OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
YORK COUNTY DETENTION CENTER
YORK COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
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Kevin R. Tolson, *Sheriff*

INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

IA-2022-007

The following documents contained within are regarding the Internal Investigation of:

Frank Lang
Jacket # 1464215
[redacted]
Hickory Grove, SC 29717
Booking Date/Time: 11-25-2021 / 22:23
Date of Birth: [redacted]
SSN#: [redacted]

I. Administrative Review Coversheet
II. Investigation Summary
III. Events Reports
IV. Booking Documents
V. Video Surveillance
VI. Disposition

Investigator(s): Crystal L. Blauser, Office of Professional Standards, Lieutenant

Michael A. Hewitt, Office of Professional Standards, Sergeant

Reviewed by:

SLED

John C. Hicks Jr., Chief Jail Administrator — 1/5/23 Date

Rodney D. Hope, Assistant Chief Jail Administrator — 1/10/23 Date

Tamyra Hogg, Administrative Services Captain — 1/9/23 Date

Heather L. Mouzon, Staff Attorney — 1/6/2023 Date

Fred W. Moore Jr., Undersheriff — 1-6-2023 Date

Kevin R. Tolson, Sheriff — 1-17-23 Date

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INTERNAL INVESTIGATION-IA-2022-007

TO: John C. Hicks Jr., Chief Administrator

FROM: Crystal L. Blauser, Office of Professional Standards

SUBJECT: Inmate Frank, Lang

DATE: May 6, 2022

Introduction

Frank Lang was taken into custody on Thursday, November, 25, 2021 by the York County Sheriff's Office for the charges of Violation of Permanent Restraining Order, Domestic Violence 2nd Degree, Domestic Violence 1st Degree and Bond Revocation. Inmate Lang was processed into the York County Detention Center on Thursday, November 25, 2021 at 2223 hours. Inmate Lang had been in custody for approximately 152 days and 14 hours at the time of the incident.

Allegations

On Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at approximately 0700 hours, I received a phone call from Chief John Hicks stating that inmate Lang had jumped from the top tier of Housing Unit C. Chief Hicks stated that the shift on duty had started CPR and that inmate Lang was unresponsive. He directed me to report to the Detention Center immediately.

Investigation

I reported to the York County Detention Center at approximately 0710 on Wednesday, April 27, 2022. York City Fire Department and Piedmont Medical Center Emergence Medical Services personnel were already on scene performing CPR on inmate Lang. Inmate Lang was attached to the Lucas 3 (Lund University Cardiac Assist System) machine while York Firefighter Crosby was administering air via the Ambu bag. Nurse Bell was using a suction tube to remove blood coming from inmate Lang's mouth. At approximately 0722 on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, EMS supervisor Daniel made the decision to stop CPR and called code back, reporting that inmate Lang was deceased.

Video Surveillance

The following is a detailed account of the incident as depicted on the facility's surveillance footage, beginning at the time inmate Lang, Frank exited his cell C28 in Housing Unit C.

06:09:32 Inmate Lang exits his cell C28 and heads directly up the stairs when his cell door is opened. Officers St. Laurent and Collins are at the officer console conducting medication delivery and razor call.

06:09:51 Inmate Lang reaches the top of the stairs and stands out of camera view.

06:11:33 An inmate can be seen walking by the exercise equipment which is right located below where inmate Lang is standing. Officers St. Laurent and Collins are still conducting medication delivery at the officer console.

06:13:02 An inmate can be seen sweeping the floors downstairs by the showers and under the stairs.

06:15:40 An inmate can be seen walking up the stairs and go into the far right shower.

06:15:44 Inmate Lang can be seen moving closer to the rail and in view of the camera, then moves away from the rail and out of view of the camera.

06:16:54 Inmate Lang can be seen moving closer to the rail and in view of the camera, then moves away from the rail and out of view of the camera.

06:17:34 Inmate Lang can be seen moving closer to the rail and in view of the camera.

06:18:12 Inmate Lang moves back out of view from the camera

06:19:35 Inmate Lang can be seen moving closer to the rail and in view of the camera, then moves away from the rail and out of view of the camera.

06:25:35 Inmate Lang can be seen moving closer to the rail and in view of the camera, then moves away from the rail and out of view of the camera.

06:26:48 Inmate Lang can be seen moving closer to the rail and in view of the camera, then moves away from the rail and out of view of the camera.

Video Surveillance continued

06:29:10 Inmate Lang can be seen moving closer to the rail while another inmate walks toward the telephones and then back to a bottom cell.

06:30:33 Another inmate can be seen entering the downstairs shower on the far left.

06:31:02 The inmate exits the downstairs shower and walks to his cell, which is downstairs, and inmate Lang can be seen by the rail in camera view.

06:31:18 Another inmate can be seen entering the far left downstairs shower and closing the shower curtain.

06:31:43 Inmate Lang moves back out of camera view.

06:36:19 The inmate from the top tier far right shower exits the shower and walks down the stairs.

06:37:13 An inmate can be seen walking toward the recreational door by the telephones.

06:37:35 The inmate walks away from the recreational door and heads toward the officer console and then walks back toward the exercise equipment.

06:37:56 Another inmate exits the bottom far right shower and walks back toward his cell across the dayroom.

06:38:12 Inmate Lang can be seen leaning over the rail into camera view.

06:38:21 Inmate Lang jumps from the top tier and lands between the exercise equipment and telephones.

06:38:25 The inmate at the exercise equipment runs away from the scene while Officer Collins runs toward inmate Lang.

06:38:33 Officer St. Laurent walks toward inmate Lang and then run towards cell C28 and grabs towels.

06:38:42 All other inmates can be seen heading into their respective cells.

06:39:12 Lt. C. McMillan, Sgt. Smith, Sgt. Plyler, Sgt. Phillips, Cpl. Fonville, Cpl. Aube, Cpl. Parker, Nurse Bell and Officers Chavis and Goforth enter Housing Unit C

Video Surveillance continued

06:39:32	The inmate from the far left bottom shower exits the shower and returns to his room.
06:40:02	Sgt. Smith, Sgt. Phillips, Cpl. Parker, Officer Chavis and Officer Goforth secure the cells downstairs. While Sgt. Plyler, Cpl. Fonville, and Cpl. Aube tend to inmate Lang.
06:41:04	Sgt. Smith, Sgt. Phillips and Cpl. Fonville exit the unit.
06:41:24	Sgt. Plyler starts to place black trash bags covering the cell windows.
06:41:58	Cpl. Parker, Officer Chavis and Officer Goforth start placing black trash bags covering the cell windows.
06:42:29	Officer Craze walks into the unit.
06:42:39	Cpl. Aube walks away from inmate Lang and walks toward the officer console.
06:42:44	Officer Collins walks away from inmate Lang and walks toward the exit door of the unit but then starts putting black trash bags on the windows.
06:43:05	Cpl. Aube returns to inmate Lang.
06:43:42	Officer Craze starts walking upstairs to place black trash over the cell windows.
06:43:43	Cpl. Fonville enters the unit.
06:43:50	Officer Collins goes back to tend to inmate Lang.
06:43:58	Lt. McMillan and Cpl. Fonville exits the unit.
06:44:04	Lt. McMillan, Cpl. Fonville, Officer Vensk, and Officer Neal enter the unit with the crash cart.
06:44:54	Sgt. Plyler, Cpl. Parker, Officers Craze, Chavis, and Goforth are upstairs placing black trash bags over the cell windows.
06:47:34	Cpl. Parker, Officer Chavis and Officer Goforth exit the unit.
06:48:12	Lt. McMillan exits the unit and holds the unit door open.
06:48:30	Cpl. Aube exits the unit.

Video Surveillance continued

06:49:35 Officer Craze and Officer Collins exits the unit.

06:49:40 Officer Collins enters the unit.

06:49:57 Lt. McMillan enters the unit.

06:50:17 Sgt. Phillips, Cpl. Parker, Officers Jemison, Goforth and Chavis and EMS personnel Daniel and Heath entered the unit.

06:51:20 Officer Craze enters the unit.

06:55:05 Chief Hope enters the unit from the top tier.

06:55:21 Sgt. Brayden enters the unit.

06:58:22 Deputy Beard and York Fire Department personnel Zach, Meek and Crosby enter the unit.

06:59:03 Deputy Beard, Sgt. Brayden and Officer Goforth exit the unit.

06:59:34 Deputy Beard, Sgt. Brayden, Officer Goforth and EMS personnel Matt and Shannon enter the unit.

07:00:07 Officer Collins exits the unit.

07:02:37 Lt. McMillan exits the unit.

07:02:50 Sgt. Phillips exits the unit and Cpl. Aube enters the unit.

07:04:08 Deputy Beard and Officer St. Laurent exit the unit.

07:04:53 Sgt. Plyler, Cpl. Fonville and Cpl. Parker exit the unit.

07:05:19 Sgt. Brayden and Officer Craze exit the unit.

07:06:26 Lt. McMillan enters the unit.

07:08:13 Lt. McMillan exits the unit.

07:08:40 Chief Hicks enters the unit.

Video Surveillance continued

07:08:50	Nurse Barnette, Nurse Davis and Lt. Cole enter the unit.
07:10:06	Officers Chavis, Jemison, and Goforth and Lt. Cole exit the unit.
07:10:51	Officer Heath enters the unit.
07:16:04	Cpt. Howley and Lt. Blauser enter the unit.
07:17:23	Nurse Davis exits the unit.
07:20:36	Cpt. Howley exits the unit.
07:22:31	Chief Hicks exits the unit.
07:22:52	Chief Hicks enters the unit.
07:23:39	Chief Hicks, York Fire Department personal Zach, Meek and Crosby exit the unit.
07:26:15	Officer Heath exit the unit.
07:26:35	Cpl. Woods enters the unit with privacy screens.
07:28:56	Nurse Barnette exits the unit.
07:29:17	Cpl. Woods and Piedmont EMS personnel Matt, Daniel, Heath and Shannon exit the unit.
07:29:40	Chief Hope and Cpl. Aube place the privacy screens around inmate Lang's body to conceal inmate Lang from the other inmates.
07:29:40	Nurse Davis enters the unit.
07:31:52	Chief Hicks enters the unit.
07:32:16	Nurse Davis exits the unit.
07:33:52	Chief Hope and Chief Hicks exit the unit.
07:34:22	Nurse Barnette enters the unit.
07:34:36	Officer Heath enters the unit.

Video Surveillance continued

07:35:19	Cpl. Woods enters the unit with blankets and Cpl. Aube uses the blankets to help further conceal inmate Lang's body from the view of other inmates.
07:26:02	Cpl. Woods and Nurse Barnette exit the unit.
07:37:15	Officer Jemison enters the unit.
07:39:56	Cpl. Fonville, Deputy Sgt. Zike and Deputy Crawford enters the unit.
07:41:58	Nurse Barnette enters the unit.
07:42:41	Nurse Barnette exits the unit.
07:47:33	Cpl. Fonville exits the unit.
07:53:23	Sgt. Hewitt enters the unit.
07:58:18	Officer Jemison takes the breakfast trays from the unit door and Sgt. Green enters the unit.
07:59:39	Officer Heath begings feeding the lower tier while Officer Jemison passes out medication.
08:00:11	Sgt. Green exits the unit.
08:04:39	Cpt. Howley enters the unit.
08:05:32	Sgt. Brayden enters the unit.
08:05:52	Nurse Bell exits the unit.
08:06:39	Cpl. Aube and Sgt. Brayden exit the unit.
08:06:52	Lt. McMillan, Coroner Keane and EMS personnel Thomson enter the unit.
08:08:11	Lt. McMillan exits the unit.
08:08:40	Cpt. Howley exits the unit.
08:11:51	Cpt. Kitchen and Chief Hicks enter the unit.

Video Surveillance continued

08:14:15	Chief Hicks exits the unit.
08:15:16	Deputy Wong enters the unit.
08:15:59	Lt. McMillan enters the unit.
08:16:23	Lt. McMillan exits the unit.
08:21:04	Coroner Keane begins to take pictures of the scene.
08:22:24	Officer Heath and Officer Jemison begin to feed the upper tier and hand out medication.
08:22:42	Cpt. Kitchen, Deputy Sgt. Zike, Deputy Crawford and EMS Thomson exit the unit.
08:25:35	Chief Hicks, Cpt. Kitchen and SLED special agent B. May enter the unit.
08:32:09	Chief Hicks, Coroner Keane and SA May open cell #28 and speak to inmate Crawford.
08:35:12	Chief Hicks exits the unit.
08:39:13	Coroner Keane and SA May exit cell #28.
08:41:26	Coroner Keane and SA May enter cell #41 and speak to inmate Bill.
08:44:18	Coroner Keane and SA May exit cell #41.
08:50:08	Officer Jemison pushes a breakfast cart out of the unit.
08:51:00	Officer Jemison and Officer Heath push the other two breakfast carts out of the unit and Officer Heath exits the unit.
08:52:22	Coroner Keane and SA May open cell #29 and walk inmate Conrad to the multi-purpose room for questioning.
08:52:58	Cpt. Kitchen exits the unit.
08:56:25	Cell #29 is opened, inmate Conrad returns to his cell and inmate Lawson walks out to be questioned in the multi-purpose room.
09:02:21	Cell #29 is opened and inmate Lawson returns to his cell.

Video Surveillance continued

09:02:41	Cell #27 is opened and inmate Staton exits his cell and walks over to the multi-purpose room to be questioned.
09:10:21	Cell #27 is opened, inmate Staton returns to his cell and inmate Brookshire walks over to the multi-purpose room to be questioned.
09:20:24	Cell #27 is opened and inmate Brookshire returns to his cell.
09:21:02	Cell #1 is opened and Coroner Keane and SA May enter the cell and question inmate Hill.
09:28:03	Cell #1 is secured.
09:28:39	Chief Hicks enters the unit.
09:29:31	Cpt. Hogg opens the unit door and stands in the doorway.
09:29:37	Cell #37 is opened and inmate Wilson walks to the multi-purpose room to be questioned.
09:31:56	Cpt. Hogg secures the unit door.
09:32:33	Cpt. Kitchen enters the unit.
09:33:21	Chief Hope and SLED crime scene agents Russell Smigelski, Melinda Worley, and Justin Wingo enter the unit.
09:36:14	SA Smigelski and SA Worley begin to process the scene.
09:42:33	Cpt. Kitchen exits the unit.
08:44:03	Cell #37 is opened and inmate Wilson returns to his cell.
09:54:18	Chief Hicks, SA May and SA Wingo exit the unit.
10:00:03	Pharmacy Technician Brown enters the unit to retrieve the medication boxes and then exits the unit.
10:10:17	Chief Hope exits the unit.

Video Surveillance continued

10:12:08	Cell #28 is opened and inmate Crawford is walked over to the multi-purpose room so Coroner Keane, SA Smigelski and SA Worley can process inmate Lang's room and belongings.
10:15:12	Chief Hope, Coroner Transport Marcal Scridvers and Joseph Ballard enter the unit.
10:18:35	Chief Hope exits the unit.
10:21:32	Chief Hope enters the unit.
10:33:03	Chief Hicks enters the unit.
10:34:42	Chief Hicks and Chief Hope exit the unit.
10:35:49	Chief Hope enters the unit.
10:38:14	Inmate Crawford returns to his cell #28.
10:39:27	Chief Hope, Deputy Wong, Coroner Keane, Coroner Transport Schridver and Ballard exit the unit with inmate Lang's body.
10:43:51	Sgt. Hewitt, SA Smigelski, SA Worley and Lt. Blauser exit the unit.

Body Camera Footage

The following is a detailed account of the incident as shown by the officer's body-worn cameras. This time line will follow Officer St. Laurent's BWC footage from the time inmate Lang jumped until she exited the unit. Then it will pick up with Corporal Aube's BWC footage until code black was called by Emergency Medical Services. Time stamps are shown as minute and seconds.

06:40	A loud bang can be heard on video.
06:45	Officer St. Laurent calls a 10-33 (medical emergency) housing unit Charlie and requests EMS via the radio.
06:56	Officer St. Laurent enters cell C28 to grab towels.
07:05	Officer St. Laurent places the towel and uniform on inmate Lang's back of head.
07:24	Officer St. Laurent attempts to check for a pulse on inmate Lang's neck.

Body Camera Footage continued

07:40	Officer Collins states that he found a pulse in inmate Lang's arm.
07:58	Nurse Bell arrives and assists with holding inmate Lang's head.
08:27	Nurse Bell states to Cpl. Aube that inmate Lang is still breathing.
08:45	Sgt. Plyler can be heard calling for the crash cart from Housing Unit I.
11:43	Cpl. Aube checks for a pulse and stated that he still had one.
12:41	Nurse Bell instructors Cpl. Aube to open up the oxygen from the crash cart.
14:51	Nurse Bell places the non-rebreather mask connect to the oxygen tank on inmate Lang.
15:11	Nurse Bell checks for a pulse.
16:00	Inmate Lang is rolled over onto his back.
16:10	Officer St. Laurent starts chest compressions while Nurse Bell continues to hold to the oxygen mask.
16:15	Sgt. Plyler starts chest compressions.
17:09	Officer St. Laurent starts chest compressions.
17:13	Nurse Bell starts to cut the uniform shirt off inmate Lang.
18:52	Officer Collins starts chest compressions while Sgt. Plyler holds the oxygen mask.
18:57	EMS arrives on scene.
20:01	Nurse Bell starts chest compressions and Officer St. Laurent holds the oxygen mask.
20:37	Sgt. Phillips starts chest compressions.
20:39	Nurse Bell places electrodes on inmate Lang's chest.
20:58	Stop is called so that the cardiac monitor can read the heart rate.
21:35	Sgt. Phillips starts chest compressions and Officer St. Laurent holds the oxygen mask.

Body Camera Footage continued

23:56	Officer Collins starts chest compressions.
25:04	Officer St. Laurent under the instructions from EMS personnel intubates inmate Lang.
25:15	Nurse Bell attaches the oxygen bag to the intubated tube.
25:18	Sgt. Plyler starts chest compressions.
25:56	EMS personnel place a suction tube on the oxygen mask.
26:27	Sgt. Phillips starts chest compressions.
26:36	Nurse Bell places a strap around the oxygen mask to hold it into place.
27:21	Officer St. Laurent stabilizes inmate Lang's head.
27:43	Compressions are stopped and EMS personnel place the back board of the Lucas machine under inmate Lang.
27:51	Sgt. Phillips starts chest compressions and Nurse Bell starts compressing the ambu bag.
28:03	The Lucas machine is attached and it continues chest compressions.
29:21	Officer St. Laurent starts suctioning inmate Lang's airway.
29:51	Officer St. Laurent exits the scene and Sgt. Plyler controlls the suction.

Corporal P. Aube Body Camera Footage

00:12	Sgt. Plyler and Nurse Bell stand up, Sgt. Plyler exits the scene and Officer Craze takes control of the suction.
00:32	Nurse Bell takes control of the suction.
02:19	Nurse Bell checks for a pulse.
02:22	EMS personnel turn off the Lucas machine while Nurse Bell checks for a pulse again.
02:27	EMS personnel turn on the Lucas machine and EMS personnel administer epinephrine.

Body Camera Footage continued

08:06	Fire personnel continue controlling the ambu bag and Nurse Bell controls the suction.
09:25	EMS personnel turn off the Lucas machine to check for a pulse.
09:34	EMS personnel turn on the Lucas machine, Nurse Bell continues controlling the suction and Fire personnel control the ambu bag.
12:09	EMS personnel checks for a pulse.
12:23	EMS personnel administer epinephrine.
17:03	EMS personnel checks for a pulse.
17:30	EMS personnel calls code black.

Interview with Detention Officer Tyree Collins

On Tuesday, May 3, 2022, Sergeant Hewitt and I interviewed Detention Officer Tyree Collins regarding the above described incident. Officer Collins was asked to explain how his day started in Housing Unit C the day of the incident. Officer Collins stated that when he arrived into Housing Unit C he conducted his formal head count and did not see anything unusual; nothing was out of place. He stated that after head count, he called Master Control and Classification as normal to let them know the count. Officer Collins stated that he and Officer St. Laurent then started to pass out medication. He stated that he was probably on the second to last medication that needed to be handed out when he heard another inmate say, "Whoa." Officer Collins stated that is when he turned to look and see inmate Lang on the floor in front of the showers by the exercise station. Officer Collins was asked if he heard Officer St. Laurent call inmate Lang for his medication. He stated that he did not hear her call to inmate Lang for his medication. Officer Collins stated the when he turned to look, he saw inmate Lang on the floor with a puddle of blood coming from his head. He stated at that time he then dropped everything he was doing to run to inmate Lang while telling all the other inmates to go behind their doors. Officer Collins was asked if any of the other inmates acted out of character during medication pass or if he noticed any unusual behavior from inmate Lang that morning. He stated that nothing happened that morning that was out of the norm; everyone said good morning and were just waking up for the day. Officer Collins stated that he did not notice any unusual behavior from inmate Lang.

Interview with Detention Officer Karla St. Laurent

On Wednesday, May 11, 2022, Sergeant Hewitt and I interviewed Detention Officer Karla St. Laurent regarding the above incident. Officer St. Laurent was asked to explain how her day started in Housing Unit C. She stated that she was training Officer Collins that day in Housing Unit C; nothing unusual happened and they were distributing medication when the incident occurred. Officer St. Laurent was asked describe her and Officer Collins' duties during medication delivery. She stated that they were both distributing medication at the officer console with Officer Collins on the left side and her on the right side of the console. Officer St. Laurent stated that she believes she was talking with inmate Bill when she heard the bang of inmate Lang hitting the floor. Officer St. Laurent was asked what was said between her and inmate Lang when she called his name to come receive his medication. She stated that she does not believe she said anything to him besides calling his name and then she nodded her head at him. She was asked if inmate Lang acknowledged her. Officer St. Laurent stated that she believes inmate Lang acknowledged her by doing a head nod back. She stated that she believed that inmate Lang was up there waiting on the shower and that he would come down after and take his medication. Officer St. Laurent was asked if she saw inmate Lang leave his cell. She stated that she did not see him exit his cell. Officer St. Laurent was asked if she knew how long inmate Lang was on the top tier. She stated that she believes he was up there for a little bit but does not know for sure how long. She stated that it was not anything out of the ordinary to see him waiting for a shower. Officer St. Laurent stated that she never really had any interactions with inmate Lang.

Conclusion

After reviewing the video surveillance and interviewing all detention staff that were involved, it is my determination that there were no violations of York County Sheriff's Office, York County Detention Center, policies and procedures.

Inmate Lang never gave any signs or statements to staff that he wished to harm himself in any way.

Once inmate Lang jumped, Officer St. Laurent immediately called for a 10-33 (medical emergency) and activated EMS. Detention Center staff arrived quickly and lifesaving actions were immediately performed in an attempt to revive inmate Lang. Inmate Lang was not able to be revived and was pronounced dead on scene by EMS personnel.

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Classification

Exonerated

The incident occurred but there were no violations of York County Sheriff's Office, York County Detention Center policy and procedures by any staff members. Appropriate lifesaving actions were performed by all staff members involved. Inmate Lang did not exhibit any signs or symptoms that would indicate that he was contemplating self-harm.