



Richmond City Sheriff's Office
Sheriff C. T. Woody, Jr.



NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contact: Major Jerry Baldwin
(804) 646-0222 Ofc.
(804) 314-2286 Cell

AUTOPSY FINDS FORMER RICHMOND INMATE SHAWN SAMUEL DIED OF ACCIDENTAL HEROIN OVERDOSE

RICHMOND, VA --- Sheriff C.T. Woody, Jr. today released the results of the Office of the Medical Examiner's Final Report of the autopsy and toxicology report in the case of former Richmond inmate Shawn Samuel, Jr. Mr. Samuel was one of the three inmates who passed away during a single week in July of this year. As stated in her Final Report, the Medical Examiner has determined Mr. Samuel's *Manner of Death* to be *accidental*, and his *Cause of Death* to be *heroin overdose*.

Shawn Samuel, Jr. (22) was found unresponsive in his jail cell during a routine check at 3:16 a.m. on Wednesday, July 15, 2015. Life-saving attempts made by jail medical contract personnel and EMS technicians were not successful, and he was pronounced dead at 3:53 a.m. There were no signs of foul play, and standard procedure called for a dual investigation by the Sheriff's Office and the Richmond Police Department to be initiated.

"The investigation into this matter is ongoing. However, at this time we have identified a person of interest – a former inmate who is suspected of concealing and transporting contraband into the jail and passing it along to Mr. Samuel. We are already working with the Commonwealth's Attorney's office and are prepared to follow this case wherever it leads", said Sheriff Woody.

Results of the Final Autopsy and toxicology reports for Zachary E. Tuggle are still pending at this time.

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The Richmond City Sheriff's Office is responsible for maintaining a secure jail and a safe court system, along with seamless inmate transport and civil process to preserve public safety. We remain committed to performing these duties with unsurpassed integrity and professionalism, with progressive training that incorporates best practices and technology. While partnering with the community, we strive to lower recidivism by providing faith-based and community-based programming that empowers ex-offenders to become productive members of society.