County of Santa Cruz

Sheriff-Coroner

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Phil Wowak
Sheriff-Coroner

Sheriff's Media Release

Date/Time of Incident/Event: 01-13-2013 11:20 AM
Location of Incident: Main Jail, 259 Water Street, Santa Cruz
Case Number: **#13-0373**
Type of Incident: In-Custody Death
Suspect(s): None
Photo(s) Available: Yes ____ No __X__

Description of Incident: On Sunday, January 13, 2013, at approximately 11:40 AM a 41-year old male inmate was pronounced deceased by paramedics at the Main Jail in Santa Cruz County. The subject was arrested on Friday, January 11, 2013 by the Sheriff's Office on a felony charge of making criminal threats and brought to the main jail at approximately 8:00 PM. The male adult was booked into the facility at approximately 11:00 PM and housed. The inmate was housed in a single cell because of statements he had made about his ability to get along with other inmates.

On Sunday, 01-13-2013 at approximately 5:00 AM the inmate received medication from a nurse and the inmate later received his morning breakfast. A Correctional Officer conducted a routine welfare check on the inmate at approximately 10:00 AM and the inmate was alert and not displaying any suspicious behavior. A similar routine check was conducted at approximately 11:20 AM and the inmate was found unconscious and unresponsive from an apparent suicide by hanging. The inmate was alone in his single cell at the time of his death. Emergency Medical Assistance was provided immediately by the officer, by jail medical staff and by firefighters and paramedics who had been summoned to the scene. The inmate was pronounced deceased at the scene at approximately 11:40 AM.

The Coroner and the Sheriff's Office Investigation Division were summoned to conduct a thorough investigation. The decedent will not be identified at this time pending notification of the legal next of kin. The Coroner will conduct a medical examination to determine the manner and cause of death.

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