



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO:	KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE State Attorney	DATE:	AUGUST 28, 2018
FROM:	STAFFING/REVIEW TEAM	RE:	IN CUSTODY DEATH CLOSEOUT MEMO
		CASE #:	PD170930375088
		DECEASED:	WOOTEN, Keith

Based on the information obtained and reviewed during the course of the investigation, the conclusion of the staffing/review team is the following: The investigation has determined that police were dispatched to a call regarding the burglarizing of a car. Upon arrival, Mr. Wooten was found sitting inside the victim's car. Eventually, Mr. Wooten followed orders to step out of the car. However, when he did so, he ran towards Officer Chin. Subsequently, Officer Chin and Sgt. Spence deployed their tasers.

Mr. Wooten continued struggling with the officers and was ultimately handcuffed. When the officers realized the defendant was non-responsive, Fire Rescue was called. Mr. Wooten was transported to the hospital and pronounced dead. Autopsy and toxicology reports indicate the cause of death to be Cocaine Induced Excited Delirium. The Medical Examiner further advised that, in his opinion, the tasing did not contribute to Mr. Wooten's death.

Therefore, no charges will be filed against Officer Khaleel Chin (30-7412) and Sgt. Brendolyn Spence (30-1325).

The members of the staffing/review team for this case are:

 _____ Jose J. Artojo	 _____ Kathleen Hoague	 _____ Esther Jacobo
 _____ Don L. Horn	 _____ Frank Ledee	 _____ Reid Rubin
 _____ Christine Zahralban	_____ Responding Member of Shooting Team	_____ Responding Member of Shooting Team

Approved by State Attorney on this 17 day of Sept, 2018.

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
State Attorney





INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: IN CUSTODY DEATH
REVIEW COMMITTEE

DATE: August 23, 2018

FROM: DAVID I. GILBERT
SENIOR TRIAL COUNSEL

RE: IN CUSTODY DEATH OF
KEITH WOOTEN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David I. Gilbert".

On September 30, 2017, Keith Wooten died after receiving Taser shocks administered by Miami Dade Police Officers Khaleel Chin and Sgt. Brendolyn Spence. The two officers responded to a complaint by a citizen that an unknown person was inside of their automobile. When the two officers arrived, they found Mr. Wooten inside an automobile parked on private property. A security video and the testimony of the homeowner substantiate that Mr. Wooten got out of the car and charged at Off. Chin resulting in a physical altercation during which both officers discharged their Tasers. Mr. Wooten was subdued and Fire Rescue was called when he appeared to stop breathing.

The Autopsy was performed by Dr. Kenneth Hutchins, Associate Medical Examiner. A toxicology report shows that Mr. Wooten had cocaine in his system at the time of the incident. Dr. Hutchins found the cause of death to be Cocaine Induced Excited Delirium with Associated Physical Struggle. A contributory cause was Severe Coronary Artery Atherosclerosis. I called Dr. Hutchins to determine if the "Associated Physical Struggle" implied that there was excessive force used by the officers. Dr. Hutchins was emphatic that it was Mr. Wootens action of starting a struggle that he was referring, not the actions of the officers. He told me that here was no physical evidence/injury to the body of Mr. Wooten that contributed to his death. I further asked him if the use of the Taser contributed in any way to the cause of death. He told me that the Tasing did not contribute to the cause of death in any way in his opinion.¹

Based upon the upon of the Medical Examiner there is no further need to investigate the actions of Sgt. Brendolyn Spencer or Off. Khaleel Chin.

¹ Before the opinion of the Medical Examiner was final, FDLE did a complete report on the incident, adding the opinion of the Medical Examiner to the information previously gathered. That report is attached, for reference.

