



**Commission of
Correction**

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

In the Matter of the Death of

**Robert Romero (02A1778),
an incarcerated individual of the
Green Haven Correctional Facility**

December 17, 2025

**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 Robert Romero, who died on December 25, 2022, 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. Robert Romero was a 54-year-old male who died on 12/25/22 from a suicidal hanging 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]. The instant offense occurred on 11/1/90 when Romero with his brother and another accomplice shot two victims. Following a lengthy investigation, Romero was arrested on 12/21/99. He was convicted of two counts of Murder 2nd Degree and was sentenced to 50 years to life.

3. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

4. On 4/1/02, Romero was received at Downstate CF. Romero transferred to Great Meadow CF in May 2002. In October 2009, Romero transferred to Green Haven CF.

5. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

6. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

7. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

8. [REDACTED]
9. [REDACTED]
10. [REDACTED]
11. [REDACTED]
12. [REDACTED]
13. [REDACTED]
14. [REDACTED]
15. [REDACTED]
16. [REDACTED]
17. On 12/25/22, per the D block housing logbook, rounds were completed at 12:30 a.m., 1:30 a.m., 2:30 a.m., 3:45 a.m., 4:40 a.m., and 6:00 a.m. with nothing unusual to report.

Correction Officer (CO) V.V. noted that Romero was seen standing in his cell at 6:00 a.m. for the standing count.

18. On 12/25/22 at 7:03 a.m., CO J.H. was completing a supervisory tour. Upon his arrival to D-1-12 cell, CO J.H. noted a blanket tied to the cells and completely obstructed the view inside. CO J.H. called out for Romero to remove the blanket but received no response. CO J.H. removed the blanket and noted that Romero had a bathrobe belt tied around his neck and was suspended from his locker. CO J.H. called a medical response at 7:03 a.m. CO K. responded and cut the garrote from Romero's neck and slid Romero out of the cell onto the company gallery and initiated Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). CO P. arrived and placed the Automated External Defibrillator (AED), but no shock was advised. At 7:05 a.m., CO B. administered one dose of Narcan without the desired effect.



19. NYS DOCCS Office of Special Investigation (OSI) reviewed the video from Green Haven CF and found that security staff failed to provide rescue breathes and continuous chest compressions. While cell side, the video showed an officer conducting chest compressions and stopped midway not completing the required amount. The responding staff that were cell-side were also seen not utilizing the bag valve mask (BVM) to an unconscious Romero. Video evidence showed that while cell-side, the AED was applied and Narcan was administered. When Romero was placed on the stretcher and escorted to medical, all life-saving measures were continued. The OSI's investigation into the death of Romero found that security staff at Green Haven CF were not in compliance with DOCCS Directive 4059 Section 5 Subsection C. Due to contractual agreements, this case could not be presented for discipline, but OSI did recommend retraining of the relevant staff on Directive 4059.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

TO THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE NYS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION, DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES:

The Deputy Commissioner shall convene a quality assurance review regarding the MRI that was ordered for Romero and was not scheduled.

A report of the findings and any corrective actions taken shall be provided to the Board upon completion.

In a response dated 11/5/25 to the Commission's preliminary report, the Deputy Commissioner for Health Services indicated the requested review was completed with corrective action taken.

WITNESS, HONORABLE YOLANDA CANTY, 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 17th day of December 2025.



Yolanda Canty
Commissioner
Commission of Correction

YC:DC:vc
2022-M-0149
December 17, 2025

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