



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

ANNE MARIE SCHUBERT
District Attorney

Stephen J. Grippi
Chief Deputy

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 8, 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 – Daniel Grijalva
SSD Report No. 17-424025
Date of Incident: December 22, 2017

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the December 22, 2017, death of inmate Daniel Grijalva while in the Sacramento County Main Jail.

Grijalva was arrested on December 21, 2017, at approximately 10:37 a.m. for disorderly conduct. Witnesses observed him fighting other patrons at a local fast-food restaurant. Grijalva was belligerent, under the influence of alcohol, and having trouble standing and speaking. He also had abrasions and bruising on the left side of his face and a swollen left ankle.

Grijalva was admitted to the jail. A nurse examined Grijalva. Grijalva had been on "Medical Expedite" status on a previous arrest approximately three weeks earlier. "Medical Expedite" inmates shall be admitted through the booking process within two hours. However, the nurse did not believe Grijalva needed to be medically expedited on this occasion.

Grijalva was placed into the "sobering" cell and transferred to another cell at approximately 1:30 p.m. At approximately 3:15 p.m., Deputy Ryan Cleveringa contacted Grijalva to provide him with jail clothing. Deputy Cleveringa noted Grijalva was slow to verbally respond, had facial abrasions, and became belligerent and argumentative when asked to change his clothing. When additional deputies arrived to assist, Grijalva changed his clothing in exchange for a tray of food. After eating the food, Grijalva appeared to sleep until approximately 5:30 p.m. He was moved to another jail floor at approximately 7:10 p.m. Grijalva did not request medical assistance at any time.

At approximately 10:20 p.m., Grijalva was transferred to the general population jail floor. He was assigned to a cell by himself. Deputy Trenton Tyler escorted Grijalva and noticed he walked with a limp and had abrasions on his face.

At approximately 4:15 a.m., Deputy Mayk Hernandez-Donis conducted a cell check and observed Grijalva lying on the cell floor. The deputy conversed with him. Grijalva stated he received the injuries to his face prior to being arrested. The deputy encouraged Grijalva to sleep on the bunk in the cell. Grijalva agreed and stood up, walked to the mattress on the bunk, and laid down. The deputy told Grijalva to press the button in the cell if he had a medical emergency. Grijalva advised he would do so.

At approximately 5:15 a.m., Deputy Tyler conducted a cell check. Deputy Tyler looked through the cell door window and noticed Grijalva lying face down on the floor with a distinct color change in his torso. The deputy used his key to open the cell door. He called out to Grijalva to wake him and did not receive a response. Deputy Tyler went to the control room to request assistance and obtained a chair to hold open the cell door. After returning to the cell, the deputy touched Grijalva on the shoulder. Grijalva was "warm and clammy." He felt Grijalva's neck and did not detect a pulse. Deputy Tyler requested medical assistance.

Another deputy arrived to assist. The deputies turned Grijalva on his back and began chest compressions. Jail medical staff arrived at approximately 5:20 a.m. and continued medical assistance. Sacramento City Fire Department personnel arrived on scene at approximately 5:30 a.m., provided treatment, and transported Grijalva to Sutter General Hospital. Grijalva was pronounced deceased at approximately 6:08 a.m.

Chief Forensic Pathologist Jason Tovar, M.D., conducted an autopsy and concluded the cause of Grijalva's death was hypertensive cardiovascular disease. Grijalva also suffered from alcoholism and a seizure disorder. The manner of death was natural.

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