



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

June 10, 2024

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 William Arthur Newell on July 30, 2023, at St. Anthony's Hospital after he was booked into the custody of your department at the Jefferson County Detention Center on July 25, 2023. 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 and examined the days leading up to Mr. Newell being transported to St. Anthony's Hospital on July 29, 2023. In the early morning hours Mr. Newell was in Module 3D, on a low-level bunk bed because he was on opiate withdrawal protocols and dealing with high blood pressure. Mr. Newell appeared to be vomiting in the toilets and leaned over the partition between toilets, his head on his arms for several seconds, before he returned to his bunk. Just after ten o'clock, Mr. Newell shifted back and forth from his bed to the toilets again before he ultimately collapsed next to his bunk at 10:55 a.m. When he fell, he lost control of control of his bladder and hit his head, causing a laceration near his eye.

Deputies responded at 10:58 a.m. Moments later, at 11:05 a.m. Mr. Newell was semi-conscious. He was taken by wheelchair to the Medical Unit and transported at 11:28 p.m. to St. Anthony's Hospital. Upon arrival, doctors determined that Mr. Newell had a massive intra-abdominal hemorrhage and was rushed to surgery. The operation was not successful and medical records reflect the decision to transition Mr. Newell to comfort care.



On August 1, 2023, Forensic Pathologist Dr. Carver performed the autopsy of Mr. Newell. Dr. Carver confirmed that there were signs of arterial hemorrhage of the pancreas but no external injuries to the hemorrhage in the pancreas though there was a bruise to the stomach muscle in the abdominal wall. Specifically, there was a hemorrhage in the right lower abdominal muscle, but it did not clearly correspond to the injury involving the pancreas. Dr. Carver noted that a rupture of an abdominal artery or branch is rare and usually with pancreatitis but could not be ruled out. Thus, the cause of death was multiorgan failure complicated by the peripancreatic hemorrhage and the initial seizure activity and hypotension were explained by internal bleeding but the manner of death undetermined. There was nothing of note in Mr. Newell's toxicology. The report was provided to CIRT in November 2023.

CIRT was led by Lakewood Police Commander Alesch. CIRT conducted about 49 interviews of inmates, deputies, and detention personnel and examined extensive video footage of Mr. Newell while he was in Module 3D. The investigation did not reveal any relevant engagement between to Mr. Newell and a member of the JCSO team or anyone else in the days leading up to Mr. Newell's transport to St. Anthony's Hospital.

CIRT presented the investigation to my office on January 23, 2023, and then my team analyzed the investigation in its entirety. Upon completion of the review, there is no evidence that law enforcement was criminally responsible for Mr. Newell's death and as such, I am issuing this letter to you.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Regards,



Alexis D. King, District Attorney

