

CITY OF RALEIGH INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM



To: Ruffin Hall,
City Manager

From: C.L. Deck-Brown,
Police Chief

Date: January 19, 2018

Re: Preliminary Report of January 11, 2018, In-Custody-Death

An in-custody-death occurred on January 11, 2018, following a traffic stop that took place in the 400 block of Rose Lane. As is standard practice in these matters, the State Bureau of Investigation is conducting an independent criminal investigation of the in-custody-death and will present its findings directly to the Wake County District Attorney for review. Additionally, the Internal Affairs Unit of the Raleigh Police Department is conducting an administrative investigation into the actions of the officers who were involved in the arrest. When complete, the administrative investigation will be reviewed by supervisory staff.

Both investigations are on-going, will be thorough, and will follow the available facts and evidence wherever they lead. Based upon the information currently available to the Department, a preliminary review of the incident provides the following:

On the evening of January 10, 2018, Detective J.D. Rattelade and Detective R.P. Monroe were working an active narcotics investigation. As part of that investigation they identified a suspect vehicle near the 1600 block of Poole Road. They asked for marked units to respond to that location and stand by in case they needed them to make a traffic stop. While watching the vehicle, Detective Rattelade observed the driver commit a traffic violation. At approximately 10:02 p.m., Senior Officer K.L. Potter activated his blue lights and stopped the car that was driven by Mr. Dextro White in the 400 block of Rose Lane. Inside the car were three other passengers, including Mr. Curtis Mangum who was sitting in the back seat on the passenger side.

Officer Potter approached the vehicle, along with Senior Officer W.A. Lane, and Master Officer M.R. Michael. Officer Potter spoke with Mr. White and obtained his driver's license and vehicle registration information. He then returned to his vehicle to verify the information he had been given.

Based on the information possessed by Detectives Rattelade and Monroe from their active investigation, all of the occupants were told to remain still and keep their hands visible until officers could remove them from the vehicle one at a time and check the vehicle for

weapons. Mr. White and two other occupants followed directions and exited the vehicle without incident. Mr. Mangum was instructed to remain still and place his hands on the headrest in front of him until he could be removed from the car. He continued to lean forward and remove his hands from the headrest despite repeated commands to remain still. At one point, Mr. Mangum stuck his right hand out of the window while simultaneously placing his left hand inside his jacket. Officers Potter and Lane gave continued instructions to make his hands visible and stop moving around inside the car. Finally, Mr. Mangum stuck his head, both of his hands, arms, and the upper part of his torso out of the window of the rear passenger door. Because of his noncompliant behavior up to that point, along with the fact that officers had information leading them to believe there was a gun in the car, Officers Potter and Lane handcuffed Mr. Mangum, lifted him out of the window, and lowered him to the ground. A subsequent search of Mr. Mangum recovered 28 grams of a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana, .5 grams of a rock-like substance believed to be cocaine, and a digital scale.

A loaded semi-automatic handgun and six (6) fully loaded magazines for that weapon were found concealed in the glove box of the vehicle. Additionally, trace amounts of substances believed to be both crack cocaine and marijuana were located in the vehicle. Mr. White was arrested and charged with Carrying a Concealed Weapon and with Maintaining a Vehicle for the Sale of Controlled Substances.

Mr. Mangum was arrested for Possession With Intent to Sell and Deliver Cocaine, Possession With Intent to Sell and Deliver Marijuana, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. All four occupants of the vehicle were transported to the South-East District Police Station, located at 1601 Cross Link Road. No charges were filed against the other occupants of the vehicle.

Master Officer J.M. Midgette responded to the traffic stop, took custody of Mr. Mangum, and transported him from the 400 block of Rose Lane to the South-East District Station, leaving Rose Lane with Mr. Mangum at approximately 11:10 p.m. and arriving at the South-East District Station at approximately 11:16 p.m. Upon arriving at the South-East District Station, Officer Midgette assisted Mr. Mangum out of the back seat of his patrol vehicle. While doing so, he noticed that Mr. Mangum appeared less steady on his feet and was quieter than he had been earlier. Sgt. J.H. Etheridge met Officer Midgette at the back door of the station. As he walked into the station, Officer Midgette told Sgt. Etheridge he should call for EMS because he was concerned about Mr. Mangum. Sgt. Etheridge contacted dispatch and requested EMS at approximately 11:16 p.m.

While waiting for EMS to arrive, Mr. Mangum was searched by Detective Monroe and Detective Rattelade. Sgt. Etheridge was present for part of the search before leaving to meet EMS. During this time, Officer Midgette continued to check both the front door and the rear door of the station for EMS' arrival.

At approximately 11:27 p.m., EMS arrived at the front of the South-East District Station. One EMS worker went to check on Mr. Mangum while a second EMS worker returned to the ambulance to get a stretcher. Video surveillance at the South-East District Station shows that at approximately 11:32 p.m., Mr. Mangum walked out the front door of the station and met EMS who had a stretcher waiting for him on the sidewalk. He climbed onto the stretcher and was

taken to the ambulance. Officer Midgette rode with Mr. Mangum in the ambulance to WakeMed where he was admitted at approximately 11:53 p.m. Officer Midgette continued to wait with Mr. Mangum as he was treated by hospital staff. Mr. Mangum's condition worsened over the next several hours and he was pronounced dead by hospital staff at approximately 2:40 a.m. on January 11, 2018. Following standard practice, both the Wake County District Attorney and the SBI were immediately notified of the in-custody-death.

Preliminary autopsy reports from the Medical Examiner's Office indicate that a torn plastic bag was found inside Mr. Mangum's stomach and the only sign of injury noted by the Medical Examiner was a small scrape on one of Mr. Mangum's shins. The Medical Examiner's Office will release a final autopsy report at a later date.

The vehicle driven by Officer Potter, who conducted the initial traffic stop, was not equipped with a video camera; therefore, there is no video footage of the traffic stop or subsequent investigation at the scene. Officer Midgette's vehicle was equipped with a camera; however, since he never had reason to activate his blue lights, his camera was not recording while he transported Mr. Mangum to the South-East District Station. There is video surveillance footage from security cameras located at the South-East District Station that captures Mr. Mangum arriving at and exiting from the Station. The City of Raleigh has obtained an order for this video footage to be released in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 132-1.4A

Pursuant to departmental policy, Detective Rattelade, Detective Monroe, Officer Potter, Sgt. Etheridge, Officer Midgette, and Officer Lane were placed on administrative duty pending the completion of the SBI and administrative investigations.