



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

*Milwaukee County*

JOHN T. CHISHOLM • District Attorney

Chief Deputy Kent L. Lovern, Deputies Lovell Johnson, Jr., Jeffrey J. Altenburg, Karen A. Loebel,  
Elisabeth Mueller, Matthew J. Torbenson, Megan Newport

August 3, 2023

Sheriff Denita Ball  
Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office  
821 W. State Street, Room 107  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Re: Death of Cilivea Thyron (DOB [REDACTED])

Dear Sheriff Ball:

This office has completed its review of an investigation by the Waukesha County Sheriff's Office into the death of Cilivea Thyron on December 16, 2022, at the Milwaukee County Jail.

Ms. Thyron was residing in the jail since her arrest in February 2022, and subsequent criminal charges for Strangulation and Battery.

At times during her stay at the jail between February-December 2022, Ms. Thyron was housed in Special Needs Pods within the jail due to [REDACTED]. At other times, she was hospitalized outside the jail for [REDACTED]. At the time of her death, Ms. Thyron was housed in a Special Needs Pod that required additional monitoring by jail staff members.

On December 16, 2022, Ms. Thyron indicated to Correctional Officer Latasha Hethington that she needed assistance because she was [REDACTED]. Hethington and another Correctional Officer, Kamryn Palmer, searched unsuccessfully for any underwear made particularly for those on [REDACTED] watch, because standard undergarments are considered to create a risk to be used to self-harm. The correctional officers chose not to provide other standard sanitary accessories because those items are [REDACTED]. Ultimately, Hethington and Palmer decided to provide Ms. Thyron with an adult diaper, because, as they indicated to investigators later, they wanted to meet a basic need for Ms. Thyron and did not consider that the diaper could be used in a way to self-harm.

Hethington provided Ms. Thyron with the diaper just before Ms. Thyron was allowed out of her individual pod, during which time she was permitted to make telephone calls. Ms. Thyron had not yet put on the diaper at this time. Hethington returned Ms. Thyron to her pod at 10:04 a.m., and after some attempt at conversation over the intercom system, returned to her pod at 10:28 a.m. At this time, Ms. Thyron indicated that she [REDACTED] and Hethington realized that Ms. Thyron appeared to be [REDACTED]. Hethington summoned additional jail personal who responded to the pod to assist Ms. Thyron, but they were unable to retrieve anything from inside her mouth, in part due to resistive reactions Ms. Thyron exhibited toward jail staff attending to her. Additional medical professionals ultimately responded to the pod and applied lifesaving measures that were unsuccessful. Ms. Thyron was pronounced deceased at 11:13 a.m. The diaper given to Ms. Thyron remained unworn in her pod with pieces torn off of it. [REDACTED] autopsy performed by the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office. The final autopsy report is still awaiting completion.

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At this time, pending the completion of the final autopsy report, the evidence in this matter does not support a finding of criminal wrongdoing by the correctional officers who responded to Ms. Thyron, nor by any other staff member employed at the Milwaukee County Jail. The evidence in this matter does not suggest an intent by staff members to harm Ms. Thyron, nor that staff members acted with reckless disregard for her safety. In the absence of contrary evidence in the final autopsy report, this office will have concluded its review of this matter and take no further action.

Sincerely,



Kent Lovern  
Chief Deputy District Attorney

cc: Waukesha County Sheriff Eric Severson  
Waukesha County Sheriff's Detective Tim Wacker  
Milwaukee County Sheriff Chief Deputy Daniel Hughes  
Attorney B'Ivory LaMarr