Narrative:

On Friday, April 22, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matt Armstrong (Armstrong) received an email from the Stark County Prosecutor’s Office. The correspondence consisted of the autopsy report for James Williams.

SA Armstrong reviewed the report and noted the following:

The autopsy report was authored by Chief Deputy Coroner of Stark County, Anthony P. Burtin, DO. The autopsy was performed by Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office Dr. Erica Armstrong on January 3, 2022, at 1113 hours.

The information deemed to be the most relevant to this inquiry is summarized below for the convenience of the reader. However, as the author is not a doctor, it is suggested that the report be viewed in its entirety to ensure no pertinent information has been omitted or described out-of-context.
“DIAGNOSIS” section of the report listed the following relevant information:
The "EXTERNAL EXAMINATION" section contained the following information:
The “TOXICOLOGY REPORT” indicated the presence of [redacted] as outlined below:
For additional details, refer to the attached autopsy report.

Attachments:

2022-04-22 Autopsy Report - James Williams
Can you girls please follow up?
Thanks

From: ajharland@dps.ohio.gov <ajharland@dps.ohio.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2022 4:18 PM
To: coroner <Coroner@starkcountyohio.gov>
Subject: Autopsy Report Request

January 6, 2022

Stark County Coroner’s Office
Coroner Ronald Rusnak, M.D.
4500 Atlantic Blvd. NE

Dear Dr. Rusnak,

The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is responsible for collecting data on behalf of the Department of Justice with regard to the federal Deaths in Custody Reporting Act (DICRA) of 2013 (Public Law 113-242). This Act requires the reporting of certain data on deaths of individuals who are incarcerated at a municipal or county jail, state prison, state-run boot camp prison, boot camp prison that is contracted out by the state, any state or local contract facility, or other local or state correctional facility (including any juvenile facility) and deaths that occur in the process of arrest by state and local law enforcement agencies.

OCJS requests that your office provide us, for governmental use only, with information we need to fulfill this federal requirement. Specifically, we are requesting the autopsy report for the following individual:

**James Williams; date of death January 1, 2022**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions. If you would like more information on DICRA, you can go to our website: [http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/deathincustody.stm](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/deathincustody.stm). Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Anjolie Harland

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Anjolie Harland, M.S.
Social Sciences Research Specialist
Office of Criminal Justice Services
1970 W. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43223
(614) 728-8330 fax

[www.ocjs.ohio.gov](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov)
CASE #22-001

Called at 1:25 AM on 01/01/2022 by Aultman Hospital Emergency Room

DECEDEENT: JAMES R. WILLIAMS

2307 10th Street SW
Canton, OH 44706
AGE: 46 Y RACE: Black/African American
SEX: M DOB: 01/13/1975
Not Hispanic or Latino

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: Residence
2307 10th Street SW
Canton, Stark County, OH

TIME OF INCIDENT: 12:05 AM 01/01/2022

NEXT OF KIN: Marquetta Williams, Wife
2307 10th Street SW
Canton, OH 44706

PRONOUNCED: 01/01/2022 12:27 AM by Dr. Atienza
Aultman Hospital ER

ATTENDING PHYSICIAN: None Listed

EXAMINED: Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office

FUNERAL HOME: Stewart-Calhoun

VALUABLES: None at SCCO

COLLECTED FOR LABS: Bile, Blood, Liver, Urine, Vitreous

AGENCIES AT SCENE: Canton Fire Department/EMS, Canton Police Department,
Hunter Mortuary Transport Service
Per early Canton Police Department and Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation report, at just after midnight on January 1, 2022, the decedent was in the area of his residence and had been outdoors, firing shots from one or more firearms in celebration of the new year. A Canton Police officer then confronted the armed decedent, firing several shots.

EMS responded to the scene and transported the decedent to Aultman Hospital emergency department where he was pronounced dead at 12:27 am on January 1, 2022. The decedent was transported to the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s office for autopsy.

Harry M. Campbell
Chief Investigator
FULL REPORT AND TOXICOLOGY RESULTS: See attached reports

CAUSE OF DEATH:

Anthony P. Bertin, DO
Chief Deputy Coroner

APB/sbk
REPORT OF AUTOPSY

An autopsy was performed at the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office at 11:13 AM, on 01/03/2022 by Erica J. Armstrong, M.D.

ANATOMIC DIAGNOSES:
MICROSCOPIC DESCRIPTION/DIAGNOSIS

Representative portions of viscera and soft tissue are retained in formalin fixative. No tissues are submitted for histologic preparation.

[Signature]
Erica J. Armstrong, M.D.

Date: 3/23/22

This report was reviewed by another CCMEO board-certified forensic pathologist.
# Certificate of Death

**Name:** JAMES R WILLIAMS  
**Sex:** MALE  
**Date of Death:** JANUARY 01, 2022  
**Place of Death:** DETROIT, MICHIGAN

## General Information
- **Social Security Number:**  
- **Address:**  
- **City of Death:** CANTON  
- **County of Death:** Stark  

## Medical Evidence
- **Doctor:** MARQUETTA JONES  
- **Father's Name:** JOHN WILLIAMS  
- **Mother's Name:** DORIS COUSINS  

## Cause of Death

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immediate Cause</th>
<th>PENDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underlying Cause</td>
<td>Pending</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Certification
- **Certifying Physician:**  
- **Date Signed:** JANUARY 10, 2022  

## Additional Information
- **Tobacco Use:** Unknown  
- **Manner of Death:** Pending Investigation  

## Location
- **Injury:**  
- **Transportation Injury:**

## Legal Information
- **OAR 2724 Rev. 08/18**
Name of Decedent: JAMES R WILLIAMS
Place of Death: HOSPITAL - DEAD ON ARRIVAL
Date of Death: JANUARY 01, 2022
23. Local Registrar: JAMES ADAMS
   Date Filled: APRIL 08, 2022
30a. Certifier (Check only one):
   ☐ Certifying Physician
   ☐ Coroner
   To the best of my knowledge, death occurred at the time, date, and place, and due to the cause(s) and manner stated.
   On the basis of examination and/or investigation, in my opinion, death occurred at the time, date, and place, and due to the cause(s) and manner stated.
30b. Time of Death: 00:27
30c. Date Pronounced Dead (Month/Day/Year): JANUARY 01, 2022
30d. Was Case referred to Coroner?: YES
30e. Certifier Name and Title: BERTIN, ANTHONY P. DO
   License number: 34.003103
   Date Signed: APRIL 08, 2022
27. Name and Address of Person who Completed Cause of Death
   BERTIN, ANTHONY P., 3053 CLEVELAND AVE SW, CANTON, OH, 44707
25. Enter the disease, injury or condition that caused the death. Do not enter mode of dying, such as cardiac or respiratory arrest, encephalitis, or heart failure.
   Immediate Cause (final disease or condition resulting in death):
   GUNSHOT WOUNDS TO TRUNK AND EXTREMITIES WITH VISCERAL, VASCULAR, SKELETAL AND SOFT TISSUE INJURY
   Secondary list conditions, if any, leading to the immediate cause.
   a. Due to (or as Consequence of):
      EXSANQUINATION
   Part II. Other Significant Conditions contributing to death but not resulting in the underlying cause given in Part I.
   28a. Was an Autopsy performed?: YES
   28b. Were Autopsy Findings available prior to completion of Cause of Death?: YES
   30a. Did Tobacco Use Contribute to Death?: NO
   31. If Female, Pregnancy Status: NOT APPLICABLE
   32. Master of Death: HOMICIDE
   33. Date of Injury (Month/Day/Year): JANUARY 01, 2022
   33b. Time of Injury: 12:05
   33c. Place of Injury (e.g., Decedent's home, construction site, restaurant, wooded area): RESIDENCE
   33d. Injury at Work?: NO
   33e. Location of Injury (Street and Number on Rural Route Number, City or Town, State): 2307 10TH STREET SW, CANTON, OHIO
   33f. Describe how injury occurred:
      SHOT BY ANOTHER
   33g. If Transportation Injury, Specify:

HEA 2752
Rev. 06/18

THIS SUPPLEMENTARY CERTIFICATE IS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN
OR CORONER AND FILED WITH LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS
Required by section 3719.27 of the Ohio Revised Code

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