

**THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER**

INQUEST: IN RE SAMUEL HERRERA, JR.

Inquest: In re Samuel Herrera, Jr.

Inquest Proceeding Date:

December 15, 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner appointed me to conduct an Inquest into the circumstances, manner, and cause of death of Samuel Herrera, Jr. On December 15, 2021, I convened the Inquest and received evidence and testimony from various witnesses. A transcript of the December 15 proceeding will be made part of the public record and is not summarized here. I adjourned the Inquest to review all the evidence submitted, receive additional evidence, if any, and make the required findings in this matter.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A list of the live-testimony witnesses and documentary evidence reviewed for purposes of the Inquest is attached to these findings.

In addition, a valid subpoena was issued and served for the participation and presence of Dr. John Hiserodt, a private pathologist who performed a second autopsy on Mr. Herrera. The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner sought the records and testimony of Dr. Hiserodt as it related to

the circumstances, manner, and cause of death of Mr. Herrera. Dr. Hiserodt failed to appear at the Inquest or provide an explanation for his absence. After I adjourned the proceeding, I requested the assistance of County Counsel to contact Dr. Hiserodt in order to obtain additional information regarding his failure to appear at the Inquest. Dr. Hiserodt has continued to ignore the Medical Examiner-Coroner's attempt to obtain records or initiate communication. I am unaware of any valid reason for Dr. Hiserodt to ignore the lawful service of process.

However, given the other evidence already reviewed pertaining to this Inquest, I am able to reach my findings without the participation of Dr. Hiserodt and have elected not to delay these findings to pursue his explanation.

FINDINGS


After considering all of the evidence, I find, more likely true than not, that:

- The deceased is Samuel Herrera, Jr. (Mr. Herrera).
- Mr. Herrera's date of death was September 10, 2020.
- Mr. Herrera died in the yard at a private residence at 518 S. Bradfield Avenue, Compton, CA 90221 at approximately 06:29 hours (6:29 a.m.).
- The medical cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds.
- The manner of death was by the hands of another person other than by accident.

A copy of these written findings, an original transcript of the December 15 proceedings, and copies of documents made part of the public record, will be provided to the Medical Examiner-Coroner. Copies of all documents, video recordings, and photographs reviewed by the Hearing Officer will be maintained by the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner. The findings will be forwarded to the Los Angeles County District Attorney and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in accordance with California Government Code section 27504.1. The sealed, original Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department records provided to me under seal will be returned to the custodian of records at the appropriate time with a request that those records be maintained intact as evidence of the records provided to the hearing officer in this Inquest.

The Samuel Herrera, Jr. Inquest is now concluded.

DATED: January 26, 2022

By 
Justice Candace Cooper [Ret.]
Hearing Officer

Appointed by the Los Angeles
County Department of Medical
Examiner-Coroner

LIST OF EVIDENCE

LIVE-TESTIMONY WITNESSES

1. Odey Ukpo, M.D. (Deputy Medical Examiner – Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner)
2. Brian Kim (Supervision Coroner Investigator – Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner)
3. Daniel Salazar (Firefighter/Paramedic – Compton Fire Department)
4. Kasey Woodruff (Detective – Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department)

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

1. Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner's Case File
2. Compton City Fire Department Records
3. Los Angeles County Sheriff Department Records (Records produced under seal and shall remain excluded from the public record pursuant to California Government Code section 27498)
4. Los Angeles County Sheriff Department Press Release Summary and Video (Critical Incident Briefing)
5. Declaration of Deputy Sheriff Adonay Molina
6. Declaration of Deputy Sheriff Leonel Mejia Vasquez
7. Declaration of Deputy Sheriff David Pantoja
8. Declaration of Deputy Sheriff Daisy Rosales
9. Declaration of Deputy Sheriff Michael McMorro
10. Declaration of Deputy Sheriff Michael Lopez
11. Declaration of Deputy Sheriff Juan Bendezu