



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 18-773-C

Version Type: AMENDED

Report Date: 8/22/2018 2:32 PM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Houston Police
Dept.

Agency Address: 1200 Travis, 16th
Floor

Agency City: Houston

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 77002

Director Information

Director Salutation: Chief

Director First Name: Art

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Acevedo

Reporter Name: Kimberly Fowler

Reporter Email: kimberly.fowler@houstonpolice.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Joseph

Middle Name: James

Last Name: Pappas

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 2/9/1956

Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 62

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

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 8/3/2018 9:38 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 8/3/2018 9:38 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:

Gunshot wound to the head

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: 8801 Bob White
Drive

City: Houston

County: Harris

Zip: 77074

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

Location Category: Other, specify

Other Location Category:

Front Yard of Residence

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 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:

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:

Murder

Offense 2:

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: 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 Friday, August 3, 2018 at approximately 0927 hours, Houston Police Officer M. Medina was dispatched to a citizen chasing a suspect call near the intersection of Fondren and Hillcroft. The caller, a Houston Parks Board employee, had observed who he believe to be a wanted murder suspect while checking the green belt area of the bayou. The wanted murder suspect, Joseph Pappas, had gained a large amount of media attention as he was being sought by law enforcement related to the high profile murder of Houston cardiologist Dr. Mark Hausknecht on July 20, 2018.

As Officer Medina arrived in the area, he was able to locate Joseph Pappas walking near the intersection of Bob White Dr. and Imogene St. Officer Medina exited his patrol vehicle, pointed his duty weapon at Joseph Pappas, and began giving verbal commands to surrender. Joseph Pappas, and began giving verbal commands to surrender. Joseph Pappas ignored Officer Medina as he moved behind a large tree in the front yard of a nearby residence and sat on the ground out of his view. While on the ground, Officer Medina heard Joseph Pappas utter the words "suicide" as he repositioned himself to obtain a better view, Officer Medina witnessed Joseph Pappas as he place a handgun to his facial area, he heard a gunshot, and observed his body collapse. Joseph Pappas was pronounced deceased at the scene from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.