



**Commission of
Correction**

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

In the Matter of the Death of

**Gregory Velez (14A4501),
an incarcerated individual of the
Green Haven Correctional Facility**

September 27, 2023

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

Allen Riley
Chairman

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 Gregory Velez who died on November 18, 2020, while an incarcerated individual in the custody of the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision at the Green Haven Correctional Facility, the Commission has determined that the following final report be issued.

FINDINGS:

1. Gregory Velez was a 44-year-old male who died on 11/18/20 due to Acute Fentanyl and synthetic cannabinoid intoxication while in the custody of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (NYS DOCCS) at the Green Haven Correctional Facility (CF).

2. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. In the instant offense, on 10/25/11, in New York County, Velez caused the death of a 72-year-old great-grandmother. The victim and her daughter had planned to meet but when victim did not show up and her daughter could not reach her by phone, the victim's daughter and granddaughter went to the apartment and found the victim lying on the floor of the apartment with her feet bound and a plastic bag over her face. The victim was cold to the touch. A flat screen television was also missing from the apartment. The victim's granddaughter identified Velez from video surveillance as the person entering the building as Velez and the victim's granddaughter had a child together. The recording showed Velez near the elevator and showed him going down the stairs with a purse and a tv wrapped in plastic. Velez was convicted of Murder 1st Degree and sentenced to 20 years to Life in prison.

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

4. On 10/16/14, Velez was received at Downstate CF. In November 2014, Velez was transferred to Great Meadow CF. In April 2015, Velez transferred to Auburn CF. In November 2016, Velez transferred to Southport CF. In January 2017, Velez transferred to Five Points CF. In April 2018, Velez transferred to Green Haven CF. Velez had an infraction for drug use in 2018.

4. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED]

7. [REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED]

10. [REDACTED]

11. [REDACTED]

12. [REDACTED]

13. [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
14. [REDACTED]
15. On 11/17/20 at 11:30 p.m., Correction Officer (CO) O.A. was conducting a security tour and noted Velez was face down and unresponsive in his cell. Sgt. J.G. was on the unit for the count and responded to the cell. Sgt J.G. and CO C.P. entered the cell. CO O.A. administered Narcan without the desired effect. CO O.A. applied the AED but no shock was advised. At 11:32 p.m., CPR was initiated. At approximately 11:34 p.m., Registered Nurse (RN) [REDACTED] arrived [REDACTED]. At [REDACTED] t. Velez was transported to medical [REDACTED]. At approximately 11:40 p.m., EMS was activated. [REDACTED]
16. [REDACTED]
17. Per the NYS Office of Special Investigations report, a search of Velez's cell revealed no drugs but 3 plexiglass shank type weapons measuring 5 ½" x 1 which were sharpened to a point were found in a coat pocket hanging in Velez's cell.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

TO THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION:

This case be closed as an accidental overdose.

WITNESS, HONORABLE ALLEN RILEY, Chairman, 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 27th day of September, 2023.



Allen Riley
Chairman
Commission of Correction

AR:DC :vc
2020-M-0123
September 27, 2023

cc: Dr. Carol Moores, Deputy Commissioner Chief Medical Officer
James Donahue, Associate Commissioner of Mental Health
Superintendent Mark Miller, Green Haven CF