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Inmate hangs himself with shirt

An Orleans Parish Prison inmate tied his shirt to a bar across his cell window and hanged himself early Sunday, prison authorities said Monday.

Nathan Shaffer, 33, 8627 Palm St., was dead on arrival at Charity Hospital at 4:40 a.m. His death was classified a suicide Monday after an autopsy at the Orleans Parish coroner's office.

Shaffer was booked Jan. 31 on charges of attempted forcible rape, second-degree battery, simple battery, resisting arrest and possession of marijuana, and was awaiting trial, Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff Charles Foti said.

Foti said Shaffer was last seen alive during a routine check by prison guards 20 minutes before he was found hanged about 3:50 a.m. Shaffer was in a private cell, Foti said.

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