



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

ANNE MARIE SCHUBERT
District Attorney

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Chief Deputy

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 23, 2019

TO: Captain Charles Meeks, Commander
Sacramento County Sheriff's Department
Correctional Services Unit
651 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

RE: In-Custody Death – Jonathan Carroll
SSD Report No. 17-0005624
Date of Incident: January 6, 2017

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the January 6, 2017, death of inmate Jonathan Carroll while in the Sacramento County Main Jail.

Sacramento Sheriff Deputy Steven Butrick was on duty as a floor/control officer on 8 West at the jail. At approximately 4:18 a.m., Deputy Butrick conducted cell checks and observed Carroll lying on his back with his mouth open on the upper bunk. Carroll was the sole occupant of this cell. He was covered to his shoulders with a blanket. It appeared Carroll was sleeping. However, Deputy Butrick noticed a blue discoloration around Carroll's forehead and an abnormal indentation on his neck. Deputy Butrick knocked on the cell door, but Carroll did not respond. Deputy Butrick called for assistance.

Deputy Christopher Barney arrived and both deputies entered the cell. Upon closer inspection, Deputy Butrick was able to observe a three-part apparatus wrapped around Carroll's body. One section, resembling hand-made string, was tied around Carroll's neck. A second section of material made of torn inmate clothing was tied around his feet. The last section went behind Carroll's back and attached the string around his neck with the torn clothing tied around his ankles. Deputy Butrick checked Carroll's carotid pulse with negative results. Deputy Barney requested medical assistance and other deputies responded to the cell.

Deputy Butrick used a tool to cut the rope fastened around Carroll's neck. The deputies removed Carroll from the upper bunk and placed him on the cell floor. Deputy Butrick began chest compressions because Carroll was not breathing and did not have a pulse. A nurse arrived with the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). The deputies moved Carroll into the dayroom area.

The nurse attempted to attach the AED to Carroll's chest, while the deputies continued chest compressions on Carroll.

Sacramento Fire Department and Medic personnel arrived and continued medical treatment. Carroll was pronounced deceased at approximately 4:46 a.m.

Investigators searched the cell and recovered a brown paper bag with a note written by Carroll, in which he requested the contents of the bag and his wedding band be given to his wife and children. Other letters and notes discussing Carroll's suicidal thoughts or requesting items be delivered to his wife and son were also located in the cell.

Two days before this incident, Carroll told another inmate he wanted to kill himself. The inmate tried to talk him out of it.

Forensic Pathologist Kelly Kobylanski, D.O., conducted an autopsy and concluded the cause of Carroll's death was ligature asphyxiation. The Sacramento County Coroner's Office classified the manner of death as suicide.

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: Sacramento Sheriff Lieutenant Gail Vasquez
Kimberly Gin, Sacramento County Coroner's Office
Office of the Inspector General