



**Custodial Death Report**  
**Filed: 7-17-2015 2:25 pm**  
**PA15346CJ**

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**Agency/Facility Information**

**Name:** Waller County Sheriff's Dept.  
**Address:** 701 Calvit St.  
**City, Zip:** Hempstead, 77445  
**Phone:** 979-826-8282  
**Director:** Glenn Smith  
**Name of Report Filer:** Sydney Joe Hester, Jr.  
**Email of Report Filer:** joe.hester@wallercounty.us

**Identity Of Deceased**

**Name:** Sandra Annette Bland  
**Race/Ethnicity:** African-American  
**Sex:** Female  
**DOB:** 02-07-1987  
**Age:** 28

**Date Of Custody (arrest, incarceration)**

7-10-2015 4:27 pm

**Date Of Death**

7-13-2015 9:06 am

**Where did the event causing the death occur?**

**Address:** 701 Calvit Street  
**City:** Hempstead  
**County:** Waller

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

Yes, results pending

**Apparent Manner Of Death:**

Suicide

**Medical Cause Of Death:**

Death by Hanging

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

Not Applicable; cause of death was accidental injury, intoxication, suicide or homicide

**Had the deceased been receiving treatment for the medical condition after admission to your jail's jurisdiction?**

Not Applicable

**Type of Custody**

Jail - multiple occupancy cell

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

1. Assault on Public Servant

Status: Filed

**Type of Charges**

Violent Crime Against Persons

**Did the deceased die from a medical condition or from injuries sustained at the crime/arrest scene?**

Not applicable

**If injured at the crime/arrest scene, how were these injuries sustained?**

Not applicable

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

No

**At any time during the arrest/incident, did the deceased:**

Appear intoxicated (either alcohol or drugs)? - No.

Threaten the officers(s) involved? - No.

Resist being handcuffed or arrested? - No.

Try to escape/flee from custody? - No.

Grab, hit or fight with the officer(s) involved? - Yes.

Use a weapon to threaten or assault the officer(s)? - No.

Other - No.

Not Applicable - No.

**What type of weapon(s) caused the death?**

Not Applicable

**Where did the deceased die?**

At law enforcement facility

**What was the time and date of the deceased's entry into the law enforcement facility where the death occurred?**

7-10-2015 5:32 pm

**At the time of entry into the facility, did the deceased:**

Appear intoxicated (either alcohol or drugs)? - No.

Exhibit any mental health problems? - No.

Exhibit any medical problems? - No.

Not Applicable - Yes.

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

Not applicable; cause of death was suicide, intoxication or illness/natural causes

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

Hanging, strangulation

**Summary of How the Death Occurred:**

ON THE AFTERNOON OF 7/10/15 AT 4:27PM, SANDRA ANNETTE BLAND WAS BOOKED INTO THE WALLER COUNTY JAIL AFTER SHE WAS ARRESTED BY DPS TROOPER BIAN ENCINIA FOR ASSAULT ON A PUBLIC SERVANT. TROOPER ENCINIA HAD PRAIRIE VIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER PENNY GOODIE TRANSPORT SUBJECT BLAND TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR BOOKING. JAILER PRUDENTE PROCESSED SUBJECT BLAND INTO THE JAIL AND HAD OFFICER GOODIE SEARCH HER AND DRESS HER OUT AS NO FEMALE JAILERS WERE ON DUTY. AT 8:18PM ON 7/10/15, JAILER MAGNUS FINISHED BOOKING SUBJECT BLAND INTO THE JAIL AND MOVED HER FROM CELL 32 WHERE SHE HAD BEEN PLACED BY JAILER PRUDENTE TO CELL 95 WHICH IS A FEMALE AGGRAVATED TANK. THERE WERE NO OTHER INMATES IN THE CELL AT THE TIME THAT SUBJECT BLAND WAS PLACED IN CELL 95. SUBJECT BLAND WAS CHECKED ON EVERY HOUR WHILE IN CUSTODY AND WAS FEED THREE TIMES A DAY ALONG WITH THE OTHER INMATES.

ON THE MORNING OF 7/13/15 AT 0705, JAILERS ZUNIGA AND SERGES CHECKED ON SUBJECT BLAND AND SHE WAS FINE. AT 0755 SUBJECT BLAND HIT THE INTERCOM AND SPOKE TO THE CONTROLLER AND ASKED ABOUT USING THE PHONE. AT 0854 HOURS, DEPUTY WHIDDEN WAS ASSISTING THE JAILERS AND SHE WENT TO CELL 95 TO SEE IF INMATE BLAND WANTED TO GO TO RECREATION. DEPUTY WHIDDEN LOOKED INTO THE WINDOW OF THE CELL AND OBSERVED THE INMATE HANGING AND YELLED OUT THAT SHE WAS HANGING. LT. ROCHEN WHO WAS IN THE CONTROL ROOM RESPONDED TO THE CELL 95 WITH JAILER ZUNIGA AND LT. ROCHEN LIFTED HER UP SO THAT JAILER ZUNIGA COULD LOOSEN THE NOOSE FROM HER NECK. LT. ROCHEN THEN LAID DOWN THE INMATE AND STARTED CPR. THE CONTROLLER HAD ALREADY CALLED FOR EMS AND LT ROCHEN ADVISED TO CONTACT THE JAIL NURSE WHO RESPONDED TO THE CELL PRIOR TO EMS RESPONDING. EMS WAS CALLED AT 0900 HOURS AND RESPONDED TO THE JAIL AT 0904. WHILE LT. ROCHEN WAS PERFORMING CPR, I ASKED DEPUTY RANDY LEWIS TO ASSIST BECAUSE I KNEW HE WAS AND EMT THAT USED TO WORK FOR THE WALLER COUNTY EMS. DEPUTY LEWIS RELIEVED LT. ROCHEN AND CONTINUED CRP UNTIL EMS ARRIVED AND

PLACED THE HEART MONIITOR ON THE INMATE AND ADVISED THAT SHE WAS DECEASED. THEY STOPPED THE CPR AT 0906 HOURS.

IT WAS LATER DETERMINED THAT INMATE BLAND HAD USED A PLASTIC TRASH BAG TO HANG HERSELF BY TYING IT TO THE BAR ABOVE THE PRIVACY PARTITION AND THEN MAKING A NOOSE AND PLACING HER HEAD IN THE NOOSE AND SAT DOWN. SHE WAS STANDING ON ANYTHING WHE SHE PLACED THE NOOSE ON HER NECK.

I THEN ADVISED JAILER DORMIC SMITH TO STAY AT THE DOOR TO CELL 95 AND I ADVISED DEPUTY LANGDON AND INVESTIGATOR PARINELLO TO PHOTOGRAPH THE DECEASED AND THE CELL AND TO MAINTIAN ANY EVIDENCE UNTIL I COULD CONTACT SHERIFF SMITH AND THE TEXAS RANGERS. I ADVISED CHIEF DAVIS THAT THE INMATE WAS DECEASED AND ASKED HIM TO CONTACT THE TEXAS JAIL COMMISSION AND HE STATED THAT HE WOULD AND THAT HE HAD CONTACTED SHERIFF SMITH. I THEN CONTACTED TEXAS RANGER JEFF OWLES AND ADVISED HIM OF THE IN CUSTODY DEATH AND HE ADVISED HE WOULD CONTACT A RANGER TO ASSIST US AS HE WAS OUT OF TOWN. A FEW MINUTES LATER I WAS ADVISED THAT TEXAS RANGER SHANE ELLISON WAS EN ROUTE TO THE JAIL. I ADVISED SHERIFF SMITH THAT RANGER ELLISON WAS EN ROUTE TO THE JAIL TO CONDUCT THE IN DEATH INVESTIGATION AND I ALSO ADVISED DEPUTY LANGDON AND INV. PARINELLO. I THEN ADVISED THE CONTROLLER TO GIVE ME THE INMATES HOLDER WHICH CONTAINED ALL OF HER PAPERWORK AND I THEN TOOK POSSESSION ON THE ROUNDS SHEET AT 10:10AM AND MADE A COPY AND RETURNED THE COPY TO THE JAIL STAFF SO THEY COULD CONTINUE THEIR ROUNDS.

AT 10:37AM, RANGER ELLISON ARRIVED AT THE JAIL AND I BRIEFED HIM ON THE INFORMATION WE HAD AT THIS TIME AND HE ENTERED CELL 95 AT 10:39AM. AT 10:45AM, JUDGE KARISCH WAS NOTIFIED TO COME TO THE JAIL AND HE ARRIVED AT 11:39AM. AFTER JUDGE KARISCH PRONOUNCED THE INMATE DECEASED HE THEN ORDERED AN AUTOPSY TO BE PERFORMED AT THE HARRIS COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE IN HOUSTON AND HE ADVISED THE JAIL STAFF TO CONTACT MCWILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME AT 11:57AM FOR TRANSPORTATION TO THE MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE. MCWILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME ARRIVED AT 12:11PM AND THEY TOOK POSSESSION OF THE BODY AND TRANSPORTED TO THE MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE AT 12:25PM. THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE TEXAS RANGERS.