



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

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July 19, 2016

Captain Darin Griem, Commander
Sacramento County Sheriff's Department
Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center
12500 Bruceville Road
Elk Grove, CA 95757

Re: In-Custody Death – Leron Golden
SSD Report No. 15-264801
Date of Incident: October 15, 2015

Dear Captain Griem:

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the October 15, 2015, death of inmate Leron Golden while in the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center.

On that day, Deputy Robert Trevino was assigned as a control/floor officer. At approximately 6:55 a.m., he conducted a check of inmates including Golden, who was sitting on his assigned bunk facing towards the windows. Deputy Trevino stated Golden's last name and Golden replied with his first name. At that time, Golden did not complain of any medical problems and had no obvious signs of physical distress.

At approximately 7:42 a.m., another inmate woke up and noticed Golden lying on his back in a strange position with his head hung over the edge of the bunk and his right arm extended perpendicular over the side. The inmate placed his hand on Golden's chest, which did not move up and down. The inmate contacted Deputy Trevino at the control office and stated that Golden was unresponsive and needed medical assistance. Deputy Trevino responded to the cell and also observed Golden lying on his back on the bunk with his head hanging over the edge. Golden was not breathing and did not have a pulse. Deputy Trevino requested immediate assistance and an automated external defibrillator (AED). Other deputies and jail medical personnel arrived, requested the fire department to respond Code-3, applied the AED, and initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation and chest compressions. Sacramento Metro Firefighters and Medics arrived, resumed medical treatment, and eventually transported Golden to Methodist Hospital at approximately 8:09 a.m. He was pronounced deceased at approximately 8:54 a.m.

Inmate Tommy Thomas stated that Golden complained he needed a medical appointment, but deputies told him to write a kite. Golden told Thomas that he never received any help or an appointment to see the doctor even after writing numerous kites. Golden complained to other

inmates that he was receiving the wrong medication, which caused chest pains and hot flashes. However, correctional health services records indicated that Golden had previously refused a medical appointment two days earlier and medication for several days. Golden had mild hypertension and was prescribed high blood pressure medications Lisinopril and Hydrochlorothiazide. He was also prescribed Colace, which is used to treat constipation. Golden was educated and counseled by medical personnel on the risks of refusing his essential blood pressure medications. Other inmates confirmed that Golden had been refusing his medication.

Forensic Pathologist Brian Nagao, M.D., conducted an autopsy and concluded that the cause of Golden's death was sudden cardiac arrest due to hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. During the autopsy, Dr. Nagao found that Golden had a single coronary artery.

No evidence of criminal misconduct is presented or suggested in any of the supporting reports. The District Attorney's Office will not take any further action in this matter.

cc: Rick Braziel, Office of the Inspector General
Lieutenant Lisa Gayman