



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

July 14, 2023

Sheriff Marinelli
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
200 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, CO 80401

Dear Sheriff Marinelli,

The First Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) has completed its investigation into the death of James Joseph Jarvis on February 4, 2023, while he was in the custody of your department at the Jefferson County Detention Center. As you know, the multi-jurisdictional CIRT team conducts independent and thorough investigations into any death of a person while under the care and control of a law enforcement officer acting under the color of official law enforcement duties. Moreover, given the complexities of the jail, CIRT will respond when there is a reasonable belief that a law enforcement officer engaged with the decedent, and lastly, CIRT may respond upon your request.

CIRT activated an independent investigation when Mr. Jarvis' cell mate alerted the deputies that Mr. Jarvis was having a medical issue February 4, 2023, and died soon after. The CIRT response and investigation was led by Commander McNitt of the Lakewood Police Department. Based on interviews of prisoners and staff, as well as surveillance video and other physical evidence, there is no evidence that law enforcement was criminally responsible for Mr. Jarvis' death. Commander McNitt presented his investigation to my office on May 30, 2023. Our review of the investigation was completed on June 30, 2023, and pursuant to CIRT protocols, I am issuing this letter to you.

At the time of Mr. Jarvis' death, he was sixty-two years old. He had been in the Jefferson County Detention Center since December 8, 2022, on a probation revocation and a failure to appear on a case involving driving under the influence. On December 26, 2022, Mr. Jarvis was placed in the Special Housing Unit ("SHU") due to mental health and suicide concerns. On the night of his death, he was sharing his SHU cell with another inmate.

CIRT found that Mr. Jarvis was not feeling well on February 3, 2023. His cellmate said that Mr. Jarvis did not eat Friday night or on Saturday. The cellmate's observations were corroborative of Module Activity Reports made by deputies and nursing staff throughout Saturday, reflecting Mr. Jarvis' feelings of lethargy and stomach discomfort. Mr. Jarvis did not want to use his dayroom time and he vomited. In response, he



was given Gatorade for hydration and Zofran for nausea. On Saturday night at about 10:48 p.m., as his cellmate was falling asleep, he heard Mr. Jarvis breathing heavily and was concerned, so much so, he alerted the deputies.

Deputies responded to the cellmate within 25 seconds. Upon response, the cellmate and deputies spoke briefly, and the cellmate was escorted out of the cell. Deputies returned to the cell and attended to Mr. Jarvis. These interactions took about one minute before the deputies turned their full attention to Mr. Jarvis and his condition.

At about 10:51 p.m., additional personnel entered the cell, including nursing staff, and CPR chest compressions began. By 10:58 p.m., with continuing CPR, staff responded with an AED. The AED event log reflected that no shock was advised. Golden Fire Department and Stadium Medical responded at 11:05 p.m. and they tried to resuscitate Mr. Jarvis until 11:30 p.m. Dr. Henderson of St. Anthony's Hospital pronounced Mr. Jarvis' death at 11:31 p.m. Mr. Jarvis was not transported to the hospital.

On February 5, 2023, forensic pathologist Dr. Dawn Holmes conducted an autopsy and determined that the cause of Mr. Jarvis' death was due to hypertensive cardiovascular disease. Further, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and chronic alcoholism were significant contributing factors resulting in a natural death. Of note, Mr. Jarvis was also positive for COVID.

Through the CIRT investigation, nothing indicates that Mr. Jarvis was hurt by the deputies or his cellmate. Additionally, nothing suggests that Mr. Jarvis ingested anything that lead to his death. Considering the facts set forth by CIRT, and upon review by my office, there is no evidence that law enforcement was criminally responsible for Mr. Jarvis' death. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexis D. King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Alexis D. King, District Attorney