

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 18-15212**



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST SUMMARY REPORT



Table of Contents

I. AUTHORITY	4
II. METHODOLOGY.....	4
III. ANALYSIS.....	4
IV. DEFINITIONS	5
V. PREDICATE	6
VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS.....	6
VII. CHARGES.....	7
VIII. CONCLUSION.....	7



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Case Number: 18-15212

OIG Inspector: Senior Inspector Chip Potter

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Craig Riley

Date Assigned or Initiated: 08/26/18

Complaint Against: Inmate Vashon Faison DC# 309794

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: Taylor Correctional Institution

Complainant: Correctional Officer Hozra Woodruff

Outside Agency Case #: TL-37-0090

Use of Force Number: None

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Homicide

Confidential Medical Information Included: Yes No

Whistle-Blower Investigation: Yes No

Chief Inspector General Case Number: None



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST SUMMARY REPORT



I. AUTHORITY

The Florida Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General, by designation of the Secretary and § 944.31, Florida Statutes, is authorized to conduct any criminal investigation that occurs on property owned or leased by the department or involves matters over which the department has jurisdiction.

The testimony references included in this report are summations of oral or written statements provided to inspectors. Statements contained herein do not necessarily represent complete or certified transcribed testimony, except as noted. Unless specifically indicated otherwise, all interviews with witnesses, complainants, and subjects were audio or video recorded.

II. METHODOLOGY

The investigation reviewed the derivations of the allegation advanced by the complainant. The scope of this investigation does not seek to specifically address tort(s), but violations of criminal statutes. The criterion used to evaluate each contention or allegation was limited to the following standard of analysis:

1. Did the subject's action or behavior violate Florida criminal statutes?

III. ANALYSIS

The standard and analysis in this investigation is predicated with the burden of proving any violation of law, established by probable cause. The evidence considered for analysis is confined to the facts and allegations stated or reasonably implied. The actions or behavior of the subject are presumed to be lawful and in compliance with the applicable Florida law, unless probable cause indicates the contrary.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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IV. DEFINITIONS

Unfounded:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause does not exist to suggest the suspect's behavior or action occurred nor is an arrest or formal charge being initiated.

Closed by Arrest:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified subject committed the offense and one for which an arrest or formal prosecution has been initiated.

Exceptionally Cleared:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified suspect committed the offense, but one for which an arrest or formal charge is not initiated, or in the case of a death investigation, one for which no evidence exists that the death was the result of a crime or neglect.

Open-Inactive:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which a criminal investigation commenced, but where evidence is insufficient to close as unfounded, closed by arrest, or exceptionally cleared.

Investigative Assist Closed

Refers to a disposition of an investigative assist, where the conduct being investigated by the outside agency did not concern allegations against a Department employee, contractor, inmate, offender, or other person either employed or under the supervision of the Department.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST SUMMARY REPORT



V. PREDICATE

On August 26, 2018, at approximately [REDACTED], at Columbia Correctional Institution (CCI), Sergeant Hozra Woodruff (*Sergeant Woodruff*) while conducting a security check in the dorm he observed Inmate Juan Vazquez DC# T31017 lying on the ground in cell G2208, [REDACTED]. Inmate Vazquez was transported [REDACTED] where he died, on August 28, 2019.

On August 28, 2019, there was a response to the death by Inspector John Santerfeit, and Florida Department of Law Enforcement Agent Terrance Tyler, to begin their investigation into Inmate Vasquez's death.

VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Based on the exhibits, witnesses' testimony, subject officer's statements, and the record as a whole, presented or available to the primary inspector, the following findings of facts were determined:

On August 26, 2018, at approximately [REDACTED] at Columbia Correctional Institution (CCI), Sergeant Hozra Woodruff (*Sergeant Woodruff*) while conducting a security check in the dorm he observed Inmate Juan Vazquez DC# T31017 lying on the ground in cell G2208, [REDACTED]. Inmate Vazquez was transported [REDACTED] where he died, on August 28, 2019.

On August 28, 2019, there was a response to the death by Inspector John Santerfeit, and Florida Department of Law Enforcement Agent Terrance Tyler, to begin their investigation into Inmate Vasquez's death.

Inspector Santerfeit had not completed any reports in this case when it was reassigned to this writer, Lead Senior Inspector Chip Potter, on March 05, 2019. When this writer contacted Agent Tyler, it was determined, he did not respond to the scene FDLE Agent Craig Riley responded.

Upon response to the institution to begin their investigation Agent Riley assumed lead in the investigation, and provided Inspector Santerfeit with an Investigative Demand form (*attached*) for all documentation and video related to the inmate's death. Inspector Santerfeit obtained and provided Agent Riley with the following items:

1. Incident Report written by Lieutenant Jason Brevard (*Lieutenant Brevard*).
2. Certificate of Death Worksheet signed by [REDACTED] documenting the immediate cause of death [REDACTED]
3. Email between Marcia Winter, and Cynthia Yanez documenting [REDACTED]
4. A DVD containing Captain Aaron Lewis's (*Captain Lewis*) body cam video

When this writer was reassigned this case, March 05, 2019, I emailed Agent Riley and informed him from this date forward any assistance needed by Agent Riley will be provided by this writer.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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On March 12, 2019, I submitted an email to Agent Riley requesting an update as to his progress, and to offer additional assistance if needed. He responded; he had been requested to conduct a couple of additional interviews which he has done, and submitted the reports for approval. When his reports are approved by his supervision he will send me a copy with the results. *(Agent Riley's email is attached)*

On March 15, 2019, Agent Riley provided me copies of his final report *(attached)* via email *(attached)*, and advised there would no further assistance needed from the OIG.

FDLE's case conclusion is the Death of Inmate Vazquez was classified a Homicide.

VII. CHARGES

List alleged violations of Florida Law:

1. Violation of § 782.04(1)(a), Florida Statutes, Murder

§ 782.04(1)(a), Florida Statute, The unlawful killing of a human being:

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during their investigation, it is the recommendation of FDLE Special Agent Craig Riley the death of Inmate Vasquez be classified a **Homicide**.

1. Investigative assist closed

Senior Inspector Potter reviewed the investigation completed by FDLE, and administrative issues were not identified.