



**Commission of
Correction**

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

In the Matter of the Death of

**Angel Rivera (02R4390),
an incarcerated individual of the
Great Meadow Correctional Facility**

March 22, 2023

**To: Honorable Anthony Annucci
Acting Commissioner
NYS Department of Corrections
And Community Supervision
The Harriman State Campus
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12226**

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 Angel Rivera who died on November 10, 2020, while an incarcerated individual in the custody of the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision at the Great Meadow Correctional Facility, the Commission has determined that the following preliminary report be issued.

FINDINGS:

1. Angel Rivera was a 46-year-old male who died on 11/10/2020 due to a suicidal act of setting himself on fire in cell causing terminal burns to his body while in the custody of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (NYS DOCCS) at the Great Meadow Correctional Facility (CF). Rivera was receiving mental health services. A review of Rivera's records indicated that there were some quality assurance issues with proper follow up by mental health staff, however the Board opines that they did not appear to impact the terminal event in this case.

2. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. In the instant offenses there are multiple indictments. In the first indictment, Rivera knowingly and unlawfully sold one or more preparations, mixtures, or substances containing cocaine in an aggregated weight of two ounces or more. In the second indictment, Rivera acting in concert sold a control substance to an undercover police officer in exchange for pre-recorded buy money. In the instant offense, acting alone Rivera grabbed a female victim as she was exiting an elevator, demanded oral sex, poked her with sharp object, pulled down her pants, entered the victim from behind, pulled out, and ejaculated on her buttocks, then pushed victim off the elevator. In another indictment, Rivera was observed by eyewitness leaving the victims bedroom, the victim was found dead on bedroom floor with a stab wound to the heart. Four years later a DNA hit from a cigarette found in bedroom matched the subject. Rivera was convicted of Criminal Sale Controlled Substance 2nd Degree and 3rd Degree, Manslaughter 1st Degree two counts, Rape 1st Degree, and Promoting Prison Contraband 1st Degree and was sentenced to 27 years to life.

3. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

4. Rivera was received in the NYS DOCCS at the Ulster CF in August 2002 and was transferred to Riverview CF in September 2002. Rivera had been housed in Green Haven CF in 2003. In 2005, Rivera was housed in the Auburn CF and Southport CF. In 2006, Rivera transferred to the Wende CF until he was transferred to Southport CF in

2013. In 2014, Rivera transferred to Elmira CF until 2019 when he transferred to Southport CF for a Tier III infraction for a weapon and contraband that resulted in sanctions of 136 days in SHU. Rivera transferred to Five Points CF in November 2019. In January 2020, Rivera was transferred to Auburn CF.

5. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. On 6/28/20, Rivera returned to the Auburn CF. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] NYS DOCCS did not complete an unusual incident report for a suicide attempt, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].
6. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].
7. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].
8. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].
9. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
10. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].
11. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
12. [REDACTED]
[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. On 11/7/20 at 10:15 p.m., CO Z.P. observed a fire in A-7-37. Rivera was noted to be in the cell. The fire was noted to be at the head of the bed and spreading. Rivera was noted to be sitting on the floor with his back to the cell gate. Rivera was not making any sounds. Rivera had flames on his body. Rivera had set the fire using unknown accelerant. Additional security staff arrived and Rivera was removed from the cell to the gallery and the flames were pated out while other security staff utilized nine fire extinguishers to douse the remaining flames. Medical staff arrived [REDACTED]


30. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

That 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 22nd day of March, 2023.


Thomas J. Loughren
Commissioner & Chair
Medical Review Board

TJL:DC:jdb
2020-M-0120
March 2023

cc: Dr. Carol Moores, Chief Medical Officer
Bryan Hilton, Assistant Commissioner for Mental Health
Superintendent Christopher Collins, Great Meadow CF
Dr. Li-Wen Lee, Associate Commissioner
Division of Forensic Services, NYS Office of Mental Health
Danielle Dill, Executive Director, CNYPC
William Vertoske, Deputy Director of CBO, CNYPC
Meaghan Bernstein, Advocacy Letter Coordinator, CNYPC