



**Commission of
Correction**

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

In the Matter of the Death of

**Milton Branch,
an incarcerated individual of the
North Infirmery Command**

September 27, 2023

**To: Commissioner Louis Molina
NYC Department of Correction
75-20 Astoria Blvd., Suite 100
East Elmhurst, NY 11370**

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 Milton Branch who died on April 16, 2020, as result of circumstances which occurred while an incarcerated individual in the custody of the New York City Department of Correction, the Commission has determined that the following final report be issued.

FINDINGS:

1. Milton Branch was a 54-year-old male with a recorded date of death by the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner of 4/16/20. On 4/16/20, Branch was found deceased in his home after his sister requested a wellness check. On the Death Investigation Report, there was no cause of death identified, however, the manner of death was listed as natural. Branch died while in the custody of the New York City Department of Corrections' (NYC DOC) Community Placement Work Release Program.
2. Branch was born in New York. Branch was survived by his mother and sister. Branch was single and unemployed. There was no further demographic or social history available to the Commission for Branch.
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]
5. [REDACTED]
6. On 1/16/20 at 11:37 a.m., Branch was admitted into NYC DOC's custody from Kings Criminal Court for a parole violation after being charged with Grand Larceny 4th Degree. Branch scored a zero on the Suicide Prevention Screening.
7. [REDACTED]

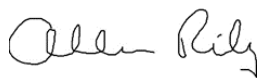
- 8. [Redacted]
- 9. [Redacted]
- 10. [Redacted]
- 11. [Redacted]
- 12. [Redacted]
- 13. [Redacted]
- 14. On 3/15/20, Correctional Health Services (CHS) began COVID-19 testing for all incarcerated individuals (II).
- 15. [Redacted]
- 16. [Redacted]

17. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, some NYC detainees were granted an early release due to their underlying medical conditions. On 3/24/20, Branch applied for the Community Placement Work Release Program and Associate Commissioner P.T. signed Branch's release application.
18. [REDACTED]
19. [REDACTED]
20. On 3/25/20, Branch was released from the NYC DOC into the Community Supervision Supervised Work Release Program.
21. On 4/16/20, K.C., a Medical Legal Investigator (MLI) from the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner documented that Branch was last known alive on April 3, 2020, after talking to his sister on the phone. On the morning of 4/16/20, Branch's sister called the police to do a wellness check on Branch. A Public Safety Officer went to Branch's home and Branch was observed sitting on the couch, deceased. [REDACTED]

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

This case be closed as a natural death.

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:BB:vc
2020-M-0076
September 27, 2023

cc: Deputy Commissioner of Legal Matters/General Counsel
Ronald Brereton, Deputy Commissioner of Security Operations
James Saunders, Deputy Commissioner of Health Affairs
Ronald Greenberg, Director of Compliance
Patricia Yang, DrPH, Senior Vice President
Correctional Health Services
Bipin Subedi, MD, Chief Medical Officer
Correctional Health Services
Jasmine Georges-Yilla, Executive Director
NYC Board of Correction