DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE, STANDARDS, AND INSPECTIONS
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
REPORT OF INMATE DEATH

(Sections 24-9-35 and 17-7-10, South Carolina Code of Laws)
(Standards 1047 and 1049, Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities in South Carolina)
(SCDC Policies/Procedures HS-18.04 and PS-10.05)

1. FACILITY: Aiken County Detetnion Center

2. NAME OF DECEASED: Cook Sr, Dion Marcus SCDC# N/A

3. HOME ADDRESS: 1035 Pinecrest Ave Aiken, SC 29801

4. DESCRIPTION: DOB [redacted] HEIGHT 510 WEIGHT 189 HAIR Bald

   EYES Bro SEX M RACE B SOC SEC # [redacted]

5. ARRESTING OFFENSE(S): Driving under suspension, license not suspended for DUI - 3rd or sub. offence

   SENTENCED ☒ PRETRIAL ☐

6. DATE AND TIME OF COMMITMENT: 10/29/19 1000

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF RELATIVE(S) OF THE DECEASED CONTACTED: Lisa Cook

   1035 Pinecrest Ave. Aiken, SC 29801

8. RECORD OF DECEASED INMATE'S PHYSICAL CONDITION UPON ADMISSION: Heart Condition, High Blood Pressure, Hospitilized within last year, Painfull dental condition.

9. CAUSE OF DEATH: Unknown at this time. Autopsy scheduled 12/06/19 @ 0900

10. TIME AND DATE OF DEATH: 7:20 a.m. ____ p.m. 05 day December month 2019 year

11. NAME OF DOCTOR WHO PRONOUNCED DEATH: Aiken Regional ER

12. NAME OF CORONER WHO ORDERED AUTOPSY: Jeff Smith

13. AUTOPSY PERFORMED BY: Newberry Pathology Associates

14. NAME OF PERSON DISCOVERING DECEASED, TIME DISCOVERED, AND LOCATION WITHIN FACILITY:

    Inmate Cody Patterson

    0615 - Kitchen dry goods room

15. AT THE TIME OF DEATH: 390 (Actual Count) 13 (# of Officers on Duty)

16. WHEN INMATE WAS LAST SEEN ALIVE: Aprox. 0610

NOTIFY BY TELEPHONE AT: (803) 896-8502

MAIL OR DELIVER REPORT TO:

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE, STANDARDS, AND INSPECTIONS
POST OFFICE BOX 21787
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29221

SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL MAKING REPORT

Jail Administrator
TYPED OR PRINTED TITLE OF OFFICIAL

12/06/19
DATE OF REPORT

SCDC 8-2 (Revised July 1, 2011)

The Augusta Chronicle

NEWS

Inmate found dead in Aiken County Detention Center

Jozsef Papp jpapp@augustachronicle.com

Published 12:24 p.m. ET Dec. 5, 2019

An investigation is underway at the Aiken County Detention Center after an inmate died Thursday morning.

Dion Cook Sr., 53, who was working in the facility's kitchen, was found unresponsive around 6 a.m. Thursday. Detention officers and a facility nurse performed life saving measures before he was transported by Aiken County EMS to Aiken Regional Medical Center where he was pronounced dead.

According to the Aiken County Sheriff's Office, there does not appear to be any suspicious circumstances regarding the inmate's death. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and the Aiken County Coroner's Office have been called to conduct an investigation. An autopsy is scheduled Friday and no foul play is suspected at this time.

This is the second death at the Aiken County Detention Center this year. In January, Warren A. Pridgen, 62, was found unresponsive and pronounced dead in his jail cell. Aiken County Coroner Darryl Ables said Pridgen died of natural causes.

The last time two inmates died at the detention center was 2017. Adam Crow, 36, was found hanged in his cell in that May and Jimmy Keenan, 58, died of natural causes.

Harry Smith, 46, was found unresponsive inside a holding sell in September 2018. Ables said Smith's death was accidental.