



**OFFICE OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL
DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF COLORADO**
District Attorney Alexis King

June 20, 2024

Sheriff Reggie Marinelli
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
200 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, Colorado 80401

Re: *In custody death of Ms. Raisbeck*

Dear Sheriff Marinelli,

The First Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) has completed its investigation into the death of Ashley Raisbeck on December 16, 2023. As you know, the multi-jurisdictional CIRT team conducts independent and thorough investigations in any incident in which a law enforcement officer within the First Judicial District uses deadly force, or attempts to use deadly force, against a person while acting under the color of official law enforcement duties. CIRT protocols also allow a law enforcement executive to request CIRT's response in other circumstances such as the death of a person who is in the custody of a law enforcement officer such as Ms. Raisbeck's death while confined in the Jefferson County Detention Facility.

The CIRT response and investigation was led by Commander McNitt of the Lakewood Police Department. Commander McNitt presented his investigation to my office on February 19, 2024. Upon receipt, my office conducted a thorough review of the CIRT investigation. Based on interviews of sworn staff, unsworn staff, and inmates as well as surveillance videos and physical evidence, there is no evidence that law enforcement engaged in any criminal conduct that caused the death of Ms. Raisbeck and thus, I do not find law enforcement criminally responsible for her death.

At the time of her death, Mrs. Raisbeck was a twenty-seven-year-old woman in the Jefferson County Detention Facility who arrived after her arrest by the Wheat Ridge Police Department ("WRPD") on



December 13, 2023. At the time of her arrest, WRPD found Raisbeck to have methamphetamine and fentanyl on her person. She was medically cleared before she was booked into the facility.

When Ms. Raisbeck entered the jail, she was interviewed by the medical intake unit. Ms. Raisbeck shared her recent drug and alcohol use which consisted of smoking fifty Fentanyl pills per day for the last eight and a half years, and her last use was on December 12, 2023. Ms. Raisbeck also reported smoking three grams of methamphetamine daily for three years, and her last use was also on December 12, 2023. Additionally, Ms. Raisbeck reported drinking alcohol, using Xanax, and one bar QOD (every other day) in the days, weeks, and months leading up to her arrest. She appeared under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs and had visible signs of withdrawal. Ms. Raisbeck told staff that she has asthma, but no other health concerns were noted. Ms. Raisbeck was placed on “detox protocol” for alcohol, opiates, and benzodiazepines. Ms. Raisbeck was housed in cell nineteen by herself, module 6B.

CIRT determined that on the day of her death, Mrs. Raisbeck was assigned to the same cell. That morning, the first deputy advised that she had a short interaction with Ms. Raisbeck during roll call around 6:20 a.m. She described Ms. Raisbeck as detoxing, looking worn down and tired. She said Ms. Raisbeck was able to stand for roll call but stumbled a little bit. When Ms. Raisbeck walked towards the first deputy, she grabbed Ms. Raisbeck’s shirt and asked her if she was okay. Ms. Raisbeck responded, “Yes,” and sat back down in her cell, on her own.

The first deputy noted that she thought she saw something in Ms. Raisbeck’s cell, and asked Ms. Raisbeck to step out, which she did. After the first deputy determined there was nothing of concern, Ms. Raisbeck went back into her cell and confirmed that she was okay. Overall, the first deputy observed Ms. Raisbeck as tired and unsteady on her feet and Ms. Raisbeck shared that when she stood up from her bunk, her muscles stiffened or tightened, and so it made it hard to walk.

Other members of the JCSO team made similar observations. The second deputy met Ms. Raisbeck on previous incarcerations and had seen her detox in the jail before. At one point, the second deputy provided a new set of clothes at Ms. Raisbeck’s request and due to her symptoms, and also placed her on a clear liquid diet.

The second deputy and the nurse also interacted with Ms. Raisbeck in her cell around 10:10 a.m. Ms. Raisbeck was slow to move around so they asked her to sit if she could not stand, which Ms. Raisbeck chose to do. Both offered and encouraged Ms. Raisbeck to consume more liquid but her affect was like the day before. They could not obtain blood pressure with Ms. Raisbeck’s weak and thready pulse. Due to the blood pressure, the nurse chose not to administer Valium. Throughout the contact, Ms. Raisbeck was extremely lethargic, so the deputy and nurse helped her back to her cot. Other care team members were notified of her weak blood pressure and there was a request for the medical team to administer IV fluids.

At 11:10 a.m., a third deputy, the nurse, and the first deputy, responded to Ms. Raisbeck's cell to take her to the medical unit. At 11:12 a.m. Ms. Raisbeck walked over to a wheelchair and lowered herself to the seat. When Ms. Raisbeck was in front of the module's workstation, her head fell backwards, and she became unresponsive. The first and third deputy, along with the nurse, quickly moved Ms. Raisbeck to the medical unit.

Upon arrival to the medical unit, Ms. Raisbeck could not hold up her head. Ms. Raisbeck received intravenous fluids. The team noticed that Ms. Raisbeck was pale, cyanotic, cold, and displaying agonal breathing. The team administered Narcan at 11:17 a.m. and then called the ambulance a minute later. Ms. Raisbeck was placed on an oxygen rebreather and then switched to an ambu-bag. The nurse noted that Ms. Raisbeck's pupils were dilated and fixed and the team was unable to obtain vital signs. The team administered a second dose of Narcan at 11:23 a.m.

The ambulance arrived at 11:25 a.m. and the paramedics took over treatment. They were unable to obtain blood pressure. Ms. Raisbeck was moved to the ambulance on a stretcher which departed at 11:48 a.m. On the way to St. Anthony's Hospital, Ms. Raisbeck became unresponsive. At the hospital, they continued lifesaving efforts, but Ms. Raisbeck was pronounced deceased at 12:07 p.m.

An autopsy was performed on December 17, 2023, by forensic pathologist Dr. Dawn Holmes. Dr. Holmes determined that Mrs. Raisbeck's cause of death was due to complications of intussusception. The manner of death was ruled natural. Toxicology showed Ms. Raisbeck had methamphetamine and norfentanyl in her system at the time of her death, but it was not a contributing factor.

Given the facts set forth by Commander McNitt, and upon review by my office, Ms. Raisbeck's death was not caused by any criminal actions taken by law enforcement. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,



Alexis D. King
District Attorney
First Judicial District

