



NEWS RELEASE

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 14, 2007

Inmate Pronounced Deceased At Travis County Jail

On November 11, 2007, at 6:50pm, an inmate was pronounced deceased at the Travis County Jail, 509 West 10th Street, Austin. He had been in the Medical Unit receiving care for Alcohol Detoxification.

The inmate, who was identified as

Charles Thomas, Date of Birth 8-22-1960,

was listed as a transient with no address on his booking report. He had been arrested by the Austin Police Department on November 10, 2007 for Public Intoxication with 3 priors (Class B misdemeanor), Bond \$3000.00, and a City Ordinance Violation (Class C misdemeanor). He was sentenced to a \$98.00 fine on the City Ordinance Violation and his sentence was completed on November 11, 2007.

The Travis County Medical Examiner's Office conducted a preliminary examination. Their initial ruling is that Mr. Thomas died as a result of a skull fracture. The manner of death appears to be accidental at this point, however, no final ruling will be made until toxicology results are known.

It is routine for several investigations to occur at the same time when there is an "in custody" death. The Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs Unit as well as the Major Crime Unit will conduct separate investigations into the death. At the same time the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office will conduct their own examination to determine the cause and manner of death. All three investigations are continuing.

Note: This is the sixth in-custody death in the Travis County Jail in 2007.

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Submitted By: Roger Wade, Public Information Officer, (512) 854-4986