



Board of Commissioners
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(April 1, 2015) INMATE SUICIDE IN EARLY MORNING HOURS

Damion Thomas, 37, committed suicide yesterday while incarcerated in the Beaver County Jail. He was discovered in his cell by a Corrections Officer.

Mr. Thomas was born on April 4, 1977. He had served approximately 10 months of a 20-40 month sentence for retail theft and a probation violation.

Corrections staff and medical support personnel responded immediately upon detection of a problem as indicated below:

Timeline Discovered To Date:

* A Corrections Officer, in the regular performance of his duties, discovered Mr. Thomas at approximately 3:45 am unresponsive in his cell. Mr. Thomas was in a single cell without any other inmate present. He was last seen between 2:45am and 3:00 am by a Corrections Officer performing periodic rounds.

* Staff immediately implemented internal emergency response protocols that drew additional correctional staff and medical staff to the cell occupied by Mr. Thomas. Included in this rapid response team was an on-site Nurse. (Nursing staff, through Southern Health Partners, are available at the jail on a 24-7 basis.) Additionally, the Beaver County Coroner, an on-call County Detective and Sheriff Deputies responded to the emergency alert issued by jail personnel.

* Both Corrections staff and the on-site medical staff performed CPR and used an emergency AED device. The Automated External Defibrillator, when used in conjunction with CPR, offers patients the best chance for emergency recovery. In this case, both techniques were unsuccessful.

* Inmate Thomas was pronounced dead at 4:12 am by Beaver County Coroner Terri Tatalovich, who was at the jail as part of the County's emergency response.

An autopsy is being performed by the Beaver County Coroner's Office. Details of the incident are under investigation by authorities of the County Jail and other law enforcement personnel.

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