

Chesa Boudin



District Attorney  
Attorney

Independent Investigations Bureau

LATEEF H. GRAY  
Managing

January 21, 2021

*Via Email and U.S. Mail*  
Chief William Scott  
San Francisco Police Department  
1245 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
San Francisco, CA 94158  
[William.Scott@sfgov.org](mailto:William.Scott@sfgov.org)

**Re: IIB Case #2019-001-*In re Christopher Kliment***

Dear Chief Scott:

The Independent Investigations Bureau (IIB) has completed its review of the January 7, 2019 in-custody death involving San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) officers and Decedent, Mr. Christopher Kliment. After a thorough review of the available evidence, we have concluded that there is no evidence of criminal misconduct. Accordingly, the District Attorney declines to file criminal charges in this matter.

IIB's review of the case focused exclusively on whether criminal charges relating to any conduct by SFPD officers are warranted. The review did not examine issues such as any officers' compliance with internal SFPD policies and procedures, their training or tactics, or any issues related to civil liability. The decision not to pursue criminal charges should not be interpreted as expressing any opinion on such non-criminal matters.

In brief, the investigation revealed that on January 5, 2019, at approximately 7 p.m., CPMC Mission Bernal Emergency Department (ER) staff treated and discharged Mr. Kliment. Mr. Kliment became agitated, refused to leave the ER and yelled at ER staff while grabbing medical equipment. After witnessing ER staff repeatedly request Mr. Kliment to leave, SFPD Officers Brett Grennell (#4277) and Louis Hargreaves (#2321), who were in the ER tending to an unrelated matter, approached Mr. Kliment and asked him to leave the ER. Mr. Kliment stated he would not leave and lunged at Officer Grennell.

Officers Grennell and Hargreaves then wrestled Mr. Kliment to the ground and handcuffed his hands behind his back. Despite being handcuffed, Mr. Kliment continued to struggle by kicking and grasping at the officers' hands and began to bang his head against the

floor and the side of a table. Officers Grennell and Hargreaves requested backup and leg hobbles to further restrain Mr. Kliment, who appeared to be in an altered mental state. Officers Laura Zasly (#1239), Brandon Rock (#2392) and Ari Smith-Russack (#4132), responded and assisted in restraining Mr. Kliment.

As a result of Mr. Kliment's behavior and altered mental state, ER staff refused to readmit him. Officers called for an ambulance to transport Mr. Kliment to another hospital -- to expedite his transport, officers carried Mr. Kliment outside of the ER. While waiting for the ambulance to arrive, Mr. Kliment lost consciousness and stopped breathing. Evidence showed that officers immediately began to render cardiopulmonary resuscitation and requested medical assistance from staff inside the ER. Mr. Kliment was readmitted to CPMC and remained under their care until he was pronounced dead on January 7, 2019.

On April 19, 2019, the San Francisco Medical Examiner's Office conducted an autopsy and concluded: the manner of death was accidental; the method of death was drug related; and the cause of death resulted from a cardiopulmonary complication of methamphetamine and cannabinoid intoxication with law enforcement restraint. A toxicology examination of Mr. Kliment's blood revealed a toxic level of methamphetamine.

Since there is no evidence that Mr. Kliment's death was a direct result of the force used or other criminal conduct by SFPD officers, the District Attorney will close its file.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



CHESA BOUDIN  
District Attorney

cc: Lieutenant David Do, SFPD Internal Affairs Unit