KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	25-573-UF	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	7/28/2025 2:18 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Sugar Land Police Dept.	Agency Address:	PO BOX 110
Agency City:	Sugarland	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	77487		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Chief	Director First Name:	Pedro
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Lara		
Reporter Name:	Rudy Ramirez	Reporter Email:	rramirez@sugarlandtx.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Gordon

Middle Name: Steven

Last Name: Joseph

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 2/4/1966 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 59

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 7/22/2025 10:16 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 7/22/2025 10:16 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: Suicide

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Gun-shot wound to the chest

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?: 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?: Handgun

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:	3100 Austin Parkway Blvd	City:	Sugar Land
County:	Fort Bend	Zip:	77479

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

Location Category: Parking lot/garage

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:

N/A

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: Scene of incident

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:

Suicidal Subject

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: Other, specify

Type of Offense, Other:

Attempted suicide

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: Discharged firearm

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):	No	Make suicidal statements?:	Yes
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:	No

Summary of Incident

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

Summary:

On July 22, 2025, SLPD Officers responded to a church parking lot about a suicidal subject identified by his wife as Joseph Steven Gordon. The estranged wife told SLPD that Mr. Gordon failed to show up for court that morning in a different jurisdiction for the reading of his indictment - Sexual Assault of a Child. Mr. Gordon made a suicidal outcry to family, and the estranged wife tracked his phone to the parking lot of Saint Lawrence Church (3100 Austin Parkway Blvd, Sugar Land, Texas). SLPD officers located Mr. Gordon's vehicle, and because he was reported by the estranged wife as being armed with a handgun, the officers called on Mr. Gordon to exit his truck from the P/A system in the patrol car. SLPD officers saw Mr. Gordon exit his vehicle while holding a firearm. The officers, while pointing their duty weapons, gave Mr. Gordon orders to drop the gun. Mr. Gordon walked about 10 feet, and then sat down by a tree, waved at the officers, and then shot himself in the chest.