NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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In-custody death at San Mateo County Correctional Facility ruled natural

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. – An independent review of an incarcerated person’s death at a San Mateo County correctional facility determined that the man died of natural causes.

Both the San Mateo County District Attorney’s Office and the San Mateo County Coroner’s Office recently shared their findings of their independent and thorough investigations with the Sheriff’s Office following the death of 23-year-old Anthony C. Harding in January at the Maguire Correctional Facility.

The Coroner’s Office is the entity responsible for determining the manner of death from several categories: natural, accidental, homicide, suicide, undetermined or pending. According to the Coroner’s Report, Harding died of a seizure that was due to complications of an opioid withdrawal. The Coroner determined that chronic abuse of the drug fentanyl was a factor in the death.

On Sunday, January 14, 2024 at around 8:45 a.m. during a routine medical evaluation, a staff nurse noticed Harding had difficulty breathing. Medical staff immediately initiated first aid and lifesaving measures, while correctional personnel called for additional medical assistance. Redwood City Fire Department and American Medical Response (AMR) paramedics responded and took over the lifesaving efforts upon their arrival. Despite their efforts, Harding died at the facility.

Following protocol, the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Investigations Bureau, the District Attorney’s Office, and the Coroner’s Office were notified and responded to the scene. Investigators from these three agencies initiated independent investigations to determine the circumstances surrounding the death. The cause and manner of death was ultimately determined by the Coroner’s Office.

“We offer our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Harding during this time of unimaginable loss,” said Sheriff Christina Corpus. “The safety and well-being of those in our custody is one of our highest priorities. I am sharing the results of the independent investigations with the community as part of my commitment to transparency.”