



**Commission of
Correction**

**Final Report of the
New York State Commission of Correction:**

In the Matter of the Death of

**Jason Mendez,
an incarcerated individual of the
Rockland County Jail**

January 25, 2023

**To: Sheriff Louis Falco, III
Rockland County Sheriff's Office
55 New Hempstead Road
New City, New York 10956**

Allen Riley
Chairman

Thomas J. Loughren
Commissioner

Yolanda Canty
Commissioner

GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, the Medical Review Board has reported to the NYS Commission of Correction pursuant to Correction Law, section 47(1)(d), regarding the death of Jason Mendez who died on August 6, 2020, as a result of circumstances which occurred while an incarcerated individual in the custody of the Rockland County Sheriff at the Rockland County Jail, the Commission has determined that the following final report be issued.

FINDINGS:

1. Jason Mendez was a 36-year-old male who died on 8/6/20 due to a suicidal hanging while in the custody of the Rockland County Sheriff at the Rockland County Jail.

2. Mendez was born in New York. Mendez was single. He was survived by his parents. There was no further information available to the Commission regarding Mendez's demographic or social history.

3. [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED] In the instant offence on 2/20/2019, in the town of Haverstraw, NY, at a 7-Eleven store, Mendez plowed his car into a family of eight, including a baby in a stroller, then put his car into reverse and drove forward into them again, killing the 36-year-old pregnant mother. Mendez was arrested by the Haverstraw Town Police Department and charged with Murder, Criminal Possession Weapon 4th Degree, and Resisting Arrest. Mendez was arraigned on 2/20/19 at the Haverstraw Town Court and charged with Murder, 7 Counts of Attempted Murder, Menacing 2nd Degree, Criminal Possession Weapon 4th Degree, and Resisting Arrest. Mendez was remanded to the Rockland County Sheriff at the Rockland County Jail. Mendez's trial was abated by his death.

6. On 2/20/2019 at 10:08 p.m., Mendez was admitted to the Rockland County Jail for a charge of Murder, 7 counts of Attempted Murder, Menacing, Criminal Possession of a Weapon, and Resisting Arrest. Mendez was placed in Protective Custody (PC) per security, [REDACTED].

7. [REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED]

10. [REDACTED]

11. [REDACTED]

12. [REDACTED]

- 13. [REDACTED]
- 14. [REDACTED]
- 15. [REDACTED]
- 16. [REDACTED]
- 17. [REDACTED]
- 18. [REDACTED]
- 19. [REDACTED]
- 20. [REDACTED]
- 21. [REDACTED]

22. [REDACTED]

23. [REDACTED]

24. [REDACTED]

25. [REDACTED]

26. [REDACTED]

27. [REDACTED]

28. [REDACTED]

29. [REDACTED]

30. [REDACTED]

31. [REDACTED]

32. [REDACTED]

33. [REDACTED]

34. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Security would continue Mendez on Protective Custody (PC) and house Mendez in a cell with a more direct visual on him.

35. [REDACTED]

- 36. [REDACTED]
- 37. [REDACTED]
- 38. [REDACTED]
- 39. [REDACTED]
- 40. [REDACTED]
- 41. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

42. [REDACTED]

43. [REDACTED]

44. [REDACTED]

45. [REDACTED]

46. [REDACTED]

47. [REDACTED] to

[REDACTED]

48. [REDACTED]

49. [REDACTED]

50. [REDACTED]

51. [REDACTED]

52. [REDACTED]

53. [REDACTED]

54. [REDACTED]

55. [REDACTED]

56. [REDACTED]

57. [REDACTED]

58. [REDACTED]

59. [REDACTED]

60. [REDACTED]

61. [REDACTED]

62. [REDACTED]

63. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

64. [REDACTED]

65. [REDACTED]

66. On 6/26/20 at 1:40 p.m., Mendez was involved in an altercation with another incarcerated individual. Mendez plead guilty to the disciplinary charge and Sergeant (Sgt.) W.C. issued Mendez a 30-day disciplinary cell confinement. [REDACTED]

67. [REDACTED]

68. [REDACTED]

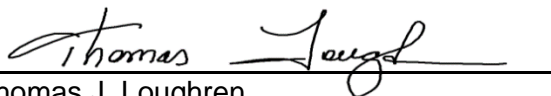
69. [REDACTED]

70. On 8/6/20 at 7:52 p.m., Correction Officer (CO) J.R. documented in the unit logbook that physical rounds were completed. A review of the unit logbook by Commission staff found that unit rounds were done in accordance with §7003.2(1) and this was the last time Mendez was seen alive.
71. On 8/6/20 at 8:07 p.m., CO J.R. was conducting rounds on Charlie Housing. As CO J.R. was passing cell #24, where Mendez was housed, he observed that Mendez appeared to be hanging. CO J.R. immediately signaled for CO F.F. to access the cell door and to call a suicide attempt over the radio. CO J.R. entered Mendez's cell and immediately wrapped his arms around Mendez's torso to elevate him in order to relieve the pressure from the bedsheet that was wrapped tightly around Mendez's neck. Incarcerated individual (II) [REDACTED] entered Mendez's cell to assist CO J.R. in an attempt to lift Mendez up to relieve the pressure from his neck. As II [REDACTED] assisted in holding Mendez up, CO J.R. attempted to cut the bedsheet that was tied to the sprinkler. CO J.R. was not able to cut through the knot on the bedsheet but was able to remove the bedsheet from around Mendez's neck with the assistance from II [REDACTED]. As CO J.R. and II [REDACTED] lowered Mendez to the ground, Sgt. S.L. arrived at the scene with additional corrections staff and medical staff. Mendez was laying on the floor of the cell, on his back, with his head facing towards the doorway. Mendez was blue in color, unconscious and pulseless. Sgt. S.L. initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Sgt. Lombardi notified Lieutenant (Lt.) F.G. that an emergency ambulance would be needed. Medical arrived at the scene at 8:12 p.m., [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

This case be closed as a suicide.

WITNESS, HONORABLE THOMAS J. LOUGHREN, Commissioner, NYS Commission of Correction, Alfred E. Smith State Office Building, 80 South Swan Street, 12th Floor, in the City of Albany, New York 12210 on this January 25, 2023



Thomas J. Loughren
Commissioner & Chair
Medical Review Board

TJL:BB:jdb
2020-M-0086
January 2023