



MEDIA RELEASE

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
Sheriff-Coroner

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Jim Hart
Sheriff-Coroner

Media Release: June 18, 2020 Tamario Smith Cause of Death

On May 10, 2020 Tamario Smith died suddenly and unexpectedly while in custody at the Santa Cruz County Jail. A thorough investigation was conducted by the Coroner's Unit which included comprehensive testing to include Covid-19. Our forensic pathologist determined Mr. Smith's cause of death to be acute water intoxication, due to the over consumption of water in a short period of time. The over consumption of water was influenced by Mr. Smith's underlying mental health issues. This water consumption led to an electrolyte imbalance, which caused Mr. Smith's organs to fail, leading to Mr. Smith's death.

The autopsy, testing and investigation showed no evidence of trauma, foul play, Covid-19 or other evidence that he had ingested any caustic or poisonous substances. Mr. Smith's death was classified as an accident.

PREPARED BY:
Ashley Keehn
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

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