



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

September 27, 2024

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

Re: *In-Custody Death of Ms. Courtney Breianne Tinker*

Dear Sheriff Marinelli,

The First Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) has completed its investigation into the death of Courtney Breianne Tinker on March 29, 2024. As you know, the multijurisdictional 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. CIRT protocols also allow a law enforcement executive to request CIRT's response in other circumstances such as the death of a person who is in the custody of a law enforcement officer, such as Ms. Tinker's death, while confined in the Jefferson County Detention Facility ("JCDF").

The CIRT response and investigation was led by Commander John Pickett of the Wheat Ridge Police Department. Commander Pickett presented his investigation to my office on June 5, 2024. Upon receipt, my office conducted a thorough review of the CIRT investigation. Based on interviews of sworn staff, unsworn staff, and inmates, as well as surveillance videos and physical evidence, there is no evidence that law enforcement engaged in any criminal conduct that caused the death of Ms. Tinker and thus, I do not find law enforcement responsible for her death.

At the time of her death, Ms. Tinker was a forty-year-old woman in the JCDF who arrived there on March 25, 2024, after her arrest by a patrol deputy on four active arrest warrants. At the time of her arrest, Ms. Tinker told the arresting deputy that she could not breathe. Ms. Tinker also noted chest pains and feeling weak for the past three weeks. Law enforcement noticed her hyperventilating. Ms. Tinker shared that she was dealing with Lupis. Ms. Tinker did not share any recent use of Fentanyl. When asked as to when she last used Fentanyl, she replied six months. Before going to JCDF, law enforcement connected Ms. Tinker with medical personnel from the West Metro Fire Protection District and then by medical personnel from Swedish Southwest Hospital. The medical professionals cleared Ms. Tinker so she could be transported to JCDF.



Once Ms. Tinker arrived at JCDF, she went through the intake process where they asked her more questions about herself. Ms. Tinker was quiet and compliant, she did not complain of having any medical issues. JCDF was aware that Ms. Tinker struggled with her mental health, had cardiovascular disease, and had received a second dose of the COVID-19 Moderna vaccine. Ultimately, staff put her on a Benzo-ETOH-Opiate Protocol as well as medications and timing for administration during her time at JCDF. Due to mental health concerns, Ms. Tinker requested a single cell, and staff moved her to cell 6A-9 by herself.

On March 27, 2024, Ms. Tinker told a jail deputy that she was not feeling well. On March 28, 2024, at the beginning of her shift, the same jail deputy observed vomit in Ms. Tinker's cell, and that Ms. Tinker's appearance was worse than the day before. However, the jail deputy felt that this was normal for someone going through detox. Ms. Tinker was moved to the adjoining cell, cell 6A-11.

On the evening of March 28, 2024, at approximately 9:45 PM, medication was delivered and administered to Ms. Tinker by a nurse from the JCDF Medical Unit and a second jail deputy. Ms. Tinker stood for her medication. That was the last time she was seen standing. Throughout the night, deputies checked her cell every 30 minutes and noted that she had changed her positions in her bunk.

On the morning of March 29, 2024, at approximately 5:30 AM, Ms. Tinker did not wake up or respond when the original deputy called her over the intercom regarding breakfast. The deputy walked to Ms. Tinker's cell door to try and wake her up, but she was unresponsive. The deputy opened the cell door and went inside. The deputy saw Ms. Tinker lying on her mat, with her eyes open, fixed and staring at the ceiling. Ms. Tinker's mouth was agape. The deputy did not think Ms. Tinker was breathing. The deputy called Ms. Tinker's name and tried to wake her up with a sternum rub that had no effect. The deputy then called for a medical emergency on her radio, and immediately started CPR on Ms. Tinker.

The initial deputy was joined by two more deputies, at which time Ms. Tinker was picked up, moved off her bunk, and carried to the dayroom area between Cell 6A-9 and Cell 6A-11, where she was laid on the floor on her back. The deputies began administering CPR to Ms. Tinker. The deputies were then joined by medical staff from the JCDF Medical Unit. The deputies and the medical staff rotated in and out on a periodic basis administering life saving measures to Ms. Tinker. EMS from Golden Fire & Rescue responded to the scene to assist in administering life saving measures. All life saving measures were unsuccessful. Ms. Tinker was pronounced deceased on March 29, 2024, at 6:17 AM by Dr. Louderback at St. Anthony's Hospital. Upon review of the evidence, including jail video footage, nothing showed use of physical force or criminal wrongdoing by JCDF personnel against Ms. Tinker.

On March 31, 2024, at approximately 8:00 AM, an autopsy was performed on Ms. Tinker at the Jefferson County Coroner's Office by Dawn B. Holmes, MD, Forensic Pathologist. Dr. Holmes determined that the manner of death of Ms. Tinker was natural. She stated that the primary cause of death was due to hypertensive cardiovascular disease. She stated that chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, systemic lupus erythematosus, chronic alcoholism, and COVID-19 viral infection were significant contributing factors. She stated that Ms. Tinker's long-term history of prescription drug abuse (opioids) and presumed high tolerance was considered in the interpretation of the toxicology results. She stated that there was no evidence of significant acute/recent trauma at the autopsy. It was noted that the toxicology portion of the autopsy report listed traces of Fentanyl, as well as

Norfentanyl and 4-ANPP, both of which are precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of Fentanyl, in Ms. Tinker's blood.

Given the facts set forth by Commander Pickett, and upon review by my office, Ms. Tinker's death was not caused by any criminal actions taken by law enforcement. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexis D. King", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alexis D. King
District Attorney
First Judicial District