

Contra Costa County
Office of the Sheriff
David O. Livingston
Sheriff



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

September 9, 2024

TO: **News / Assignment Desk or News Editor**

In-Custody Death Investigation Update

The Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff and the Contra Costa DA's Office are continuing to investigate an in-custody death that occurred in Building 5 at the West County Detention Facility in Richmond on August 26, 2024.

The inmate is identified 27-year-old Alonzo Thongkham, an Asian from Oakland. He was arrested on August 22, 2024, by the San Ramon Police Department for multiple felony theft charges and was booked into the Martinez Detention Facility.

On August 26, 2024, deputies responded to an unresponsive inmate and immediately called for jail medical staff to respond to the housing unit. Life-saving measures were attempted by deputies, medical staff, and paramedics. The inmate, who was housed alone, was later pronounced deceased at the scene. The death does not appear to be suspicious.

The county-wide law enforcement involved fatal incident protocol was invoked. The manner of death will be determined by a jury at a coroner's inquest which will be announced at a later date.

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For more information, please call:

Jimmy Lee, Public Information Officer: (925) 313-2643

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office offers a full range of law enforcement services to over 1,000,000 residents in the 715 square mile county. Besides patrolling the unincorporated areas, Deputy Sheriffs provide comprehensive police services to a number of contract cities and special districts. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office operates county detention facilities, provides security for the courts and runs the Office of Emergency Services. Log on www.cocosheriff.org for more information.