



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



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Friday, July 17, 2015

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RELEASE OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON JAIL DEATHS

RICHMOND, VA --- Sheriff C.T. Woody, Jr. today released the following additional information on three inmate deaths which occurred this week. All of the families have been properly notified, and a joint investigation into two of the deaths is ongoing.

On Monday July 13, 2015, at approximately 12:24 p.m., inmate Zachary E. Tuggle was involved in a medical emergency in his cell on the 6th Floor of the RCJC. The medical department responded immediately and began to administer medical treatment. Richmond Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived on the scene at 12:36 p.m. At 1:11 p.m. Tuggle was pronounced deceased. The Richmond Police Department was called and arrived at 2:10 p.m., and began a joint investigation into his death. At this time we are awaiting both the preliminary autopsy report and toxicology report from the Office of the Medical Examiner in order to determine the exact cause and manner of death.

Zachary E. Tuggle (29 y.o.) was booked into the RCJC on October 31, 2014 on two weapons charges, a narcotics charge and a larceny charge.

On Wednesday, July 15, 2015, at approximately 3:16 a.m., during a cell check, RCJC inmate Shawn Samuel was found to be unresponsive in his cell on the 5th Floor. Jail medical staff and EMS responded and attempted life-saving measures, but were unable to revive him. Samuel was pronounced deceased at 3:53 a.m. Richmond Police Detectives, Forensics Unit officers, and the Medical Examiner responded. The preliminary report from the Office of the Medical Examiner, Dr. Kevin Whaley, states that no signs of foul play were found. The final autopsy report cannot be issued until toxicology results are known.

Shawn Samuel (22 y.o.) was booked in to the RCJC on September 29, 2014 and was currently serving a sentence of 2 years and 8 months with 10 years suspended, on three larceny charges, one escape charge and 2 burglary charges.

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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.

On Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at approximately 6:46 p.m. jail medical staff contacted EMS for assistance with a medical emergency involving an inmate housed on the medical tier of the jail. At approximately 6:55 p.m. EMS responded, and inmate Javon Antoine Morris was transported to Emergency Room at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center, where he was pronounced deceased at approximately 8:22 p.m. As is standard protocol, Richmond Police Department was contacted to lead a joint investigation. In this case, since the death did not occur at the RCJC, Richmond Police will not be completing a follow up report. An Administrative Investigation is being conducted as we await the final report from the Office of the Medical Examiner.

Javon Antoine Morris (38 y.o.) was booked into the RCJC on July 14, 2015 and was due to appear in court in August on assault charges.

Because this matter is an ongoing dual investigation, these are the only details we are able to release at this time.

“We recognize that each of these incidents is a private, tragic situation for the families involved, and we mourn with them the loss of their loved ones. As we stated previously, we are working with the Richmond Police Department to thoroughly investigate each situation in order to provide the families with the answers they deserve.” – Sheriff C.T. Woody, Jr.

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