



Ready to Protect,
Proud to Serve

NEWS RELEASE

Chris Magnus
Chief of Police

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REVIEW BOARD RELEASES REPORT ON IN-CUSTODY DEATHS

The Tucson Police Department (TPD) has received the report from the Sentinel Event Review Board (SERB), which reviewed the in-custody deaths of Damien Alvarado and Carlos Adrian Ingram-Lopez. The SERB also reviewed the lack of timely disclosure to the community regarding these deaths. A copy of the Board's report is attached.

A sentinel event is an event with significant negative outcomes that signals underlying weaknesses in the system. Such weaknesses are likely the result of multiple or compound contributing factors, analysis of which may yield ways to strengthen the system and prevent future negative outcomes. SERBs have been an important safety and quality improvement process in the airline and healthcare industries for decades, and are in the early stages of being used in policing. TPD is one of the first departments in the country to convene a board of this kind. SERBs are not a disciplinary review process (which already exists within TPD), but rather a systems analysis that attempts to learn from events that have occurred.

This SERB was a multi-stakeholder group, including representatives from TPD, the Tucson Fire Department and its Emergency Medical Services (TFD or EMS), the Public Safety Communications Department (911), staff from the offices of the Mayor and Council Members, the Community Police Advisory Review Board (CPARB), and a diverse array of community participants, including experts in critical care, the care of individuals with mental or behavioral health issues, and experts in cultural literacy and racial justice.

Two consultants were engaged to oversee the SERB review: John Hollway, Executive Director of the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice from the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School ("Quattrone Center") and Michael Scott, Clinical Professor and Director of the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing at the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions at Arizona State University. Mr. Hollway and Mr. Scott are experts in the field of sentinel event reviews. Mr. Hollway's contributions were made possible through grant funding from the United States Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

The SERB sought to help TPD, other stakeholders, and the larger Tucson community learn from these events and make recommendations that might prevent future tragedies from occurring. The SERB made multiple recommendations to the Tucson Police Department, the Tucson Fire Department and the Tucson Public Safety Communications Department.

"I'm a firm believer in learning from this kind of analysis to promote the best possible outcomes for the community and department members," said Tucson Police Chief Chris Magnus. "I will carefully review this report and act on these

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recommendations with our senior staff. I would like to thank the distinguished members of the SERB for volunteering their time to accomplish this important work.”

SERB participants included diverse representatives from the community and subject matter experts:

Margie Balfour, MD, PhD – Chief of Quality & Clinical Innovation, Connections Health Solutions
Steve Erdman – Grievance Chair, Sergeant, Tucson Police Officers Association (TPOA)
Julianne Hughes – Principal Assistant City Attorney
Claudia Jasso – Chief Development Officer, Amistades, Inc
Mitchell Kagen – Independent Police Auditor
Sharon McDonough – Deputy Chief, Emergency Medical Services, Tucson Fire Department
Annabelle Nunez – Board Chair, Community Police Advisory Review Board (CPARB)
Jamie O’Leary – Director, City of Tucson Public Safety Communications Department
Ernesto Portillo – Council Aide, City of Tucson Ward 3
Ted Prezelski – Management Assistant, City of Tucson Ward 2
Joe Puglia – Captain, Training Division, Tucson Police Department
Nathaniel Sigal – Senior Policy Advisor, Mayor Regina Romero
John Strader – Captain, Operations Division South, Tucson Police Department
Tonya Strozier – Principal, Holladay Fine Arts Magnet Elementary School
Andrew Tang, MD, FACS – Trauma Medical Director, Banner University Medical Center

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