

# Florida Department of Corrections



## Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION  
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST  
CASE # 17-03347**



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



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**Case Number:** 17-03347

**OIG Inspector:** Inspector Latricia Ruiz

**Outside Agency:** Florida Department of Law Enforcement

**Outside Agency Investigator:** Special Agent Nathan Coogan

**Date Assigned or Initiated:** 02/27/2017

**Complaint Against:** Inmate Javaris Robinson DC# R37104

**Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office:** Okeechobee Correctional Institution

**Complainant:** Captain Jeffery Striebel

**Outside Agency Case #:** FM-37-0019

**Use of Force Number:** None

**PREA Number:** None

**Classification of Incident:** Homicide

**Confidential Medical Information Included:**  Yes       No

**Whistle-Blower Investigation:**  Yes       No

**Chief Inspector General Case Number:** None



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**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.



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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.



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**V. PREDICATE**

On February 26, 2017, at approximately 2:47 a.m., Senior Inspector Latricia Ruiz was dispatched by On-call Inspector Supervisor Maurice Radford to report to Okeechobee Correctional Institution in reference to an inmate death-homicide. On January 26, 2017, 1:00 a.m., Inmate Dominick Bradford, DC# W24173, at Okeechobee Correctional Institution- [REDACTED] was pronounced deceased [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. On February 27, 2017, this allegation was assigned to Inspector Latricia Ruiz as an investigative assist to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement as the lead.

**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 February 26, 2017, at approximately 12:58 a.m., Housing Officer Casey Grandsen and Housing Supervisor Emerald Dobson heard shouting and banging over the silent monitor system in the officer's station. It was discovered the disturbance was from D-Dorm (Faith-based). Officer Grandsen entered the wing at approximately 1:01 a.m. He noticed the disturbance was coming from D-1217. As Officer Grandsen approached the cell, he observed that Inmate Robinson, Javaris DC# R37104 had cellmate Inmate Bradford, Dominik DC# W24173 pinned to the wall. Both inmates were observed [REDACTED] no weapon was visible.

At this time, Inmate Robinson was removed from the cell, then secured in the dayroom. Officer Grandsen and Sergeant Raymond Ehrlich then proceeded back to the room to assist with Inmate Bradford.

While at the cell, Inmate Bradford stated he wanted some water and advised the security staff that the fight was over money. They were fighting because Inmate Robinson owed him canteen money.

At that time, Inmate Bradford was placed outside of the door to wait for [REDACTED] in order to be transported down stairs and then [REDACTED] at the facility.

Once Inmate Bradford arrive [REDACTED] he lost [REDACTED] At that point, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] were activated and arrived at the facility at 1:55 a.m. Inmate Bradford was pronounced deceased at 1:58 a.m., [REDACTED]

Inmate Robinson was later escorted [REDACTED] for any [REDACTED] and then placed in a dry cell pending Inspector/FDLE interview.

Captain J. Strible notified EAC (Emergency Action Center) of Inmate Bradford's death. Supervisor Maurice Radford was also notified of Inmate Bradford's death. At that time, Senior Inspector Latricia Ruiz was advised to respond to Okeechobee Correctional Institution, for a death investigation.



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Duty Warden S. Kurzen, Colonel Quinn and Major Frank Gatto were notified of Inmate Bradford's death.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) was also notified of inmate Bradford's death. Special Agents Nathan Coogan was primary on this investigation.

Senior Inspector Latricia Ruiz viewed Inmate Bradford's body. Inmate Bradford [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Photographs were taken of Inmate Bradford's body.

Special Agent John Kink notified the Medical Examiner's office, David Massie with Tri County Mortuary. They advised they would respond to remove Inmate Bradford's body.

Duty Warden S. Kurzen notified Inmate Bradford's next of kin.

- Incident reports and documentation reviewed:

Security staff completed all appropriate reports concerning Inmate's Bradford death. A review of the reports did not reveal any criminal, administrative, or internal policy violations by Department of Corrections (FDC).

- St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties Medical Examiner's Department District 19:

On April 14, 2017, Roger E. Mittleman, M.D., completed the Autopsy report (report # 17-19-158) on Inmate Dominick Bradford and provided a copy of the report to Special Agent Coogan and Senior Inspector Ruiz. Autopsy findings:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Cause of death: [REDACTED]  
Manner of Death: Homicide.

Conclusion

On January 23, 2018, Agent Coogan provided a copy of his closed FDLE report Case FM-37-0019. Agent Coogan's report revealed that on Wednesday, May 11, 2017, SA Nathan Coogan met with Assistant State Attorney (ASA) Don Richardson of the Okeechobee County State Attorney's Office (19th Circuit) regarding the autopsy findings.

ASA Richardson advised that to successfully prosecute a murder case, it would have to be proved that Javaris Robinson did not act in self-defense and that Robinson knew that Bradford [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] the physical altercation could lead to his death.



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Bradford's DOC [REDACTED] indicated Bradford [REDACTED] but Bradford denied [REDACTED]. It was recommended that Bradford [REDACTED] using the [REDACTED]

There was no indication that [REDACTED] was completed.

During the interview with Robinson on the incident date, he was adamant that he acted in self-defense.

Based on this information, ASA Richardson advised the facts of this case do not support criminal charges. This case was closed.

During the course of the investigation, via collection of evidence, the processing of scenes, interviews conducted, review of FDLE report (FM-37-0019), no criminal infractions were noted or discovered; as well as no administrative policy rules violations were observed, noted or discovered.

## **VII. CHARGES**

### **List alleged violations of Florida Law:**

1. Violation of § 784.02 Florida Statutes, Homicide.

## **VIII. CONCLUSION**

Based on the information gathered during their investigation, it is the recommendation of FDLE Special Agent Nathan Coogan the allegation against Inmate Robinson for Homicide, **in violation of 784.02**, be termed as follows:

1. Closed - Exceptionally Cleared

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