

State of Connecticut  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Report Concerning the In-Custody Death of Linda Praylow  
at the Hartford Police Department on April 7, 2024

Robert J. Devlin, Jr.  
Inspector General

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	3
INTRODUCTION .....	4
INVESTIGATION.....	4
PRAWN ARREST .....	4
SCENE .....	5
POLICE REPORTS .....	8
HARTFORD POLICE DETENTION OBSERVATION FORM.....	9
CELL CAMERAS .....	10
CELLMATE INTERVIEW.....	12
MEDICAL RECORDS .....	17
AUTOPSY .....	18
FINDINGS.....	19
LEGAL STANDARD.....	20
ANALYSIS.....	21
CONCLUSION .....	22
APPENDIX.....	22
Comment .....	22
Substitute Clothing	
Court-Set Bonds	
Detention Staffing	
BOOKING FORM .....	23
DETENTION OBSERVATION FORM .....	25

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*The Office of Inspector General acknowledges the assistance provided to this investigation by the following:*

*Hartford Police Department*

*Office of the Chief Medical Examiner*

*Connecticut State Police, Central District Major Crime Squad*

## INTRODUCTION

On April 7, 2024, at approximately 3:00 a.m., at the Hartford Police Department, Detective James Fierravanti discovered Linda Praylow<sup>1</sup> laying on her back in the middle of cell #67. She was unresponsive and had no pulse. She was later pronounced dead at Saint Francis Hospital. As required by statute<sup>2</sup>, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigated this in-custody death. The results of this investigation are set forth in this report.

The investigation establishes that Praylow was arrested at approximately 9:00 p.m. on Friday, April 5, 2024. Unable to post the bonds set on the arrest warrants, she was held at the Hartford Detention Facility. Praylow told the booking officer that she had recently used fentanyl. During the evening hours of April 6<sup>th</sup> and early morning hours of Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, Praylow appeared to experience symptoms associated with detoxification including vomiting and diarrhea. She was moving about restlessly. At approximately 2:44 a.m., she moved from her mattress to the toilet and then collapsed on her back and became motionless.

The autopsy examination classified her death as accidental due to acute fentanyl intoxication. The investigation establishes that Linda Praylow likely consumed fentanyl while held in custody. This, coupled with her underlying cardiovascular disease, caused her death. Although the Hartford Detention officers should have been more attentive, Linda Praylow's death was not due to any physical force used by the police, nor to criminal action on their part or the part of anyone else.

## INVESTIGATION

### **PRAWN<sup>3</sup> Arrest**

On Friday, April 5, 2024, at approximately 8:57 p.m., at or near the Walmart store located at 495 Flatbush Avenue, Hartford, Linda Praylow was arrested on a PRAWN arrest warrant charging her with larceny 6<sup>th</sup> degree and failure to appear. The PRAWN warrant had a court-set bond of \$5000. The matter was assigned case # 23-034989 and arrest #7214247.

---

<sup>1</sup> On April 7, 2024, Linda Praylow was a 49 year-old African-American woman.

<sup>2</sup> See General Statutes §51-277a(a)(2)(A) (Inspector General to determine whether physical force was used upon a person who dies in police custody, or, if no physical force used, whether the person died as a result of criminal action).

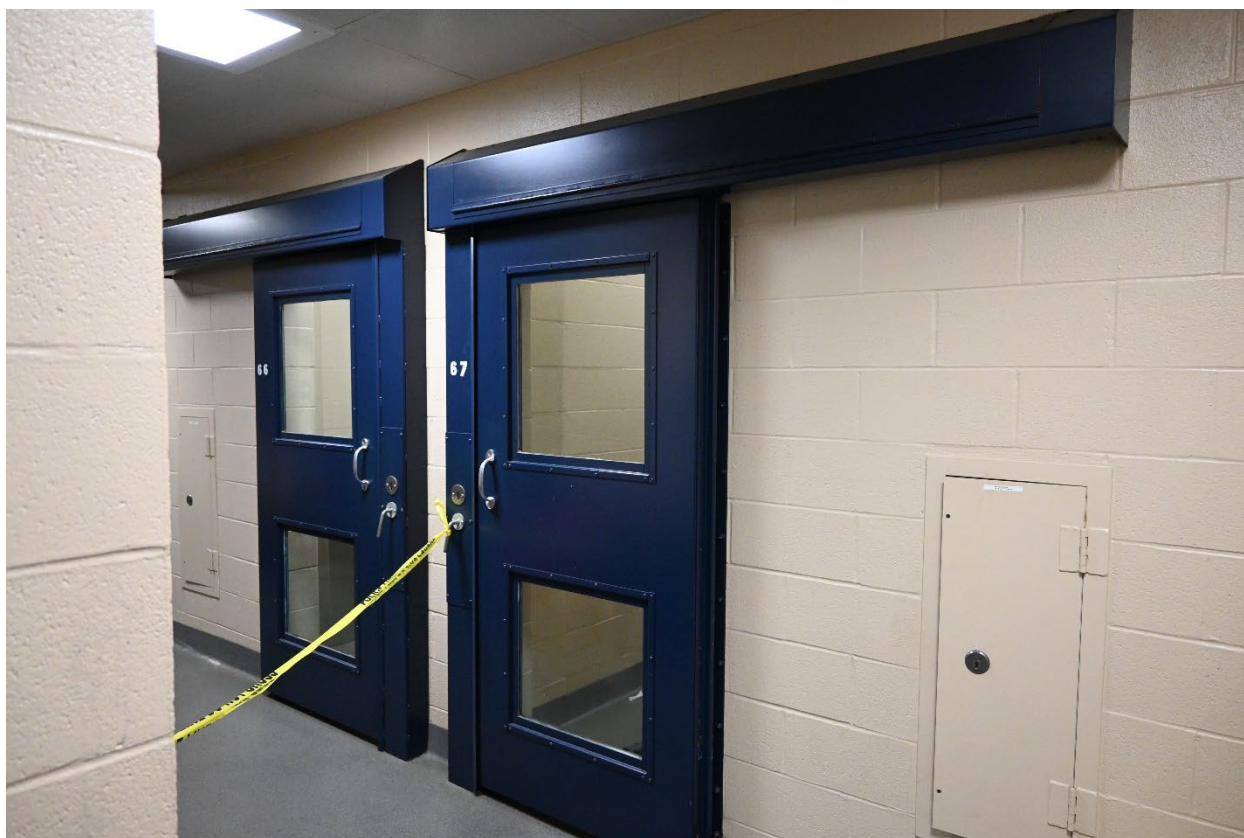
<sup>3</sup> PRAWN stands for Paperless Re-Arrest Warrant Network. It is an online system in Connecticut that makes police aware of warrants for failure to appear in court or violation of probation immediately after the warrant is issued. The database includes information on warrants for specific crimes such as probation violations and failure to appear in court.

On that same date, and at the same location, at 9:45 p.m., Praylow was arrested on a second PRAWN warrant charging her with larceny 4<sup>th</sup> degree and violation of probation. This warrant carried a court-set bond of \$15,000. The matter was assigned case #24-008586 and arrest #7214250.

Praylow was transported to the Hartford Police Department for booking. In one of the standard booking forms, she answered “yes” to the question regarding recent use of drugs. In what appears to be her own handwriting, she wrote that she had recently used fentanyl. That form is printed in the [Appendix](#) of this report. Praylow was unable to post the bonds set on the warrants and was held at the Hartford PD Detention Facility. She was scheduled to appear in court on Monday, April 8, 2024.

### Scene

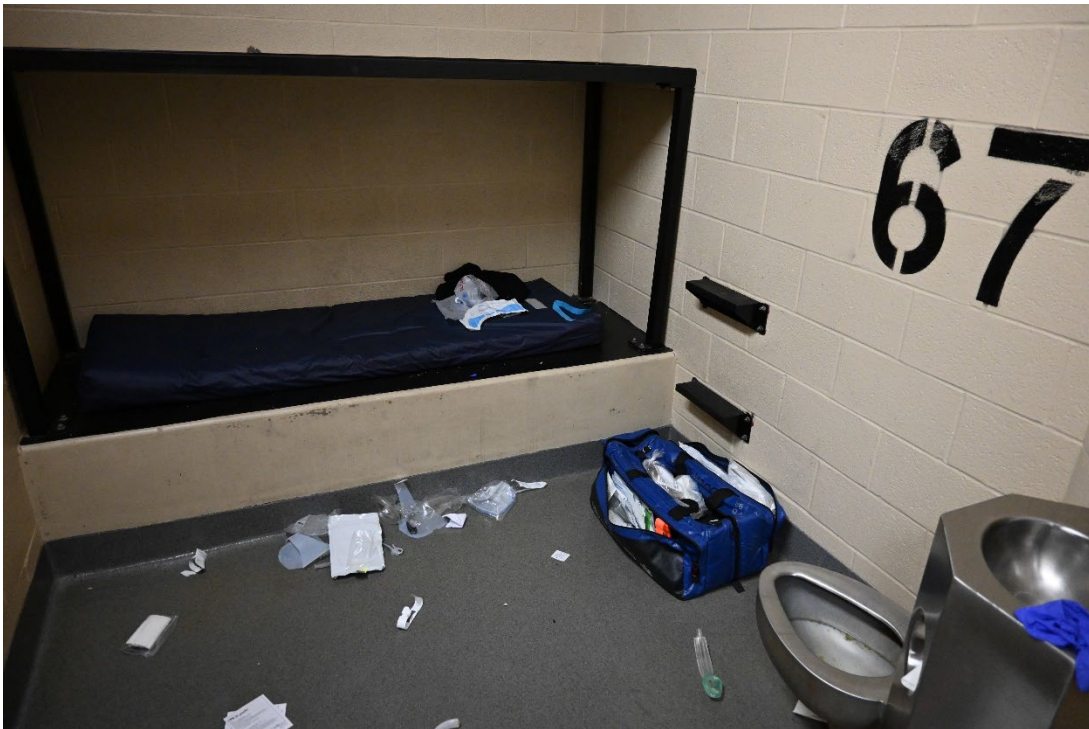
As part of this investigation, detectives from the Connecticut State Police Central District Major Crime Squad responded the Hartford PD. They photographed Cell #67 where Praylow was being held at the time she collapsed.



[Doors to Cells #66 and #67]



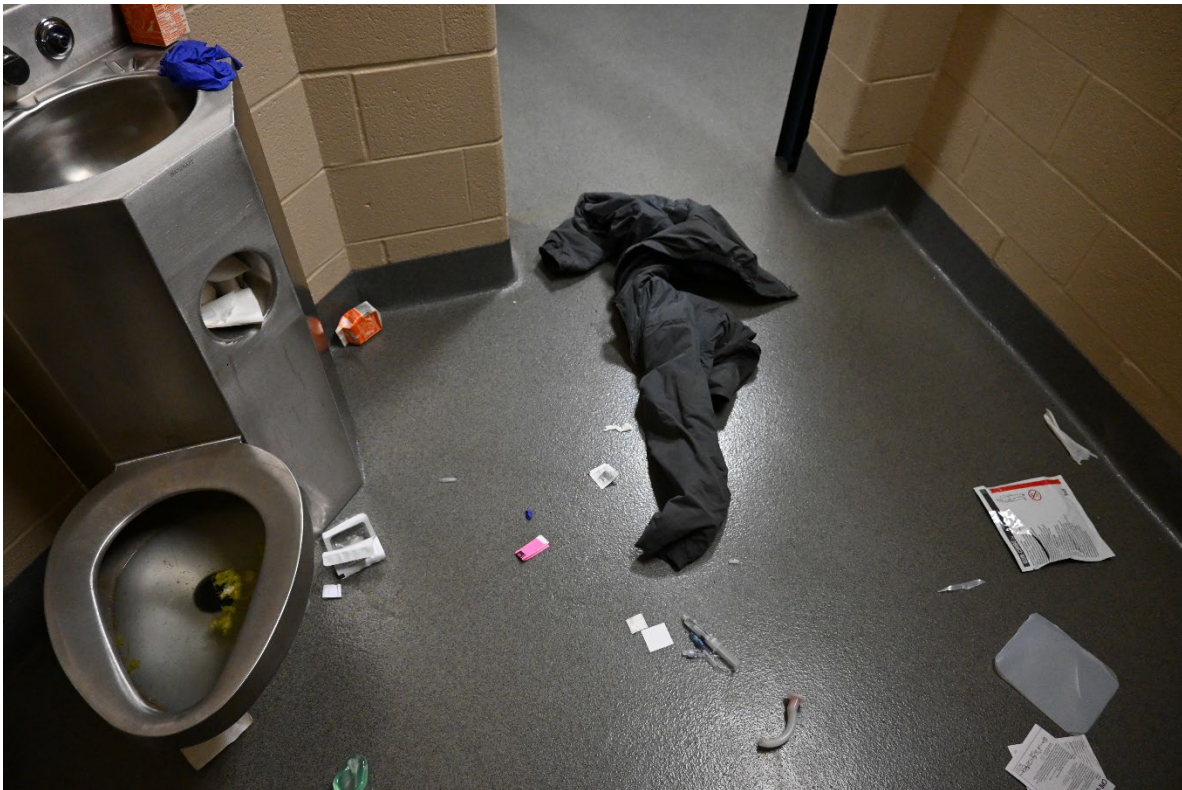
[Door to Cell #67]



[Cell #67]



[Lower bunk]



[Toilet]



[Cell# 67]

### **Police Reports**

The officers involved in (1) the discovery of Praylow, (2) the medical care provided to her at the Hartford Police Department, and (3) her subsequent transport to Saint Francis Hospital filed a single comprehensive Incident Report regarding their roles in the incident.

### **Detective James Fierravanti #1602**

Detective Fierravanti, a sixteen-year veteran of the Hartford PD, was working an overtime shift at the Hartford Police Detention Facility on Saturday, April 6, 2024, into Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>. He was tasked with conducting prisoner checks every thirty minutes. His narrative report states:

“During my 0230 hour (2:30 a.m.) check all prisoners were found to be sleeping or awake and no prisoners appeared to be in any form of distress. During my 0300 check (3:00 a.m.) I noticed a female prisoner, later identified as Linda Praylow (5/4/74), was laying on her back in the middle of cell number 67. I observed Praylow for a few moments before knocking on the cell door and requested the other female prisoner ... to attempt to walk (sic) up Praylow. [The cellmate] attempted to wake up Praylow but had no response.

“I immediately advised Detention Officer George that Praylow appeared to be unresponsive, and we returned to cell 67. Additional Detention staff arrived to assist in opening the cell and removing [the cellmate] from the cell and securing her in the nearest cell 66. Officer George and I entered the cell and checked for a response as well as a pulse, upon finding no pulse Officer George began chest compressions.”.

Detective Fierravanti’s report continues with a description of the medical intervention efforts undertaken by Detention staff until Praylow’s care was turned over to members of the Hartford Fire Department and AMR medical personnel. The report notes that AMR Ambulance transported Praylow to Saint Francis Hospital where she was later pronounced deceased by Doctor Abbatiello at 3:51 a.m.

**Officer Nico Aquino #1956, Officer Sami Bojka #1959, Officer Alexander Diaz #1994, Officer Vincent George, Jr. #1723, Officer Katelyn Grissler #1783, Lieutenant Rebecca O’Shea #1366**

In the comprehensive Incident Report concerning this matter, these officers reported their actions *after* Praylow was found unresponsive. In various ways, they assisted in providing her with emergency medical assistance. None, however, discuss any observations of her during the early morning hours of April 7<sup>th</sup> or the evening hours of April 6<sup>th</sup>. No one mentioned anything about her being sick or that she had to be moved from cell 66 to cell 67.

### **Hartford Police Detention Observation Form**

Hartford Police Department General Order 5.10 establishes the department’s policy for detention operations. Pursuant to this official policy, persons detained at the Hartford Police Detention Facility are monitored via cell block cameras. They are also physically checked at thirty-minute intervals. Such checks are recorded on a document styled, Hartford Police Detention Observation Form. The form contains (1) the scheduled observation time, (2) the actual observation time, (3) the cell number for the observed cell, and (4) the observed status of each person in the cell. The observed status is recorded using a numerical key. The key allows for six possible entries on the form: 0 (empty), 1 (awake), 2 (sleep), 3 (bio break), 4 (hygiene), 5 (missed).

After her arrest on April 5, 2024, Praylow was initially held in cell #66. The Detention Observation Form contains an entry on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. that states “Intake Process Medical Emergency.” The Hartford PD advised me that this medical call was for Linda Praylow due to her vomiting. They further advised that, after officers cleaned her cell, she told them that she did not want to go to the hospital and declined medical treatment.

On April 6, 2024, at approximately 9:51 p.m., Praylow was moved to cell #67 which was occupied by Cellmate. Cell #66 remained empty until April 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 a.m. Praylow was in Cell #67 through the check at 2:30 a.m. At 3:00 a.m., the form reflects one person (Cellmate) in cell #66 and the “2 2” designations for cell #67 are crossed out and the word “Emergency” inserted. The entries on the observation forms may be summarized as follows:

4/6/24	Cell 66	Cell 67	Officer
19:30	2 (sleep), 1 (awake)	1 (awake), 1(awake)	H79
20:00		Intake Process Medical	
20:30	1 (awake), 1 (awake)	Intake Process Med. Emergency	
21:00	1 (awake), 1 (awake)		
2130	2 (sleep)	2 (sleep)	H79.
2200	0 (empty)	2 (sleep) 2 (sleep)	H79
2230	0 (empty)	2 (sleep) 2 (sleep)	H79
2300	0 (empty)	2 (sleep) 2 (sleep)	H79
2330	0 (empty)	2 (sleep) 2 (sleep)	H79
4/7/24			
00:00	0 (empty)	2 (sleep) 1 (awake)	1602 (Ofc Fierravanti)
00:30	0 (empty)	2 (sleep) 2 (sleep)	1602
01:00	0 (empty)	2 (sleep) 2 (sleep)	1602
01:30	0 (empty)	2 (sleep) 2 (sleep)	1602
02:00	0 (empty)	2 (sleep) 2 (sleep)	1602
02:30	0 (empty)	2 (sleep) 2 (sleep)	1602
03:00	0 1 (awake)	<del>2 2</del> Emergency	M56 (Ofc Spearman)
03:30	1 (awake)	X Emergency	M56

Copies of the relevant Observation Forms are printed in the [Appendix](#).

### Cell Cameras

The Hartford Police Detention Facility has cell block cameras that can be viewed in the Detention Facility’s control room and the sergeant’s office. Per Hartford PD policy, Detention

personnel and the Detention supervisor are to monitor these cameras for problems. See General Order 5.K.1.c.

Praylow was moved into cell #67 at approximately 9:52 p.m. on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Prior to that, she was in cell #66. A review of the cell #66 camera shows:

8:00 p.m. – Praylow is in her bunk

8:13 p.m. – She gets up and is walking around

8:14 p.m. – She is using the toilet and remains on the toilet until 8:18 p.m.

8:49 p.m. – She moves the mattress to the floor

8:58 p.m. – She is using the toilet

9:02 p.m. – She is at the cell door

9:51 p.m. – She is on the toilet

9:51:58 p.m. – Praylow leaves cell #66.

The review of the cell #67 camera shows:

4/6/24

9:52 p.m.—Praylow is in cell #67 and her mattress is on the floor

4/7/24

12:01 a.m. – Praylow is on the toilet

12:30 a.m. – She is restless

12:55 a.m. – She is drinking out of the faucet

From 12:55 a.m. to 2:25 a.m. – She is moving around, tossing restlessly

2:43 a.m. - She gets up from her mattress and moves to the toilet; she seems to have her head over the toilet bowl

2:44 a.m. – She falls back from the toilet onto the floor onto her back and appears to be having a seizure. She then becomes motionless

3:02 a.m. – Cellmate awake and touches Praylow – no response

3:03 a.m. – Cellmate leaves cell #67

3:03 a.m. – Detention officers enter cell #67.

To review that portion of the cell #67 camera recording from 2:43 a.m. to 3:03 a.m., click [here](#).

## Cellmate

On April 7, 2024, OIG Inspectors interviewed Linda Praylow's cellmate who was held in cell 67 with her during the early morning hours of April 7, 2024. The interview took place at the Hartford Police Department. The following is a transcript of that interview:

C = Cellmate

FC = Inspector Frank Capozzi

JG = Inspector Juan Gonzalez

FC – How you doing today? I'm Inspector Capozzi and this is Inspector Gonzalez. We don't work for Hartford PD. We come in to investigate what happened here tonight.

C – Um hm.

FC – What's your name?

C – [Gives name]

FC – What's your date of birth?

C – [Gives DOB]. I'm sorry. I'm freezing.

JG – So, [Name of cellmate], first of all we don't want to talk to you about why you're here.

C – I know, you guys are worried about what happened to the cellmate of mine.

JG – Don't mention anything about why you're here.

FC – Do you know the girl that was here?

C – Not personally. Just through being in here. We had a few hours together.

FC – Few hours

C – [nods]. And then, she was here. I think she was here before I came in, but we were next door to each other. I did hear everything – you know what I'm saying.

FC – What time did you get here?

C – It was late on Friday ... like elevenish.

FC – Okay, Friday night? And she was already here?

C – I believe so.

FC – Alright. Right now, it's Sunday morning. Did you talk at all?

C – Yes.

FC – Anything significant?

C – She was just in pain.

I know she was going to go to the hospital, but she denied it, um, and then when they put her in my room because she was puking ... everywhere. [voices heard in background]

FC – I'm sorry. Did she say she was sick?

C – Yeah. She was detoxing.

FC – Oh, she was detoxing. She told you that?

C – Um hm.

FC – Okay. Alright but you never met her before in your life.

C – No.

FC – Do you know if she had, did she sneak anything in here? That you would know of.

C – I'm not sure. No.

FC – Alright. Were you guys close, were you in the same cellblock where you could talk to each other and see each other?

C- When we first came in, we were cell by cell and then they had to clean her cell from her puking – the one I'm actually in now – they cleaned it all up and then they moved her into my room and just left her in there. And I was so exhausted ... I was like, hey, if you are feeling okay, I'm happy you are doing well. Just checking in on her because I am a good person.

FC – Yeah.

C – So, um, she was moaning and groaning and like – not to say her personal business – she was like diarrheating, puking still and she just kept saying, rocking, and she just kept saying she didn't feel good.

FC – She was going through a withdrawal type of thing?

C – Um hm

FC – Alright. And she came in ... she was here before you, you said, right?

C - I believe around the same time.

FC – Around the same time.

C – Yeah, around the same time.

FC – Did she say why she was here?

C – Uh ... stealing.

FC – Alright, stealing.

FC – Did she say she couldn't get out, couldn't make bond or anything?

C – She couldn't make bond. She didn't have family. I ask questions; I am a curious person.

FC – You're good, you're good.

C – She said she didn't have family. That the only person she had was like the person she lived with. Yeah, that was it.

And she kept telling me how lucky I am to have my family and stuff. You know, we had little brief conversations.

FC – Yeah, you were there all weekend. Then, did she say how old she was?

C – Uh ... fifty.

FC – Fifty?

C – Fifty. And I did ask her how long she had been using for because I am a curious person. Um, twelve years.

FC – Twelve years.

C – Um hm.

FC – Is she a Hartford person?

C – She ... ah ... yes.

FC – She said she's from Hartford?

C – Yes.

JG – What did she say she was using?

C – Where?

JG – What

C – Fentanyl.

FC – Oh, she admitted fentanyl?

C – Yeah.

JG – Did she say when was the last time she used?

C – Before she came.

But she was also ... she was also complaining about an officer. They were being very neglectful to her. They were.

FC – In what way?

C – She was asking for ... like little stuff, like juice. I'm not trying to sound like people play favoritism. ... I'm not a user. She was in the cell right next to me. She was being neglected. If I asked for juice, they would give it to me, you know what I'm saying. It's because of what she was doing.

FC – Okay.

C – She waited for about two hours ... I was half asleep, but I know she waited for about two hours before they came and brought ... or even saw her ... they never brought her nothing. They told her to wait to 6:30 in the morning ... so.

FC – Okay. Anything else that you would remember?

C – They made her wait on the toilet while she was pooping ... pooping for a while. This was when she was in the cell next to me.

FC – Um hm

C – They made her wait for a while to get toilet paper.

FC – The officers or detention people, or both ...

C – Officer ... both, there is a mixture of both ... I don't even know.

FC – Okay.

C – But I know it's people that come do the rounds. And she was complaining about the manager that's down there.

FC – Okay. Did they, uh, did everybody check on you guys?

C – Barely.

FC – Barely, okay, okay. Anything else that you can remember?

C – She was just in pain

JG – Was anyone else in the cell with you?

C – Just two.

JG – How long would you say you were in there with her?

C – I'm so tired, I don't even know what time it is ... um ... I know she was with me for a few check levels, rounds of checks – for a few hours.

JG – Alright.

FC – Anything else? ... I know it's cold.

[Interview over. C leaves the room]

## **Medical Records**

Praylow was admitted to the Emergency Department of Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford on 4/7/24 at 3:42 a.m. Her diagnosis was cardiac arrest, cause unspecified. Her treating physician was Carol Abbatiello, DO. Doctor Abbatiello's hospital note reads as follows:

### **SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS ON ADMISSION**

Linda Praylow is a 49 y.o. female with a medical history of PTSD, schizophrenia, hypertension, arthritis, asthma who presents to the emergency department from jail after being found unresponsive. Per EMS, patient asked jail staff for juice. Two hours later patient was found unresponsive on the floor. Upon EMS arrival, they found patient unresponsive and initiated CPR. Patient received 5mg epinephrine and was shocked twice prior to arrival. AED recommended to (sic) defibrillations which were performed by HPD prior to paramedic arrival. Cardiac monitor showed asystole<sup>4</sup>. Upon arrival, patient remained unresponsive. CPR in progress EMS placed.

Per EMS patient has a known history of substance abuse including opiates.

### **COURSE AT HOSPITAL**

Patient is a 49 y.o. female

Eyes: Pupils not responsive

Lungs: Breath sounds only with bagging

Heart: No pulse. CPR in progress

Abdomen: soft, nontender, no guarding, no rebound, no masses

Skin: No obvious bruising or lacerations.

### **OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES**

ACLS protocol continued upon patient arrival. I-gel was removed and patient was intubated under my supervision ...

---

<sup>4</sup> "Asystole" means cardiac standstill, absence of contractions of the heart.

Patient was given 1 additional dose of epinephrine IV. On patient's pulse checks in the emergency department, she remained asystole. She had no spontaneous breath sounds or pulse, patient's pupils are fixed and dilated time of death 3:51 AM.

## **Autopsy**

On April 7, 2024, Assistant Medical Examiner Cori E. Clark, DO performed an autopsy of Linda Praylow. Doctor Clark's findings were as follows:

### Final Diagnosis

- I Acute fentanyl intoxication with recent cocaine use
- II Atherosclerotic and hypertensive cardiovascular disease
  - A. Coronary artery disease, moderate
  - B. Aortic atherosclerosis, marked
  - C. Cerebral atherosclerosis, moderate
  - D. Left ventricular hypertrophy
  - E. Nephrosclerosis, marked.

Cause of Death: Acute Fentanyl Intoxication

Contributory: Recent Cocaine Use

Manner of Death: Accident (Substance Use).

The report documents the examination of the body in accordance with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner protocols. Praylow's cardiovascular system had atherosclerotic stenosis of 25% of the left anterior descending coronary artery, 50% of the right coronary artery, and 25% of the left coronary artery.

Samples of Praylow's blood and vitreous fluids were sent to NMS Labs in Horsham, PA for toxicological analysis. The positive findings included:

Benzoylcegonine (cocaine metabolite) – 240 ng/ml

Fentanyl – 4.1 ng/ml

Norfentanyl (fentanyl metabolite) – 9.4 ng/ml

4 ANPP (fentanyl metabolite) – 1.7 ng/ml.

On January 2, 2025, I met with Dr. Clark to discuss her findings. She stated that the fentanyl that Praylow admitted taking on Friday before her arrest would have likely metabolized by 3:00 a.m. Saturday morning. The fact that the toxicological test of the blood sample taken at the autopsy showed a level of 4.1 ng/ml, strongly suggested to Dr. Clark that Praylow likely consumed fentanyl while held in the Hartford Detention Facility. Dr. Clark felt that in addition to the fentanyl, Praylow's cardiovascular disease, and drug withdrawal symptoms contributed to her death.

## FINDINGS

The investigation supports the following factual findings:

1. On Friday, April 5, 2024, at approximately 9:00 p.m., Linda Praylow was arrested in Hartford on two PRAWN warrants. One warrant was for larceny 6<sup>th</sup> degree and failure to appear in court. That warrant carried a court-set bond of \$5000. Later that evening, Praylow was arrested on a second PRAWN warrant charging her with larceny 4<sup>th</sup> degree and violation of probation. The court-set bond on that warrant was \$15,000.
2. Following her arrest, Praylow was taken to the Hartford Police Department for booking. She told the booking officer that she had recently used fentanyl. Unable to post the bonds set on the warrants, Praylow was held in the Hartford Detention Facility. She was scheduled to appear in court on Monday, April 8, 2024.
3. From late Friday April 5<sup>th</sup> to late Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>, Praylow was held in cell #66. In the next-door cell (#67) was Cellmate who had also been arrested on Friday evening and taken into custody.
4. According to Cellmate, during Praylow's time in cell #66, she was sick due to withdrawal from drug use. Praylow told Cellmate that she had been using drugs for twelve years and had used fentanyl prior to her arrest. From her location, Cellmate could tell that Praylow was vomiting and suffering from diarrhea. She was in pain.
5. At 7:44 p.m. on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>, a medical emergency was noted on the Detention Observation Form for cell #66. This related to Praylow's vomiting. She told officers that she did not want to go to the hospital.
6. Sometime late on Saturday, Praylow was moved to cell #67 with Cellmate. According to Cellmate, this was because cell #66 had to be cleaned as a result of Praylow's sickness.
7. The Hartford Police Detention Observation Form for the period late Saturday to early Sunday reflects that the persons held in cells #66 and #67 were (with one exception) sleeping. These entries were made by Detective James Fierravanti who stated that no prisoners appeared to be in distress.
8. The camera recording for cells #66 and #67 for the period late Saturday to early Sunday shows Praylow to be restless and moving around uncomfortably. From 8:00 p.m. Saturday to 2:44 a.m. Sunday, she used the toilet five times. On some of these occasions, she was sitting on

the toilet for several minutes. Her request for juice from Detention staff was denied<sup>5</sup>. She was told that she had to wait until 6:30 a.m. when food was distributed to all detainees. At one point she appears to be attempting to drink from the sink faucet.

9. On Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:44 a.m., Praylow collapsed. She had no pulse. Despite resuscitation efforts by the police, EMS, and the medical staff at Saint Francis Hospital, Praylow never regained a pulse. She was pronounced dead at 3:51 a.m. on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

10. Following an autopsy, the medical examiner determined Praylow's cause of death to be acute fentanyl intoxication with recent cocaine use a contributing factor. Her death was ruled accidental due to substance use. Based on the toxicology results that showed fentanyl in her system, it is highly likely that Praylow consumed fentanyl while held in custody.

### **LEGAL STANDARD**

Under Connecticut law, the Office of Inspector General is charged with, inter alia, investigating the death of persons who die while in the custody of a peace officer or law enforcement agency. Specifically, the Inspector General shall determine whether physical force was used by a peace officer upon the deceased person and, if so, whether the use of physical force by the peace officer was justifiable under § 53a-22. In addition, if the person's death was not due to a peace officer's use of force but from some criminal action, the Inspector General is to refer the matter potential prosecution. The version of that statute in effect on April 7, 2024, in relevant part, provides:

General Statutes §51-277a(a)(2)(A) provides in part:

"... whenever a person dies in the custody of a peace officer or law enforcement agency, the Inspector General shall investigate and determine whether physical force was used by a peace officer upon the deceased person, and if so, whether the use of physical force by the peace officer was justifiable under section 53a-22. If the Inspector General determines that the person died as a result of possible criminal action not involving the use of force by a peace officer, the Inspector General shall refer such case to the Division of Criminal Justice for potential prosecution."

Neither General Statutes Chapter 886, nor the penal code define the terms "physical force" or "criminal action." For purposes of this report, I apply such terms in accord with their ordinary meanings.

---

<sup>5</sup>The Hartford Police Department advised the OIG that, while they had no specific recollection of Praylow's case, their practice is not to keep an inventory of beverages in the Detention Facility.

## ANALYSIS

This is a sad case.

Praylow told the booking officer on Friday night that she had recently used fentanyl and, by early Sunday morning, she was suffering severe withdrawal symptoms. Even though she likely consumed more fentanyl while in custody, she was drug sick. According to her cellmate, her vomiting and diarrhea were so bad that she had to be moved from cell #66 to cell #67. Her vomiting was documented on the Detention Observation form at 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. on April 6<sup>th</sup>. At that time, she told Detention staff that she did not want to go to the hospital.

The log entry at 2:30 a.m. notes Praylow to be sleeping and Detective Fierravanti stated in his report that no prisoners seemed to be in distress at that time. The video of cell #67 tells a different story. It shows that Praylow was not sleeping but restlessly moving about.

Given the fact that she had been sick earlier and reported using drugs just before her arrest, the detention staff should have done more to address her needs. She should have been taken to the hospital on Saturday evening when Detention staff had to clean her cell, notwithstanding her statement that she did not want to go. Detention staff should have been more attentive. At a minimum, they should have monitored more carefully the cell block camera for cell #67. Had they done that, they would have detected her lying on her back motionless for fifteen minutes before any officer entered her cell.

The cellmate's interview suggests that the detention staff was punishing her for being sick and causing a mess in her cell. According to the Cellmate, they would not give her juice<sup>6</sup>; they made her wait for toilet paper as she sat on the toilet; they ignored her. The cellmate said that the officers were being very neglectful. The police were probably frustrated with Praylow, but I am making no finding regarding neglect because, even if that is true, it was her use of drugs and underlying cardiovascular disease that caused her death.

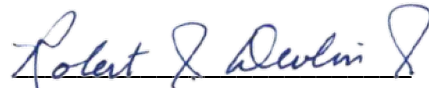
---

<sup>6</sup> See footnote 4.

## CONCLUSION

The in-custody death of Linda Praylow was not the result of the use of physical force by a peace officer nor the result of criminal action. The Office of Inspector General will take no further action in this matter.

Submitted this 20th day of February 2025.



ROBERT J. DEVLIN, JR.

INSPECTOR GENERAL

## Appendix

### Booking Form

### Hartford Police Observation Forms

### Comments

1. In an earlier report concerning the death of Brenton Chambers at the Norwich Police Department, the Office of Inspector General recommended that persons held in the custody of a police agency overnight be issued substitute clothing. This would (hopefully) reduce the opportunity for such persons to sneak drugs into the lockup and consume them. Had Praylow been issued substitute clothing, she might not have been able to access the fentanyl that was found in her system and likely killed her.
2. Under present practice, neither the police nor bail commissioners will adjust the bond of an arrested person if such bond is court-set. In Praylow's case, it is possible that if her bonds were not court-set, she might have been a candidate for nonfinancial release. Her offenses were nonviolent, and she lived locally. The Office of Inspector General has crafted a legislative proposal to address this issue which is under consideration by the Connecticut Sentencing Commission.
3. It appears that the Hartford PD was staffing its Detention Facility, at least in part, with overtime personnel. That is a management decision that is within their discretion to make. Such overtime personnel, however, should have training in prisoner monitoring. They should be trained to detect medical issues – particularly the effect of drug detoxification.

**JUDICIAL MARSHAL SERVICES  
PRISONER BEHAVIOR  
REPORT**

JD-MS-5 Rev. 3-15



**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Check box indicating type of prisoner.
2. Answer No or Yes to each of the questions below.
3. If Yes, explain in the space provided and initial the comments. Attach additional sheet if necessary and indicate in the comment that an additional sheet is attached.
4. See page 2 for list of risk factors.

**DISCLAIMER**

Information provided on this form is not to be construed to constitute a medical opinion or medical diagnosis and is based solely on good faith observations of the prisoner by the individual(s) providing it.

Print name of prisoner (Last, First, Middle Initial) <i>Pratt, David</i>	Prisoner/inmate number _____	Destination <i>101</i>	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F	Date of birth <i>5/4/74</i>
Name of law enforcement officer/Judicial Marshal <i>DeVos, Casac</i>	Agency name and location <i>HPD</i>		Type of prisoner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Prisoner <input type="checkbox"/> DOC Inmate	

**At intake and at any point during the shift:**

1. Ask the prisoner if they have recently used any alcohol and/or drugs?  
If Yes, ask the prisoner what they used and when was the last time they used it:  
*H. Fentanyl*
2. Does the prisoner appear to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs (even if the prisoner has answered "No" to question #1)? If Yes, explain:
3. Ask the prisoner if the staff should be concerned that he or she may try to harm himself or herself in any way. If Yes, explain:
4. Has the prisoner made any comments (e.g., "I'm going to kill myself", "I want to die", "I have nothing to live for", "Everyone would be better off without me around", etc.) or engaged in any behavior that would be cause for concern? If Yes, explain:
5. Has a third party with knowledge of the prisoner informed you and/or made comments that suggest that the prisoner is potentially suicidal and/or has a history of suicidal behavior, has a history of mental illness, has medical problems, or is under the influence of alcohol

	NO	YES
Law Enforcement Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JM Lieutenant (or Sergeant)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transporting Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<hr/>		
Law Enforcement Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JM Lieutenant (or Sergeant)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transporting Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<hr/>		
Law Enforcement Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JM Lieutenant (or Sergeant)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transporting Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<hr/>		
Law Enforcement Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JM Lieutenant (or Sergeant)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transporting Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Law Enforcement Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JM Lieutenant (or Sergeant)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transporting Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Does the prisoner appear to be overly ashamed, embarrassed, scared, depressed, or exhibiting bizarre behavior? (e.g., crying, rocking, pacing, talking to him/herself, etc.)  
If Yes, explain:

	NO	YES
Law Enforcement Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JM Lieutenant (or Sergeant)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transporting Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Are there any facts or circumstances surrounding the arrest and/or alleged crime that may suggest the prisoner is potentially suicidal? (Based upon, for example, the notoriety of the crime, e.g., media headlines, sex offense, abuse of power; and/or the status of the prisoner, e.g., public figure, professional, etc.; and/or, for example, a high bond, lengthy sentence, change in detention status, etc.) If Yes, explain:

	NO	YES
Law Enforcement Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JM Lieutenant (or Sergeant)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transporting Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Has the prisoner made you aware of any Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) concerns following PREA notification? If Yes, explain:

	NO	YES
Law Enforcement Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JM Lieutenant (or Sergeant)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transporting Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Do you have any other information that would be helpful to the next facility in which the prisoner will be confined? If Yes, explain:

	NO	YES
Law Enforcement Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JM Lieutenant (or Sergeant)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transporting Judicial Marshal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed (Law Enforcement Officer or Judicial Marshal) <i>C. 712</i>	Print name <i>DeVogel, Cesare</i>	Time (a.m./p.m.) <i>2:27</i>	Date <i>04/05/12</i>
Signed (Judicial Marshal Lieutenant, or Judicial Marshal Sergeant in the absence of the Judicial Marshal Lieutenant)	Print name	Time (a.m./p.m.)	Date
Signed (Transporting Judicial Marshal)	Print name	Time (a.m./p.m.)	Date

DISTRIBUTION: GOLD - Law Enforcement Officer PINK - Judicial Marshal Lieutenant YELLOW - Transporting Judicial Marshal WHITE - Destination



# Hartford Police Detention Observation Form



**B SQUAD**

Date: 4-6-24

Supervisor on Duty: Sgt Montrose

Checks shall be done every thirty (30) minutes, with leeway of five (5) minutes before or five (5) minutes after. \* No checks shall be done more than forty (40) minutes apart.\*

TIME	Actual	CELLS											Reason	Officer Code					
		MALES						Padded Cells		FEMALES									
		49	50	55	56	40	39	38	36	35	34	52	65	63	64	66	67		
16:00	1555	0	0	2,2,1	2,2,1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2,2	2	INTAKE	H25
		Hard Check : <u>7</u> Males <u>4</u> Females Hospital Count - Hartford : <u>0</u> Males <u>0</u> Females St. Francis : <u>0</u> Males <u>0</u> Females																	
16:30	1625	0	0	2,2,1	2,2,1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2,2	2		H25
17:00	1757	0	0	2,2,1	2,1,1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2,2	2		H25
17:30	1728	0	0	2,1,1	1,1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2,1	1		H25
18:00	1755	0	0	1,1,2	1,1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2,1	1		G49
18:30	1825	0	0	1,1,2	1,1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2,1	1		G49
19:00	1855	0	0	1,1,2	1,1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1,1	1		G49
19:30	1929	0	0	1,1,1	1,1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2,1	1,1	INTAKE/PROCESS MEDICAL	G49
20:00																		EMERGENCY	G49
		Hard Check : <u>10</u> Males <u>5</u> Females Hospital Count - Hartford : <u>0</u> Males <u>0</u> Females St. Francis : <u>0</u> Males <u>0</u> Females																	
20:30	2028	0	0	1,1,1	2,2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1,1		G49
21:00	2100	0	0	1,1,2	2,2	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1,1		H79
21:30	2130	0	0	1,1,2	2,2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	2		H79
22:00	2200	0	0	1,1,2	2,2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2,2		H79
22:30	2230	0	0	1,1,2	2,2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2,2		H79
23:00	2300	0	0	2,2,2	2,2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2,2		H79
23:30	2330	0	0	2,2,2	2,2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2,2		H79

**GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING PRISONER COUNTS:**

- Prisoners currently held in Hartford Police Detention Facility shall be added to the Hard Checks *only*.
- Prisoners receiving medical care outside of the HPD Facility are to be added to the Hospital Count.

Detention Supervisor and Code: \_\_\_\_\_



# Hartford Police Detention Observation Form



**C SQUAD**

Date: 4/6/24

Supervisor on Duty: Lt. O'Shea

Checks shall be done every thirty (30) minutes, with leeway of five (5) minutes before or five (5) minutes after. \* No checks shall be done more than forty (40) minutes apart.\*

		CELLS															Reason	Officer Code	
		MALES										Padded Cells		FEMALES					
TIME	Actual	49	50	55	56	40	39	38	36	35	34	52	65	63	64	66	67		
0:00	0000	0	0	2221	22	2	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	21		1602
		Hard Check: <u>10</u> Males <u>3</u> Females																	
		Hospital Count - Hartford: <u>0</u> Males <u>0</u> Females										St. Francis: <u>0</u> Males <u>1</u> Females							
0:30	0030	0	0	2222	22	2	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	22		1602
1:00	0100	0	0	2222	22	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	22		1602
1:30	0130	0	0	222	22	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	22		1602
2:00	0200	0	0	221	22	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	22		1602
2:30	0230	0	0	2221	2	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	22		1602
3:00	0300	0	0	2221	2	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	22	Emergency	M56
3:30	0330	0	0	2221	2	2	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	22	Emergency	M56
4:00	0400	0	0	2221	2	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	Processing	M56
		Hard Check: <u>11</u> Males <u>3</u> Females																	
		Hospital Count - Hartford: <u>0</u> Males <u>0</u> Females										St. Francis: <u>0</u> Males <u>1</u> Females							
4:30	0430	0	0	2222	111	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	0		M56
5:00	0500	0	0	2222	222	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	0		M56
5:30	0530	0	0	2222	222	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	0		M56
6:00																			
6:30																			
7:00																			
7:30																			

**GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING PRISONER COUNTS:**

- Prisoners currently held in Hartford Police Detention Facility shall be added to the Hard Checks *only*.
- Prisoners receiving medical care outside of the HPD Facility are to be added to the Hospital Count.

Detention Supervisor and Code: \_\_\_\_\_