KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	17-227-C	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	5/3/2017 11:39 AM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Copperas Cove Police Dept.	Agency Address:	302 E. Avenue E
Agency City:	Copperas Cove	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	76522		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Chief	Director First Name:	Eddie
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Wilson		
Reporter Name:	Eddie Wilson	Reporter Email:	ewilson@copperascovetx.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Justin

Middle Name: Tyler

Last Name: Smith-Washington

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 3/21/1985 Sex: Male

Race: Black or African American

Age At Time Of Death: 32

Date/Time of Custody (arrest, incarceration) (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 4/16/2017 9:00 PM

Date/Time of Death (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Death Date and Time: 4/16/2017 10:00 PM

Manner / Cause of Death

Has a medical examiner or coroner conducted an evaluation to determine a cause of death?

Medical Examiner/Coroner Evaluation?: Yes, results pending

What was the manner of death? (select only one)

Alcohol/Drug

Manner of Death:	Intoxication

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Pending autopsy results

Had the decedent been receiving treatment for the medical condition that caused the death after admission to your jail's jurisdiction?

Medical Treatment:	Not Applicable

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, who caused the death?

Who caused the death?:	Decedent

If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of weapon that caused death?:	Not Applicable

Was the cause of death the result of a pre-existing medical condition or did the decedent develop the condition after admission?

Pre existing medical condition?:	Not Applicable; cause of death was accidental injury, intoxication, suicide or homicide

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?

Means of Death:	Drug overdose

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	900 Block of Mary Street	City:	Copperas Cove
County:	Coryell	Zip:	76522

What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred?

Location Category: Roadway/highway/street/sidewalk

What type of custody/facility was the Decedent in at the time of death:

Type of Custody: Police Custody (pre-booking)

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Custody of Law Enforcement Personnel subsequent to arrest

What was the time and date of the deceased's entry into the law enforcement facility where the death occurred (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Entry Date Time:

Entry Date Time N/A: ☑

Where did the death occur?

Death Location: Medical facility

General Information

Did any other law enforcement agencies respond to calls for service related to this incident?

Other Agencies Respond?: No

What were the most serious offense(s) with which the deceased was (or would have been) charged with at the time of death?

Offense 1:

Possession of Controlled Substance PG-1 O/4 U/200g

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: Not filed at time of death

What were the types of charges or reason for contact? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of Offense: Alcohol / drug offense

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent display or use a weapon?

Decedent display/use of weapons: No

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Attempt to Injure Others?: No

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs): Yes

Make suicidal statements?: No

Exhibit any mental health problems?: No

Exhibit any medical problems?: No

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Barricade self or initiate standoff?:	No	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	No
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	No	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	No	Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody:	No
Attempt gain possession officer's weapon:	No		

Was the deceased under restraint in the time leading up to the death or the events causing the death?

Under Restraint:	Yes, mark which restraint devices were used

Type of restraint

Type of Restraint:	Handcuffs

Summary of Incident

Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

Summary:

On 04-16-2017 at approximately 2036 hours Officer Smith conducted a traffic stop on a white 2007 Hyundai Sonata in the 900 block of Mary Street for a traffic violation. While speaking with one of the vehicles passengers, he detected the odor of marihuana and conducted a probable cause search of the subject who was identified as Justin Tyler Smith-Washington. During the search of Justin’s right front pocket, Officer Smith located a pack of cigarettes which contained crack cocaine. Officer Smith completed the search with no additional contraband located. Justin was placed in the back of Officer Smiths patrol vehicle with his hands cuffed behind his back. Officer Smith’s camera was operational throughout the incident.

Officer Smith transported Justin to the Police Department and pulled into the sally port. The sally port was closed and when Officer Smith went to retrieve Justin, he saw that he had become lethargic and vomited in the vehicle so he called for EMS. Officer Smith could see that Justin had something in his mouth so he tried to get him to spit it out but was unsuccessful. He pulled Justin from the vehicle and layed him on ground while supporting his head. EMS arrived and transported Justin to Metroplex Hospital where he died.

The sally port was sealed and preserved from Criminal Investigations. The Texas Rangers were contacted and conducted a parallel investigation. Justin’s remains were transported to the Southwest Institute of

Forensic Science where an autopsy was completed (results pending). A review of the in-car video revealed that Justin had concealed something in his mouth and be began chewing it when Officer Smith walked away from the vehicle. It appeared that he was having a hard time swallowing the substance and he chewed for several minutes off and on when no one was speaking with him.