



**Commission of  
Correction**

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

**In the Matter of the Death of**

**Steve Johnson (07A1847)  
an incarcerated individual of the  
Sing Sing Correctional Facility**

**December 18, 2024**

**To: Honorable Daniel F. Martuscello, III  
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*

**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 Steve Johnson, who died on February 23, 2022, while an incarcerated individual in the custody of the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision at the Sing Sing Correctional Facility, the Commission has determined that the following final report be issued.

FINDINGS:

1. Steve Johnson was a 54-year-old male who died on 2/23/22 from a suicidal laceration to the neck while in the custody of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (NYS DOCCS) at the Sing Sing Correctional Facility (CF). Johnson utilized his state issued razor to cut his neck.

2. [REDACTED]

In the instant offense, on 6/16/02, Johnson approached four people on the street, took out a pistol and shot one victim in the stomach, shot another victim in the leg, and assaulted the other two victims. Johnson also took bar patrons hostage, doused the patrons with a kerosene-smelling fluid and threatened to set them on fire. Johnson then shot at responding police officers. Johnson yelled racial epithets regarding white people and threatened to kill bar patrons, claiming that his actions were in retribution for the oppression of African Americans. In 2007, Johnson was convicted of two counts of Attempted Murder 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, four counts of Assault 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, two counts of Kidnapping 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. Johnson was sentenced to 50 years in NYS DOCCS.

3. [REDACTED]

4. Johnson was received at Downstate CF in April 2007 and was released back to NYC Department. of Correction in 2011 while proceeding with a re-trial. In 2013, Johnson returned to DOCCS' custody. In April 2013, Johnson transferred to Great Meadow CF. In 2014, Johnson transferred to Clinton CF.

5. [REDACTED]

6. On 8/12/21, Johnson transferred to Sing Sing CF. Johnson replied "no" to all questions on the mental health screening. [REDACTED]

7. [REDACTED]
8. [REDACTED]
9. [REDACTED]
10. [REDACTED]
11. On 11/22/21, Johnson was not produced by DOCCS [REDACTED].
12. [REDACTED]
13. Per the housing logbook, on 2/19/22 at 5:34 p.m. during the R Gallery release for meal service, there was a two man fight between Johnson and another incarcerated individual. At 8:02 p.m., the housing officer noted that the other involved individual was moved to L-43 HBA.
14. On 2/23/22 at 5:50 a.m., per the housing logbook, Johnson was off the gallery to a disciplinary hearing. There was no documentation in the logbook that Johnson returned to the housing area.
15. [REDACTED]
16. On 2/23/22 at 3:41 p.m., another incarcerated individual notified Corrections Officer (CO) F.H. that they should check on Johnson. CO F.H. and CO M.F. responded to the cell and noted that Johnson was unresponsive. A medical response was activated and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) was initiated. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was activated, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] EMS arrived at 4:02 p.m. [REDACTED] A search of the cell revealed a razor blade measuring 3/8" by 1 7/16" on the bed. The casing for the razor was located on the cell floor in front of the bed.
17. On 2/22/22, Johnson made a tablet entry and indicated that he was sorry to everyone and that he didn't know how it was going to end in there for him and that he knew "they are going to come after me soon."
18. On 2/23/22, Johnson made a tablet entry that referenced having to take care of things

himself, so the blood is on no one else's hands.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

That this case be closed as a suicide

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 18<sup>TH</sup> day of December 2024.



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Yolanda Canty  
Commissioner  
Commission of Correction

YC:DC:vc  
2022-M-0020  
December 18, 2024

cc: Dr. Carol Moores, Chief Medical Officer  
James Donahue, Associate Commissioner of Mental Health  
Superintendent Marilyn Kopp, Sing Sing 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