

# Florida Department of Corrections



## Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION  
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST  
CASE # 17-08681**



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
**INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST SUMMARY REPORT**



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**Case Number:** 17-08681

**OIG Inspector:** Inspector Lee McGauley

**Outside Agency:** Florida Department of Law Enforcement

**Outside Agency Investigator:** Special Agent Craig Riley

**Date Assigned or Initiated:** 05-17-2017

**Complaint Against:** N/A

**Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office:** Columbia Correctional Institution

**Complainant:** N/A

**Outside Agency Case #:** TL-37-0044

**Use of Force Number:** N/A

**PREA Number:** N/A

**Classification of Incident:** Investigative Assist/Inmate Death

**Confidential Medical Information Included:**  Yes  No

**Whistle-Blower Investigation:**  Yes  No

**Chief Inspector General Case Number:** N/A



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**I. AUTHORITY**

The Florida Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General, by designation of the Secretary and § 944.31, Florida Statutes, is authorized to conduct any criminal investigation that occurs on property owned or leased by the department or involves matters over which the department has jurisdiction.

The testimony references included in this report are summations of oral or written statements provided to inspectors. Statements contained herein do not necessarily represent complete or certified transcribed testimony, except as noted. Unless specifically indicated otherwise, all interviews with witnesses, complainants, and subjects were audio or video recorded.

**II. METHODOLOGY**

The investigation reviewed the derivations of the allegation advanced by the complainant. The scope of this investigation does not seek to specifically address tort(s), but violations of criminal statutes. The criterion used to evaluate each contention or allegation was limited to the following standard of analysis:

1. Did the subject's action or behavior violate Florida criminal statutes?

**III. ANALYSIS**

The standard and analysis in this investigation is predicated with the burden of proving any violation of law, established by probable cause. The evidence considered for analysis is confined to the facts and allegations stated or reasonably implied. The actions or behavior of the subject are presumed to be lawful and in compliance with the applicable Florida law, unless probable cause indicates the contrary.



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#### **IV. DEFINITIONS**

**Unfounded:**

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause does not exist to suggest the suspect's behavior or action occurred nor is an arrest or formal charge being initiated.

**Closed by Arrest:**

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified subject committed the offense and one for which an arrest or formal prosecution has been initiated.

**Exceptionally Cleared:**

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified suspect committed the offense, but one for which an arrest or formal charge is not initiated, or in the case of a death investigation, one for which no evidence exists that the death was the result of a crime or neglect.

**Open-Inactive:**

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which a criminal investigation commenced, but where evidence is insufficient to close as unfounded, closed by arrest, or exceptionally cleared.

**Investigative Assist Closed**

Refers to a disposition of an investigative assist, where the conduct being investigated by the outside agency did not concern allegations against a Department employee, contractor, inmate, offender, or other person either employed or under the supervision of the Department.



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**V. PREDICATE**

On May 17, 2017, at approximately 11:25pm, Inspector Lee McGauley was notified by on-call Supervisor Maurice Radford of an inmate death incident at Columbia Correctional Institution Annex (CCI), involving Inmate Gaines Hill Jr. DC# 504984 (*Hill*). Inmate Hill was found in P-Dormitory in his assigned bunk (P1113L), [REDACTED] e and was [REDACTED] and pronounced deceased by [REDACTED] at 11:07pm.

**VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS**

Based on the exhibits, witnesses' testimony, subject officer's statements, and the record as a whole, presented or available to the primary inspector, the following findings of facts were determined:

At approximately 11:28pm, Inspector McGauley contacted Captain Michael Kelly at CCI who provided a brief synopsis of the incident.

At approximately 11:53pm, Inspector McGauley was contacted by Florida Department of Law Enforcement On-call supervisor Manny Gonzalez who advised Special Agent Craig Riley would be responding to the incident.

On May 18, 2017, at approximately 12:15am, Inspector McGauley arrived at [REDACTED] and met with SA Riley. SA Riley conducted a visual inspection and photographed the body of the Inmate Hill. SA Riley indicated he did not suspect foul play at this point, however the final cause of death would be provided at the conclusion of the autopsy. Inmate Hill's body was released to Archer Funeral Home by SA Riley.

At approximately 3:15am, Inspector McGauley and SA Riley arrived at CCI. Captain Kelly advised Sergeant William Allison he was walking onto the wing 1 side of P-Dormitory to conduct master count and was approached by Inmate Walton, who advised Sergeant Allison he thought Inmate Hill was dead. Sergeant Allison activated ICS and additional security and [REDACTED] responded and [REDACTED] was initiated. Inmate Hill was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Upon Inmate Hill arrival at [REDACTED] pronounced him deceased at 11:07pm. SA Riley conducted an interview with Inmate Eugene Walton DC# 502256, who indicated Inmate Hill could have been smoking K-2 prior to the [REDACTED]

Sergeant Allison was also interviewed who indicated he walked onto the wing 1 side of P-Dormitory to conduct master count and was approached by Inmate Walton, who said he thought Inmate Hill was dead. Sergeant Allison indicated he activated ICS and [REDACTED] until additional security staff and [REDACTED] arrived.

The scene was photographed and processed by SA Riley and released to security staff.



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SA Riley advised FDLE will be taking the lead in this investigation with Inspector McGauley assisting in the investigation.

At approximately 5:00am, Inspector McGauley departed CCI.

At Approximately 6:30am, Inspector McGauley contacted OIG Supervisor Radford and briefed on the incident.

Below are the finding of this case by SA Riley:

This investigation was predicated upon a mutual aid agreement enacted between the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC), by which FDLE was required to investigate all potentially life threatening inmate [REDACTED] occurring on FDOC grounds. On May 17, 2017, Columbia Correctional Institution (CCI) Annex inmate Gaines Hill, Jr. (DC# 504984), was found [REDACTED] on his bunk. Inmate Hill was [REDACTED] in Lake City, FL, where he was pronounced deceased.

This report documents the closing of this investigation.

On May 17, 2017, Inmate Gaines Hill was found [REDACTED] on his bunk. [REDACTED] were initiated and Inmate Hill was [REDACTED] where he was pronounced deceased.

During the course of investigation, Special Agent (SA) Craig Riley conducted interviews (inmates and staff), observed surveillance video, and reviewed Inmate Hill's Medical Examiner's (ME) Report (ruled an accidental death). Nefarious activity did not play a role in Inmate Hill's death.

No items of evidence were submitted during the course of investigation.

No further investigation was warranted. This case was closed.

**VII. CHARGES**

**List alleged violations of Florida Law:**

NONE

**VIII. CONCLUSION**

Based on the information gathered during their investigation, FDLE Special Agent Craig Riley termed their investigation closed as accidental death and nefarious activity did not play a role in the death of Inmate Hill. This investigative assist will be termed as follows:



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1. Investigative Assist Closed

Inspector McGauley reviewed the investigation completed by FDLE, and no administrative issues were identified. This Investigative Assist is closed.