



PRESS RELEASE

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There has been some confusion regarding the circumstances surrounding the death of former inmate 61-year-old Victor Runnels. To be clear: **this was not an in-custody death.**

Mr. Runnels was arrested by Fort Worth Police Department on a parole violation and booked into the Tarrant County Jail on June 11. He entered our custody with extensive and ongoing medical issues. On June 24th, Mr. Runnels suffered a medical event and was taken to JPS Hospital for treatment. He was released from our custody on June 25, and passed away later that evening.

The Texas Commission on Jail Standards reviewed the case and formally determined that it does not meet the criteria for an in-custody death.

Any suggestion otherwise is incorrect. We rely on established state standards and independent review processes to classify these cases accurately, and we appreciate the Commission's clarity on this matter.

Every day, people arrive at our jail already sick, struggling with addiction, or dealing with long-term untreated medical conditions. By the time they come into our care, many are diagnosed with illnesses that are already in advanced stages. Working alongside our partners at JPS Health Network, we provide top-tier medical care to every person in our facility. Unfortunately, there are cases where an individual's illness is so advanced that there is no curative treatment available. We remain committed to ensuring that every person in our custody is treated with professionalism, dignity, and the highest standard of care.

At this time, all questions regarding cause and manner of death should be directed to the Medical Examiner, as their investigation is still pending.

