
PA Number: PA11234MJ

Report Date: 10/17/2011 11:55
AM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Department ID: 24

Department Type: POLICE

Agency Name: Aransas Pass
Police Dept.

Agency Number: TX0040100

Agency Phone: 3617585224

Agency Address: P. O. Box 203

Agency City: Aransas Pass

Agency County: SAN PATRICIO

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 78335

Director Information

Director Salutation:

Chief

Director First Name:

Darrell

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name:

Jones

Reporter Name: William Haines

Reporter Email: whaines@aransaspasstx.gov

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 600 W. Cleveland
Blvd.

City: Aransas Pass

County: San Patricio

What type of custody/facility was the Decedent in at the time of death:

Type of Custody:

Municipal Jail

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Jail - detox cell

Custody Type Facility:

What was the time and date of the deceased's entry into the law enforcement facility where the death occurred (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Entry Date Time: 9/23/2011 3:31 AM

Entry Date Time N/A: ☐

Where did the death occur?

Death Location: At law enforcement
facility

Death Location Elsewhere:

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Lisa

Middle Name:

Last Name: Vela

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 9/23/1984

Sex: Female

Ethnicity: Hispanic

Date/Time of Death (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Death Date and Time: 9/23/2011 12:05 PM

Age At Time Of Death: 27

Date/Time of Custody (arrest, incarceration) (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Date/Time of Custody or Incident:

9/23/2011 3:31 AM

Custody Date NA: ☐

Has a medical examiner or coroner conducted an evaluation to determine a cause of death?

Medical Examiner/Coroner Evaluation?:

Yes, results are available

What was the manner of death? (select only one)

Manner of Death:

Accidental injury to self

Manner of Death Description:

Death Reason:

Not applicable

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Cocaine Toxicity

Had the decedent been receiving treatment for the medical condition that caused the death after admission to your jail's jurisdiction?

Medical Treatment:

No

If death was an accident or homicide, who caused the death?

Who caused the death?:

Not applicable; cause of death was suicide, intoxication or illness/natural causes

Death Causer Other:

If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (mark all that apply)

Type of Death Weapon:

Not Applicable

Was the cause of death the result of a pre-existing medical condition or did the decedent develop the condition after admission?

Pre existing medical condition?:

Don't know

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?

Means of Death:

Not applicable; cause of death was intoxication or illness/natural causes

What were the most serious offense(s) with which the deceased was (or would have been) charged with at the time of death?

Offense 1:

Outstanding Misdemeanor Warrant

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

Were the Charges::

Filed

What were the types of charges or reason for contact?

Type of Offense:

Injuries of Decedent

Injured By: Injured by Self
Accident

At any time during the arrest/incident did the deceased:

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs):

Threaten the officer(s) involved: No

Resist being handcuffed or arrested?: No

Try to escape/flee from custody: No

Grab, hit or fight with the officer(s): No

Other Behavior:



Specify Other Behavior:

Use weapon threaten/assault officer(s): 0

At the time of entry into the facility did the deceased:

Entry Behavior: Intoxicated

Was the deceased under restraint in the time leading up to the death or the events causing the death?

Under Restraint:

No

Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

Summary:

On 09/23/11 at approximately 0251 am, officers were dispatched to 120 E. McClung, the Stripes convenience store (Valero gas station), for a possible intoxicated subject. Reserve officer Nancy Reddick, who was off-duty observed a female who appeared intoxicated at the store and Reddick was afraid the subject was going to drive away in her vehicle.

Officers arrived on-scene and made contact with Lisa Vela, W/F/09-23-1984. Officer Elliott Martinez advised in his report that Vela appeared to be intoxicated and checked wants/warrants on Vela. Lisa Vela showed an active warrant out of Nueces County. The warrant was confirmed and Vela was arrested by Officer Martinez. She was transported to the Aransas Pass holding facility and booked without incident.

Jail checks were performed at 0300, 0400 and 0500 hours with all reports showing that the four prisoners were

ok. At 0900 hours, the check showed a check mark in the ok column.

At approximately 0917 hours, Cpl. Frank Kent and Officer Jordan Lusk entered the booking room to fingerprint and photograph Vela. Cpl. Kent entered cell number 4. Vela, who was the sole prisoner in cell 4, was awake and responsive. Cpl. Kent noticed a Sprint LG cellular phone in her possession and she appeared to be receiving a phone call. He confiscated the phone and turned it over to Sgt. D. Anders. Cpl.

Kent instructed Vela to exit the cell. He observed that she was very unsteady on her feet and swaying. Vela stood in front of the height indicators as instructed; however, Kent held the number placard for her as he was concerned for her safety due to her difficulty maintaining balance. Kent then instructed Vela on the procedures for signing the fingerprint cards. She began to sign but first requested to use the restroom. Kent allowed Vela to use the restroom in the cell. While in the cell, she came to the door and requested toilet paper. Officer Lusk retrieved a roll of toilet paper and gave it to Vela. Vela exited the cell. Kent again showed her where to sign the fingerprint cards.

At this time, Kent took the camera and left the processing area to return the camera to the receptionist area. When he returned to the processing area, Vela had not yet signed the fingerprint cards. She was standing in front of the desk looking at the cards. Kent again instructed Vela to sign the cards. She asked how she was to be certain that she was only signing for fingerprints. Kent showed Vela the statement on both cards which reads "Signature of person fingerprinted". Vela appeared satisfied and signed both cards.

Kent gave the cards to Lusk, who began to fingerprint Vela. Kent stepped out of the processing area momentarily and when he returned, it appeared Vela was being uncooperative during the fingerprinting. Kent told Vela that she needed to comply with the fingerprints so she could be magisterated and transferred to county. Lusk finished the local fingerprint card. Kent took the fingerprint card to dispatch as Lusk continued with fingerprinting on the CR-43. When Kent again returned, Lusk had completed the process and Vela was cleaning the ink from her fingers. Vela was placed back in cell 4 where she asked Lusk for a cup of water and the time. Lusk gave Vela a cup of water and advised her that the time was 0933 hours.

At approximately 11:00 a.m., Cpl. Kent reported to the Aransas Pass Police Department to assist in magistration of arrestees. Kent contacted Judge Donna Cox at the Municipal Court Office and escorted her to the holding facility.

Judge Cox wished to magistrate Lisa Vela, 09/23/84, for Nueces County Warrant CR090033614. Kent opened cell door number 4 and saw Vela laying in a supine position against the west wall of the cell, her right arm was extended out, palm up, her left arm was bent at the elbow with her left hand near her neck. Cpl. Kent advised that he initially thought Vela was sleeping.

Kent advised that he approached her and called out her name. She was unresponsive, so he reached out and gently took hold of her left wrist. It was at this time that he advised that he noticed discoloration in her arms and what appeared to be a small amount of vomit under her right cheek. He immediately notified Judge Cox that he believed that Vela was deceased. Kent then notified Captain R. Gonzales.

Capt. Gonzales, Detective Sgt. Martinez and Det. Sgt. Flores took control of the scene. Kent instructed dispatch to notify EMS and the Justice of the Peace Charlene Lewis. Capt. Gonzales notified the Texas Rangers. EMS arrived on scene and were instructed them to minimize disturbance of the scene if possible. They began the medical evaluation including an electrocardiogram which showed no response.

Texas Ranger Tony DeLuna arrived and immediately assumed responsibility for the scene and the subsequent investigation. Justice of the Peace Charlene Lewis pronounced Vela dead at 12:05 p.m.

Autopsy results are still pending.