

# Florida Department of Corrections



## Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION  
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST  
CASE # 15-5287**



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



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**Case Number:** 15-5287

**OIG Inspector:** Inspector Bobby Hartwell

**Outside Agency:** Florida Department of Law Enforcement

**Outside Agency Investigator:** Special Agent Renee Hatton

**Date Assigned or Initiated:** July 6, 2015

**Complaint Against:** NA

**Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office:** Northwest Florida Reception Center (NWFRCC)

**Complainant:** Inmate Hector Ramos #L57388 (deceased)

**Outside Agency Case #:** PE-37-0020

**Use of Force Number:** NA

**PREA Number:** NA

**Classification of Incident:** Inmate Death (Suicide)

**Confidential Medical Information Included:**  Yes  No

**Whistle-Blower Investigation:**  Yes  No

**Chief Inspector General Case Number:** NA



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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 or about April 4, 2015, the Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General received a call out alleging Inmate Hector Ramos #L57388 was found deceased in his cell at Gulf C.I., on April 4, 2015. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) was notified and responded to investigate. Upon initial review of the information, the Office of the Inspector General assigned an investigative assist to Inspector Hugh Kopp on April 6, 2015.

On July 1, 2015, this investigative assist was reassigned to Senior Inspector Bobby Hartwell.

**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:

According to FDLE Special Agent Renee Hatton, on April 4, 2015 the Florida Department of Corrections contacted FDLE requesting investigative assistance in reference to an apparent inmate suicide at Gulf C.I. The inmate was identified as Hector Ramos #L57388.

On April 6, 2015, an autopsy was performed on Inmate Ramos by Dr. Jay Michael Radtke (District 14 Medical Examiner) along with the toxicology report. Dr. Radtke determined the cause of death [REDACTED] and the manner of death as suicide. Evidence of hanging was found in the cell with a ligature tied to the top bunk.

**VII. CHARGES**

There were no charges. Dr. Radtke ruled Inmate Ramos' death was a result of suicide [REDACTED]

**VIII. CONCLUSION**

Based on the information gathered during their investigation, it is the recommendation of Senior Inspector Bobby Hartwell be termed as follows:

- Exceptionally Cleared

**Investigator's note:** Inspector Hartwell reviewed the investigation completed by FDLE, and administrative issues were not identified.