FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:                                    February 21, 2007

Inmate Pronounced Deceased At Local Hospital

On February 21, 2007, at about 2:20am, a woman was accepted in the Central Booking Facility, charged with Assault Causing Bodily Injury and Possession of a Controlled Substance by the Austin Police Department. While waiting for the booking process to begin she displayed some odd behavior and was taken to the Medical Section of the Booking Facility. She started having seizures and Medical Staff notified the Austin/Travis County EMS who transported her to Brackenridge Hospital. She was pronounced deceased at 3:44am.

The inmate was identified as,

    Niqa Deshan Gant, Date of Birth 2-20-1973,

of Austin.

The Travis County Medical Examiner’s Office conducted a preliminary examination. There were no signs of injury or foul play on the body. They are awaiting toxicology results before releasing their final report.

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.

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

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