



**Commission of  
Correction**

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

**In the Matter of the Death of**

**Angelo DeGracia,  
an incarcerated individual of the  
Red Hook Community Justice Center**

**June 25, 2024**

**To: Commissioner Edward A. Caban  
NYC Police Department  
1 Police Plaza  
New York, New York 10038**

**Allen Riley**  
*Chairman*

**Yolanda Canty**  
*Commissioner*

**Elizabeth Gaynes**  
*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 Angelo DeGracia, who died on May 21, 2021, as a result of circumstances which occurred while an incarcerated individual in the custody of the New York Police Department, the Commission has determined that the following final report be issued.

FINDINGS:

1. Angelo DeGracia was a 42-year-old male who died on 5/21/21 due to an accidental overdose involving fentanyl, cocaine and norbuprenorphine. DeGracia was detained and awaiting arraignment at the New York City Police Department (NYPD) Red Hook Community Justice Center. DeGracia was observed by his escorting officer when he became unresponsive.

2. [REDACTED] In the instant offense, on 5/20/21, DeGracia was arrested by NYPD for Operating a Motor Vehicle Impaired by Drugs 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Aggerated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree and Refusal to take a Breath Test. DeGracia had not been arraigned at the time of his death and there was no court reported information available.

3. [REDACTED]

4. On 5/20/21 at 11:49 a.m., DeGracia was involved in a motor vehicle accident where the car he was driving struck parked cars before it came to a stop. DeGracia was discovered to be unconscious and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was activated. The Fire Department of New York (FDNY) EMS responded [REDACTED] DeGracia became combative prompting FDNY to request NYPD assistance. DeGracia was found to be operating the vehicle with an expired license and presented as being under the influence of a narcotic. DeGracia was placed under arrest and transported to Staten Island University Hospital South (SIUH) via ambulance for an evaluation. [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
5. On 5/20/21 at 6:07 p.m., DeGracia was transported from SIUH to the Red Hook Community Justice Center for arrest processing [REDACTED]. Red Hook Community Justice Center was considered a walk through facility [REDACTED]. The walk-through process consisted of each detainee remaining with the escorting officer at all times. DeGracia arrived at the center at 6:55 p.m. At approximately 7:00 p.m., DeGracia entered the facility and was met by Sergeant O.M. DeGracia was searched for weapons and contraband with negative results. DeGracia did not report any medical needs at that time. DeGracia was placed into holding cell #2.
  6. On 5/20/21 at 7:15 p.m., DeGracia requested and received a padded floor mat. DeGracia proceeded to lay down and stand up several times.
  7. On 5/20/21 at 8:15 p.m., DeGracia was removed from the holding cell for fingerprinting and photographing. DeGracia was returned to cell #2. DeGracia did not show any signs of duress nor said anything to the escort officer.
  8. Police Officer (PO) J.S. remained with DeGracia throughout the time that DeGracia was lodged at the Red Hook Community Justice Center. DeGracia was the only occupant of this cell for the duration of his time there. At 9:51 p.m., DeGracia left the view of the camera and PO J.S. when he utilized the toilet for approximately 14 minutes. At 10:05 p.m., DeGracia departed the toilet area and laid face down on the mat. PO J.S. observed that DeGracia was snoring loudly.
  9. On 5/20/21 at 11:48 p.m., PO J.S. observed that DeGracia was no longer snoring. Upon entering the cell, PO J.S. observed DeGracia to be unresponsive and experiencing labored breathing. At 11:52 p.m., EMS was activated. DeGracia was repositioned to aid his breathing until EMS arrived. At 11:57 p.m., the FDNY arrived [REDACTED]. At 12:10 a.m., Maimonides Medical Center EMS arrived [REDACTED].
  10. [REDACTED]
  11. After DeGracia was transported to NYU, Sergeant L.-J. directed PO C.M. to clean and sanitize holding cell #2 per [REDACTED] protocol. There was no contraband discover in the holding cell.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

This case to be closed as an accidental overdose.

WITNESS, HONORABLE YOLANDA CANTY, Commissioner, NYS Commission of Correction, Alfred E. Smith State Office Building, 80 South Swan Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, in the City of Albany, New York 12210 on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024.

Sincerely,



Yolanda Canty  
Commissioner  
Commission of Correction

YC:MB:vc  
2021-M-0072  
June 25, 2024

cc: Deputy Inspector Paul Muggeo,  
Force Investigation Division