



**OFFICE OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL
DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF COLORADO
District Attorney Alexis King**

March 31, 2022

Sheriff Jeff Shrader
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
200 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, Colorado 80419

Re: Critical Incident Response Team Investigation 21-08

Dear Sheriff Shrader,

The First Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) has completed its investigation into the death of Damion White on August 31, 2021. As you know, the multi-jurisdictional CIRT team conducts independent and thorough investigations in any incident in which a law enforcement officer within the First Judicial District uses deadly force, or attempts to use deadly force, against a person while acting under the color of official law enforcement duties. That is not the case here, but CIRT protocols also allow a law enforcement executive to request CIRT's response in other circumstances. You requested an independent investigation by CIRT in this case when Mr. White's body was discovered.

At the time of his death, Mr. White was a twenty-six-year-old Native American man in the Jefferson County Sheriff's Work Release program. Mr. White began the Work Release program in July of 2021 at the Intervention Community Corrections Services (ICCS) facility at 1651 Kendall Street in the City of Lakewood. The CIRT response and investigation was led by Commander Bellomy of the Wheat Ridge Police Department. Based on interviews of inmates, staff, and relations, as well as surveillance and other physical evidence, there is no evidence that law enforcement engaged with Mr. White at or about the time of his death or contributed to his death in any way.

Commander Bellomy presented his investigation to my office on November 23, 2021. CIRT determined that Mr. White was speaking with another inmate in the common area of the ICCS facility from about 4:00 a.m. to 4:30 a.m.. Mr. White returned to his room, and at 5:42 a.m., he went to the bathroom with

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his backpack. Multiple inmates went in and out of the bathroom over the next hour. Many folks noticed the door of the furthest stall was closed. One inmate heard a man in the last stall introduce himself while the inmate was at the sink speaking with another person. Another heard the man in the last stall offer him something through the stall wall; he assumed it was an offer for drugs and declined. At 6:35 a.m., an inmate noticed that the man in the last stall was slumped down on his knees and seemed unresponsive. That inmate quickly informed staff, who responded with two doses of Narcan, CPR, and AED for a handful of minutes before West Metro Fire arrived and took over the lifesaving measures.

Once Mr. White was pronounced dead, the CIRT team discovered what appeared to be a drug bindle on top of the toilet paper dispenser, another possible drug bindle in his room, and one whole and one partial round blue pill. Laboratory results revealed the items were positive for fentanyl. A search of Mr. White's cell phone included text messages on August 28, 2021, between Mr. White and an unknown person, where he asked for "2 blues" for a co-worker, a common reference to blue fentanyl pills. It is unclear if this transaction was completed. Through her autopsy on September 1, 2021, forensic pathologist Dr. Dawn Holmes determined that Mr. White suffered from fentanyl intoxication resulting in an accidental death. She did not find any significant trauma to Mr. White.

Given the facts set forth by Commander Bellomy, and upon review by my office, there is no evidence that law enforcement was engaged with Mr. White in the hours leading up to his accidental death or that they contributed to his death. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,



Alexis D. King
District Attorney
First Judicial District

