



Diana Becton  
District Attorney

Report of the Law Enforcement Involved Fatal Incident Investigation of  
KENT EUGENE HICKEY on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at approximately 10:30 pm, KENT EUGENE HICKEY [hereinafter referred to as HICKEY] was arrested by the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department and taken into custody based on a warrant for charges filed in Contra Costa County under docket # 01-196186-1. Under this docket, HICKEY was charged with three felonies, including: PC 29800(a)(1); HS 11378; and HS 11351. While in custody, HICKEY was given a mental health screening where he denied having suicidal thoughts.

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 pm, HICKEY was arraigned in Martinez Superior Court in Department #1 and was given a future court date. Following his arraignment, at 3:30 pm, HICKEY was transported to the Martinez Detention facility, housing module "E". HICKEY and was placed in cell #18, which was not occupied by any other inmates at the time. At 4:03 pm, a cell check was conducted on HICKEY, who appeared alert and not in distress.

At approximately 4:25 pm, inmates were provided with meals. At this time, HICKEY was found hanging from the top bunk of his cell bed by what appeared to be a torn piece of a bed sheet. Jail staff cut the restraint around HICKEY's neck and both jail and medical staff attempted life saving measures. Attempts to revive HICKEY were unsuccessful and he succumbed to his injuries. On July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, an autopsy was conducted by Dr. Ikechi Ogan, who determined that HICKEY's cause of death was asphyxiation due to strangulation.

The Contra Costa County Law Enforcement Involved Fatal Incident Protocol (LEIFI) was activated following HICKEY's death. All Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office personnel involved in the incident were sequestered and the LEIFI investigation was initiated by the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office (CCDAO). This report is the final step in the CCDAO investigation.

As part of the Protocol, the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office and the involved agencies conduct independent investigations. The purpose of the CCDAO criminal investigation is to determine whether any of the involved individuals, officers, or civilians, committed a crime.

The LEIFI investigation determined that KENT HICKEY committed suicide while in the Martinez Detention Facility. No force was used by any Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office personnel before, during, or after the incident and there is no evidence to support a criminal prosecution against any of the involved deputies or civilians. Accordingly, no further action will be taken in this case by the CCDAO.