. Freeman, J. Goode, M. McQuay and G. Tagle.
3. Compact Disk containing wing video recording.