

NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Commissioner Claire DeMatteis

Presented by Deputy Bureau Chief of Prisons, Paul G. Shavack, Public Information Officer

245 McKee Road | Dover, DE 19904 | Office: 302.857.5294 | paulg.shavack@delaware.gov

JTVCC Inmate Death Investigation

Smyrna- The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) and Delaware State Police Criminal Investigative Unit are investigating the apparent overdose death of an inmate at James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC).

Preliminary investigation has determined that on Monday, February 1, 2021 at approximately 8:00 p.m. Travis M. Jones, 35 year old male from Newark, Delaware and another 35 year-old male inmate were found unresponsive in their housing unit located at the JTVCC. Life-saving measures, including CPR and Naloxone administration, were immediately initiated by Correctional Officers and medical staff. Kent County Emergency Medical Services arrived and transported both to Bayhealth Hospital, Kent Campus.

The second 35 year old inmate was admitted in stable condition, has fully recovered, and has since been discharged and returned to the facility.

Travis M. Jones was admitted in critical condition. Additional medical interventions were unsuccessful and Jones was pronounced dead on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Travis M. Jones had been in DOC custody since 2013 and was serving a 60-year sentence for three counts of Manslaughter for causing the deaths of his girlfriend and two children in a 2010 fire at their home in Delaware City.

Jones' body was turned over to the Division of Forensic Science to conduct an autopsy to determine the cause of death. The death investigation is being conducted by Delaware State Police and is pending at this time.

Preliminary investigation by the Delaware Department of Correction has indicated that there were no suspicious circumstances and no foul play suspected at this time.

Released: 020421 1155 (PGS)