KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	24-779-UF	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	6/3/2024 3:55 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Chambers County Sheriff's Office	Agency Address:	PO BOX 998
Agency City:	Anahuac	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	77514		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Brian
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Hawthorne		
Reporter Name:	John Leger	Reporter Email:	jaleger@chamberstx.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Christian

Middle Name: Tomas

Last Name: Acosta-Mendoza

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 2/4/1986 Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 38

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 4/30/2024 9:05 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 4/30/2024 9:05 AM

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 are available

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

Manner of Death: Homicide (includes Justifiable Homicide)

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

This male, Christian Acosta Mendoza, was shot by police while in the driver's seat of a vehicle. Scene investigation reveals that the projectiles passed through the windshield, striking the dashboard and steering wheel.

Autopsy shows a gunshot wound of the face with the entrance wound in the upper lip, resulting in multiple lacerations of the face with facial fractures. Injury to the cervical spine and spinal cord with bleeding on the brain is noted. A second gunshot wound through the left shoulder results in fracture of the left arm and recovery of a bullet. Multiple fragments (of projectile, glass, or other debris) have struck the chest resulting in lacerations and abrasions, and an injury to the right lung is noted with significant bleeding into the right side of the chest. Postmortem toxicology testing of the blood reveals cocaine degradation products (ecgonine methyl ester and benzoylecgonine).

The cause of death is gunshot wounds (2) of the face and shoulder. The manner of death is homicide.

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

Medical Treatment: No

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

Who caused the death?: Law enforcement/correctional personnel

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?: Rifle/shotgun

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: Firearm

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	5300 Plantation Drive	City:	Baytown
County:	Chambers	Zip:	77523

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: Pre-Custodial Use of Force

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Custody of Law Enforcement Personnel during/fleeing 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: 4/30/2024 9:05 AM

Where did the death occur?

Death Location: Scene of incident

General Information

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

Other Agencies Respond?:	Yes

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:

Aggravated Kidnapping

Offense 2:

Evading with motor vehicle

Offense 3:

Were the Charges::	Filed

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

Type of Offense:	Violent Crime Against Persons

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:	Yes, mark all that apply
Decedent Display or Use Weapon Details:	Displayed firearm without discharge; Discharged firearm; Displayed other weapon, specify:; Used other weapon, specify:

Specify Weapon Displayed:

AR15 style rifle and 1911 Style handgun

Specify Weapon Used:

1911 style handgun

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

Attempt to Injure Others?:	Yes (select all that apply)
Ways Decedent Attempted To Injure Others:	Attempted to injure civilian(s) or other inmate(s)

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

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs):	No	Make suicidal statements?:	No
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Unknown	Exhibit any medical problems?:	Unknown

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?:	Yes
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	Unknown	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	Yes	Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody:	Yes
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:	No

Summary of Incident

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

Summary:

On April 30, 2024 at approximately 08:42 AM Chambers County Dispatch advised that numerous outside agencies to include Harris County SO and several Harris County Constable units were in pursuit of a grey in color Volkswagen sedan bearing Georgia License Plates. The vehicle was occupied by the suspect, later identified as Christian Tomas Acosta-Mendoza (DOB 02/04/1986) who was suspected of a kidnapping that occurred in Harris County. It was reported that the two kidnapping victims, an adult female and a three year of age juvenile male, were in the front seat of the vehicle. It was further reported that the suspect Acosta was armed and shots had already been fired by the suspect during the incident. The suspect had reportedly been evading law enforcement for an extended period of time. After the kidnapping, Harris county placed an attempt to locate on the vehicle. The vehicle was spotted by a Rosenburg PD officer who tried to stop him but he fled from the Rosenburg PD officer, The pursuit continued through several jurisdictions with suspect refusing to stop. It was reported that suspect was in contact with a Harris County negotiator by phone but was refusing to stop fleeing and had made comments that led the negotiator to believe he would not surrender without further violence against the victims or law enforcement. During the conversation he referenced going home to get his other children. Records revealed he had a residence address in Chambers County which is when our agency was notified. AS the pursuit continued it became apparent that the suspect likely headed to that location.

Dispatch learned the suspect had an address in the Plantation subdivision. Deputies were dispatched to that area in anticipation of the suspect heading that way. The Plantation Subdivision is a large residential neighborhood made up of hundreds of single family residences. The neighborhood has a single, primary entrance road that intersects with Farm to Market Road 565 and an stretch of road that has no homes along it for a short section before entering the neighborhood. On scene deputies and supervisors decided to set up at the entrance to the subdivision away from homes to avoid a confrontation with the suspect near homes and also to prevent the suspect from entering his residence and a hostage standoff continuing there making the situation much more dangerous to all involved.

A few minutes after deputies arrived and were able to set up a V shaped roadblock near the entrance to the neighborhood it was relayed via radio that the suspect was heading toward the entrance and was only a short distance away. Moments later the suspect vehicle turned into the neighborhood entrance. As the vehicle turned into the neighborhood, deputies reported the Hispanic male driver, Acosta, looked in their direction and, Acosta lowered his head and ducked down in the seat, as if he was attempting to hide or reach for a weapon as he slowed for the barricade. The female hostage and child hostage were seated in the passenger seat next to Acosta. Deputies on scene evaluated the threat presented by Acosta based upon their knowledge of his prior display and use of a deadly weapon, his continuing threats to the hostages and law enforcement, and his refusal to surrender to custody. Two deputies discharged their rifles at Acosta ending the vehicular chase. Deputies immediately approached the vehicle and pulled the hostages free. As soon as the scene was made safe, deputies immediately began to render aid to Acosta until Emergency Medical Personnel arrived.

Command staff and the District Attorney were notified. The Texas Rangers were called to investigate the use of force. For further information refer to the Ranger's investigation and/or the Medical Examiner's report.