

HALL OF JUSTICE  
330 WEST BROADWAY  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101  
(619) 531-4040  
SanDiegoDA.com

OFFICE OF  
**THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

**DWAIN D. WOODLEY**  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**SUMMER STEPHAN**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

December 02, 2024

Sheriff Kelly Martinez  
San Diego Sheriff's Department  
9621 Ridgeway Court  
San Diego, CA 92123

Chief Scott Wahl  
San Diego Police Department  
1401 Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101

Chief Tommie Cocroft  
California Highway Patrol  
9330 Farnham Street  
San Diego, CA 92123

**Re: In-custody death of Mr. Abdul Aziz Kamara detained by San Diego Sheriff's Deputies Alejandro Aguilera, Tyler Phillips, Travis Kaapke, Derrick Jones, Christopher Aberle, and California Highway Patrol Officer Klayton Liekkio on March 3, 2024; San Diego Police Department Case No. 24009202; DA Special Operations Case No. 24-019CD; Deputy District Attorney assigned: Mei Owen**

Dear Sheriff Martinez and Chief Wahl,

We have reviewed the reports and other materials compiled by the San Diego Police Department's Homicide Unit concerning the detention and arrest of Mr. Abdul Kamara on March 2, 2024, and his subsequent death on March 3, 2024. A District Attorney Investigator responded to the scene and was briefed on the incident. This case was submitted to the District Attorney's Office for review on May 17, 2024. We received the Medical Examiner's Report and toxicology report on September 16, 2024.

***Summary***

On March 2, 2024, at 9:11 p.m., two Carlsbad Police officers and paramedics responded to a call from a concerned individual at Carl's Jr. in Carlsbad who believed a man at the location was in need of a medical evaluation. When the officers and paramedics contacted Abdul Kamara, he did not exhibit any sign of medical distress and did not have any complaints of pain. However, he was exhibiting signs of paranoia, was making incoherent statements, and asked to be taken to the hospital. Kamara was transported to Scripps Encinitas Hospital. When hospital staff attempted to assess Kamara, he exhibited signs of paranoia, refused to answer questions, refused medical care, and fled from the facility before a medical assessment was conducted. Hospital staff called 911.

San Diego Sheriff's Deputies Aguilera and Phillips responded to the 911 call. Staff at Scripps Encinitas Hospital relayed to the deputies that Kamara had arrived by paramedics and had been seen briefly by staff. Staff informed the deputies that Kamara exhibited paranoid behavior and had fled. A doctor told Aguilera and Phillips that Kamara was unable to care for his own safety. The deputies canvassed the area but could not locate Kamara. They returned to their normal patrol duties. The hospital's surveillance footage showed Kamara fleeing the hospital at around 10:53 p.m.

At 11:45 p.m., an employee at the Valero Gas Station on Birmingham Drive called 911 to report that a man, later identified as Kamara, was crawling on the ground. A deputy sheriff arrived and observed Kamara lying shirtless on his stomach on the ground with his hands behind his back. Kamara was moving his legs and making incoherent comments about being tased even though no one was near him. Deputies Aguilera and Phillips arrived and contacted Kamara.

Phillips noted Kamara's demeanor and physical symptoms were consistent with those of someone under the influence of a controlled substance. Kamara was placed under arrest. Phillips handcuffed Kamara and walked him to the patrol vehicle. Kamara was physically compliant while adamantly stating he did not want to go back to the hospital. He stated he just wanted to go to jail to "do his time." Phillips and Aguilera transported Kamara to the Vista Detention Facility (VDF), where they parked before preparing to book Kamara into custody.

When Phillips and Aguilera were securing their firearms in the trunk of their patrol vehicle, Aguilera noticed Kamara facing the back of the vehicle and rapidly moving from side to side across the rear seat. Aguilera saw Kamara had manipulated his handcuffs from his back to the front of his body and was now crouched on the rear seat. Kamara stated he wanted to go and "do his time like a man." Kamara then raised his body, rammed his head against the rear plexiglass divider, and pled for Aguilera to take him in. The deputies tried to calm Kamara, but Kamara kept ramming his head into the plexiglass while repeatedly saying he wanted to "do his time." After approximately one minute, Kamara calmed down. The deputies asked Kamara whether he wanted to exit the patrol unit. Kamara assented, so they escorted him out and to a nearby bench.

Kamara remained calm for a short time but then grew agitated and paranoid. Aguilera radioed for paramedics to respond to assess a small laceration on the top of Kamara's head. Kamara screamed while Aguilera and Phillips attempted to calm him by telling him help was on the way. Phillips remained with Kamara while Aguilera stepped away to inform VDF intake deputies that an ambulance was coming. When Aguilera stepped away, Kamara tried to stand up and began to scream and kick. Kamara moved to get away from Phillips and Phillips tried to restrain Kamara. Both fell to the ground.

California Highway Patrol Officer Liekkio and Deputy Kaapke were in the area and rushed to assist. Liekkio held onto Kamara's ankles while Kaapke put pressure on Kamara's legs and told him to stop kicking. Aguilera ran back to Kamara and braced Kamara's neck to prevent him from banging it on the ground and then positioned himself alongside Kamara to prevent him from thrashing. Moments later, a WRAP full body restraint device was retrieved for application.

Deputies Aberle and Jones came to assist. While Kamara was still kicking, Aberle, Jones, Aguilera, and Phillips began to apply the WRAP. LE3 arrived and was designated the WRAP Safety Officer, tasked with ensuring the WRAP's correct application, and that Kamara was conscious, breathing, and not experiencing medical distress.

After deputies completed the application of the WRAP, LE3 determined the device was correctly applied and observed Kamara was breathing and did not appear to be in medical distress.

Within moments, Vista Fire Department paramedics entered the VDF sallyport and began to assess Kamara. They noted minimal external trauma. Kamara was conscious, responsive, and was breathing normally. However, as they were monitoring Kamara's vital signs, his status deteriorated, and he went into cardiac arrest. At paramedics' request, deputies removed Kamara's handcuffs and the upper portion of the WRAP. Paramedics placed Kamara onto a gurney and connected him to a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) device. He was placed in an ambulance for transport to Tri-City Medical Center in Oceanside.

During transport, paramedics performed life-saving measures on Kamara. Kamara regained a pulse, but he remained unresponsive. Kamara was transferred to Tri-City Medical Center, where he continued to receive medical treatment. When his heart function worsened, additional life-saving efforts were initiated. At 4:03 a.m. on March 3, 2024, Kamara was pronounced deceased.

Toxicological testing of Kamara's blood drawn at the hospital 12 minutes after arrival detected amphetamine at 0.15 mg/L and methamphetamine at 1.6 mg/L.

On March 4, 2024, an autopsy was performed on Kamara at the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office. The cause of death was determined to be complications of resuscitated cardiopulmonary arrest due to acute methamphetamine intoxication with sickle cell anemia as a contributing factor. The manner of death was classified as accident.

### ***Persons Involved***

Abdul Aziz Kamara was a 29-year-old resident of Oceanside, California. The law enforcement personnel involved in this incident included five deputies with the San Diego Sheriff Department and one officer with the California Highway Patrol. At the time of the incident, they had been employed with their respective agencies as follow: Aguilera: 8 years; Phillips: 3 years; Kaapke: 5 years; Aberle: 5 years; Jones: 12 years; and Liekkio: 2 years.

### ***Statement of Civilian Witness 1 (CW1)***

CW1 was working at the Valero Gas Station on March 2, 2024. CW1 saw Kamara sitting on the curb and asked him if he was alright. Kamara said, "Yeah," and that he was "just waiting." Later, when Kamara crawled to the business' front door, CW1 called 911.

Kamara crawled to the front door, opened it, and said, "Hey, can you help hack me?" CW1 told Kamara he could not be in the store because he was shirtless. Kamara responded that he would just wait outside. Kamara then laid next to a box of firewood and put his hands behind his back.

Kamara started yelling, "Help! You have to help hack me! You have to hack me!" Kamara was never aggressive, but CW1 believed something was "off" with him.

***Statement of Law Enforcement Officer One (LE1)***

On March 2, 2024, at 11:55 p.m., LE1 was dispatched to the Valero Gas Station regarding Kamara, who was crawling in the parking lot. When LE1 arrived, Kamara was lying near the gas station entrance. His hands were behind his back and he said he was being "tased," or "tasered." Phillips and Aguilera arrived shortly after. Phillips handcuffed Kamara and placed him in a seated position. Kamara was cooperative with LE1, and LE1 did not observe any use of force during the contact.

***Statement of Law Enforcement Officer Two (LE2)***

LE2 was dispatched to the call at the Valero Gas Station. LE2 saw Kamara was exhibiting symptoms of being under the influence. Kamara was extremely fidgety, had bloodshot eyes, and was moving all over the place. Kamara was cooperative and speaking. LE2 did not see any use of force on Kamara.

***Statement of Law Enforcement Officer Three (LE3)***

LE3 responded to the VDF sallyport to assist with Kamara. Upon arrival, LE3 heard screaming and saw several deputies trying to restrain Kamara. LE3 was designated as the WRAP Safety Officer, meaning he was to ensure the correct application of the WRAP and that Kamara was not in medical distress. Kamara was screaming and thrashing during the WRAP application, but once the application was completed, Kamara appeared to "mellow out" and was in a recovery position. Kamara told LE3 he was injured in his mouth and head. Kamara asked LE3 several times to kill him. LE3 did not see any head injuries on Kamara and saw only slight redness on the inside of Kamara's lip. Kamara did not appear to be in medical distress and was talking and breathing. LE3 believed the WRAP was correctly applied. LE3 never saw any deputy strike or hit Kamara.

***Statement of Fire Fighter Paramedic One (FFM1)***

FFM1 is a Vista Fire Department Firefighter Paramedic. On March 3, 2024, at 1:13 a.m., FFM1 was dispatched as the lead paramedic to evaluate Kamara. Upon arrival, FFM1 saw Kamara handcuffed and in a WRAP device. Kamara was awake and had normal breathing. Although he was speaking, Kamara's responses were altered and nonsensical. There was minimal external trauma consisting of a small laceration on Kamara's forehead. During FFM1's observations, Kamara's status deteriorated. He was no longer breathing effectively and became pulseless. Deputies removed the WRAP and paramedics started CPR. Paramedics put Kamara onto a gurney and into the ambulance and continued treatment on the way to the hospital. During transport, Kamara regained a pulse while FFM1 continued life-saving efforts. Once they arrived at the hospital, paramedics turned Kamara over to the hospital's medical team.

***Statement of California Highway Patrol Officer Liekkio***

Liekkio was at VDF when he observed Phillips standing near Kamara, who was seated and handcuffed. Moments later, Liekkio heard yelling and sounds of a struggle. He looked and saw

Kamara violently flailing around and falling off a bench as Phillips tried to stop him. When Phillips and Kamara fell to the ground, Liekkio rushed to assist. Liekkio grabbed Kamara's ankles and held them as other deputies came to assist. He then released his grasp and got the WRAP from a deputy's patrol car. Kamara appeared distraught and agitated. He was screaming, shouting, and yelling wildly.

***Statement of San Diego Sheriff's Deputy Aberle***

On the night of the incident, Aberle was the VDF sallyport intake deputy. He was notified that his partners were trying to control Kamara. Aberle ran outside and noticed multiple deputies actively struggling and trying to control Kamara, who was squirming and continuously kicking. Aberle saw and grabbed the nearby WRAP and secured the ankle strap on Kamara's ankle. Aberle started applying the WRAP and clicked one or two of the buckles. Other deputies arrived on scene. Aberle backed out of the scene and allowed the arresting deputies to handle Kamara.

***Statement of San Diego Sheriff's Deputy Kaapke***

Kaapke was walking out of VDF's sallyport when he heard a commotion and saw Phillips struggling with Kamara on the ground. He saw Kamara flailing, kicking his legs, and screaming. Kaapke grabbed Kamara's leg and pressed down on Kamara's hamstring. Despite the pressure, Kamara was still squirming and trying to roll over. Kamara was extremely agitated and exerting great effort to get away. At one point, in order to hold Kamara, Kaapke laid down parallel to Kamara and tried to control his legs by wrapping and locking his own legs around Kamara's legs. Because Kamara was still slipping from his grasp, Kaapke suggested Kamara be placed in a WRAP and asked Liekkio to get it from a patrol vehicle.

After that, Aberle successfully placed the WRAP ankle strap on Kamara's ankles. Kaapke lessened pressure on Kamara's legs and successfully placed and buckled the leg restraint under Kamara's knees. Kaapke then told deputies to roll and sit Kamara up to apply the back portion of the WRAP. Kamara was still resisting at this time. Kaapke grabbed Kamara's right arm as deputies pushed forward and sat Kamara up into a seated position. Kaapke was attempting to buckle the right strap when he felt Kamara's mouth on his hand. Kaapke yelled for Kamara not to bite him and quickly moved his hand. Kaapke then connected the final leg restraint strap, put Kamara into a seated-L position, and told the WRAP Safety Officer that they had completed the WRAP application.

Kaapke believed that because Kamara was screaming and exhibiting erratic behavior, he was under the influence. During the medical evaluation of Kamara, Kaapke saw Kamara breathing and saw his eyes open. Kamara did not appear to have any medical issue beyond being under the influence.

***Statement of San Diego Sheriff's Deputy Jones***

Jones was on patrol when he responded to the call for assistance at the VDF sallyport. When he arrived, he saw multiple deputies attempting to restrain and place a WRAP on Kamara. Kamara was flailing his body and appeared to use his weight and momentum in such a way as to attempt to overcome the deputies. Jones held Kamara's ankles down and assisted in the application of the

ankle strap. Deputies then helped place the WRAP over Kamara's legs, while Jones secured the bottom buckle. Jones then saw deputies apply the upper portion of the WRAP. When that was completed, deputies moved Kamara into a recovery position so that he could be monitored. Once Kamara was in the recovery position, he was speaking and breathing normally.

Jones confirmed paramedics were on their way and stayed on scene in case deputies required additional assistance. When paramedics arrived, they started taking Kamara's vitals. Jones left the scene soon after. Jones believed that based on Kamara's actions and appearance, Kamara likely was under the influence of a stimulant. During the encounter, Jones did not observe a need for medical attention and did not observe any signs of medical distress from Kamara.

***Statement of San Diego Sheriff's Deputy Aguilera***

Shortly after 11:00 p.m., Aguilera and Phillips responded to Scripps Encinitas Hospital regarding Kamara, who had just fled the hospital. Carlsbad Police had brought Kamara in, but before hospital staff was able to medically assess him, he ran out the back doors. Aguilera and Phillips were told that if Kamara was located, he should be returned to the hospital for a medical hold. However, when deputies canvassed the area but were unable to find Kamara, they returned to their normal patrol duties.

About an hour later, the deputies received a call regarding Kamara, who was now rolling on the ground at the Valero Gas Station. When they arrived, Aguilera saw Kamara on his stomach with his hands behind his back. Kamara kept yelling, "I'm getting tased, I'm getting tased." Kamara was tense but allowed Phillips to handcuff him. Aguilera believed Kamara was under the influence and decided to evaluate him. When Phillips asked whether he would cooperate with field sobriety tests, Kamara replied, "Don't take me to the hospital... I'd rather go to prison." Aguilera determined Kamara was under the influence of a controlled substance and Kamara was placed under arrest. Aguilera and Phillips transported Kamara to VDF. The commute was about 10 to 15 minutes, during which time Kamara remained silent.

When Aguilera and Phillips arrived, they parked and went to their trunk to store their firearms. Suddenly, Kamara started to jump and bounce around in the back of the patrol vehicle. Aguilera saw Kamara crouched in the back, facing the rear plexiglass. Kamara had moved his handcuffs from his back to the front of his body and was pounding his head against the plexiglass as though he was trying to dive through it. Aguilera told Kamara to calm down. In response, Kamara yelled in a paranoid state, "Let me out." Once Kamara calmed down, they let Kamara out, and Kamara calmly walked to a bench in the sallyport. Kamara also willingly complied with instructions without assistance to readjust his handcuffs. When Kamara sat on the bench, he still appeared in a paranoid state and kept repeating, "I just want to do my time." Around this time, Aguilera radioed for paramedics to come assess Kamara.

Aguilera told Phillips to wait with Kamara while he told VDF deputies that an ambulance was coming. As soon as he spoke with VDF deputies, he heard Kamara screaming and yelling. Aguilera ran back as several deputies were attempting to restrain Kamara on the ground. Aguilera held Kamara's wrist and braced Kamara's neck to prevent him from banging his head

on the ground. After deputies decided to put Kamara in a WRAP, Aguilera told Liekkio to get the WRAP from a patrol vehicle trunk. When other deputies arrived to assist, they started applying the WRAP. Aguilera and Phillips held the upper part of Kamara's body while other deputies applied the ankle and leg restraints. Aguilera and Phillips applied the chest portion and Aguilera buckled the chest strap. After the WRAP was applied, Aguilera assisted Kamara into a recovery position. Kamara was awake and breathing but still thrashing his head from side to side.

When paramedics arrived, Aguilera briefed them before they approached Kamara for evaluation. Afterward, Aguilera looked back and noticed Kamara not moving and becoming non-responsive during the medical assessment. Phillips removed Kamara's handcuffs and the chest harness. Paramedics then loaded Kamara onto a gurney, attached a chest compression device, and transported him to the hospital.

***Statement of San Diego Sheriff's Deputy Phillips***

Phillips and Aguilera received a call to respond to Scripps Encinitas Hospital regarding Kamara, who had just fled the hospital. After they canvassed the area but could not locate Kamara, they returned to their patrol duties. Later, the deputies received a call to the Valero Gas Station concerning Kamara. Upon arrival, they saw him on the ground with his hands behind his back. Kamara believed he was being tased and looked as though he was having muscle spasms.

When Phillips approached and handcuffed Kamara, he was cooperative, and walked to the patrol car. Phillips observed Kamara had a blank stare, cotton mouth, muscle rigidity, and dilated pupils. Phillips believed Kamara was under the influence of a controlled substance. The deputies arrested Kamara and transported him to VDF. Once there, Phillips and Aguilera started to secure their weapons in the trunk. Almost immediately, Kamara started to freak out and manipulated his handcuffs to the front of his body. Kamara turned and started yelling and jumping at the patrol vehicle's rear plexiglass. Kamara ignored commands to calm down. Eventually, Kamara calmed down and they helped him out of the patrol vehicle and sat him at a nearby bench. Kamara then complied with instructions and readjusted his handcuffs to his back.

When Aguilera momentarily stepped away, Kamara attempted twice to stand up. Phillips put his hand on Kamara and told him to stop. Kamara then tried to sidestep. Phillips followed, and Kamara fell to the ground. Kaapke noticed the commotion and rushed to assist. Kaapke grabbed Kamara's legs while Phillips maintained pressure on Kamara's arm. Kaapke and Phillips tried to maintain control for approximately one minute before Liekkio retrieved the WRAP. After deputies applied the WRAP, they placed Kamara in a recovery position. Kamara tried several times to roll onto his stomach. At one point, Kamara attempted, but was unable to, grab Phillips' empty weapon holster. After Kamara was secured, Kamara was asked if he had sustained any injuries. Kamara said he bit his lip, and Phillips saw a scratch on Kamara's nose. Kamara kept saying, "No, no, no. Let me do my time. Please let me do my time."

Phillips observed Kamara until paramedics arrived. During this time, Kamara was conscious, responsive, moving, and breathing. However, during the medical assessment, paramedics noticed Kamara was not breathing and that he did not have a pulse. At the request of the medics, Phillips

removed Kamara's handcuffs and the top portion of the WRAP. Paramedics began life-saving efforts and loaded Kamara onto a gurney and into the ambulance for transport.

### ***Investigation***

The scene was secured, photographed, and investigated by the San Diego Police Department's Homicide Unit. All materials, including detective reports, crime scene investigator reports, audio-recorded witness interviews, body worn camera footage, and surveillance video footage were submitted to and reviewed by the District Attorney's Office. These items were found to provide corroboration to the witnesses and officers statements summarized above.

### ***Scripps Encinitas Hospital Surveillance Video***

At 10:53 p.m., Scripps Encinitas Hospital surveillance video shows Kamara, shirtless and shoeless, fleeing the facility and actively sprinting from a security guard. Kamara stops running when he reaches the hospital driveway and walks toward Santa Fe Drive.

### ***Valero Gas Station Surveillance Video***

At 11:38 p.m., Valero Gas Station video shows Kamara shirtless and walking toward the front of the store entrance. He gets down onto his hands and knees, crawls to the front entrance, and sits by the front door. He then drags himself to the front door, opens it, and partially enters. At 11:43 p.m., Kamara lies on his stomach, extends his arms onto the driveway, then places them behind his back. Kamara remains in this position until LE1 arrives. Immediately thereafter, Phillips and Aguilera arrive and approach Kamara. At 11:56 p.m., Phillips handcuffs Kamara and walks him to the patrol vehicle.

### ***Vista Detention Facility Sallyport Surveillance Video***

Review of VDF's sallyport video captured a portion of the events. Aguilera and Phillips arrive in their patrol vehicle and enter the VDF sallyport with Kamara at 12:39 a.m. The deputies exit the patrol vehicle and Kamara is visible in the backseat rapidly moving from side to side. Aguilera speaks to Kamara while Kamara bangs his head against the patrol car plexiglass. The deputies escort Kamara from the patrol car and seat him on a sallyport bench. At 12:48 a.m., Aguilera walks to the intake door, leaving Phillips with Kamara. Kamara immediately attempts to stand up and Phillips struggles with Kamara. Liekkio and Kaapke rush to assist and Aguilera returns. Liekkio obtains the WRAP from a patrol vehicle and additional deputies arrive to assist. At 12:50 a.m., application of the WRAP is completed, and paramedics enter the sallyport to begin their assessment. At 1:28 a.m., paramedics place Kamara onto a gurney, initiate CPR, load him into the ambulance, and leave the sallyport.

### ***Body Worn Camera Evidence***

Phillips' body work camera footage captures Kamara being placed into the patrol vehicle at the Valero gas station. Kamara says, "I'm not going to the hospital, sir. I'd rather go to jail than the hospital." Phillips asks if Kamara wanted to go back to the hospital and Kamara replies, "No." He also denies being under the influence and declines field sobriety testing.



When the deputies park at VDF, Kamara rams his head into the plexiglass. Aguilera tells Kamara to stop and Kamara pleads to take him in. Kamara rams his head into the plexiglass again while telling Aguilera, "Please sheriff, take me in. Please, please sheriff. Take me in." When Kamara is escorted from the patrol vehicle, he says, "C'mon bro. Please don't shoot bro, please. Bro, please." Phillips and Aguilera walk Kamara to a bench, ask him to sit, and Kamara readjusts his handcuffs.

Aguilera then walks to the sallyport intake office. Kamara tries to stand up from the bench as Phillips attempts to sit him down. The men fall to the ground and Kamara screams and struggles while Phillips tries to restrain Kamara. Kamara twists, moves his body, and screams, "Just let me do my time. Please, just let me do my time." When Kamara slams his head against the concrete floor, Aguilera braces Kamara's neck from the ground. Kamara continues to violently resist. One of the deputies says, "Stop kicking." A deputy asks if anyone has a WRAP and Phillips replies that he has one in his car. Liekkio retrieves it and sets it down near Aguilera. Aguilera requests additional deputies for assistance. Aguilera broadcasts that the WRAP is being applied. Soon after, LE3 asks whether the applying deputies have completed the application and states that he would "check it out." LE3 asks Kamara if he is injured and Kamara responds, "My mouth and my head." LE3 advises other deputies that he will let paramedics make the assessment.

A Vista Fire Department ambulance enters the sallyport and Phillips and Aguilera brief the paramedics of the situation. Paramedics begin their assessment. Shortly afterward, Phillips removes Kamara's handcuffs and the chest portion of the WRAP. Paramedics place Kamara on a stretcher and initiate CPR. They then place him into the ambulance and transport him away.

### ***Autopsy***

On March 4, 2024, an autopsy was performed on Kamara at the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office by Dr. Jonathan Lucas, Chief Deputy Medical Examiner Pathologist, along with Forensic Autopsy Assistant Juana Reyes.

During the autopsy, Dr. Lucas documented minor external injuries, abrasions, and lacerations, as well as a small hemorrhage under the scalp. He did not detect internal injuries or broken bones. At the conclusion of the examination, Dr. Lucas determined the cause of death to be complications of resuscitated cardiopulmonary arrest due to acute methamphetamine intoxication with sickle cell anemia as a contributing factor. The manner of death was classified as accident.

### ***Toxicology***

Toxicological testing of Kamara's blood drawn at the hospital 12 minutes after arrival detected amphetamine at 0.15 mg/L and methamphetamine at 1.6 mg/L. Lidocaine, which was related to Kamara's medical treatment, was also detected. No alcohol or other illicit drugs were detected.

### ***Legal Standards of Criminal Liability***

In analyzing the potential criminal liability of the law enforcement personnel involved in Kamara's arrest, there must first be a determination of causation. For charges of either murder or manslaughter, there must be an act or acts that caused the death of another. The Medical

Examiner's Office determined the cause of death to be complications of resuscitated cardiopulmonary arrest due to acute methamphetamine intoxication with sickle cell anemia as a contributing factor. Kamara's death was determined to be an accident.

When Deputies Aguilera and Phillips encountered Kamara at the Valero gas station, they noted several symptoms that, based on their training and experience, were consistent with those exhibited by a person under the influence of a controlled substance. The deputies detained Kamara for being in violation of the law and transported him to the detention facility. Once at the facility, Kamara became agitated and hit his head against the plexiglass within the patrol vehicle. The deputies attempted to deescalate the situation and reduce Kamara's agitation by talking calmly to him and removing him from the vehicle. Paramedics were requested and the deputies told Kamara they were there to help and that help was on its way. A short time later, Kamara attempted to escape. As Kamara continued to scream, kick, and flail, deputies used reasonable force to restrain him. The WRAP restraint was applied to prevent Kamara from injuring himself and others until paramedics could arrive to conduct a medical assessment and transport him to the hospital. Deputies continuously monitored Kamara during and after the application of force. The officers took note that Kamara was awake, responsive, breathing, and able to talk. There were no obvious signs of medical distress until he was being prepared for transport to the hospital and under the care of medical personnel. Kamara was provided medical care immediately upon the detection of signs of medical distress.

### ***Conclusion***

Based upon our review of the totality of the facts and circumstances, the law enforcement personnel involved in Kamara's restraint did not apply unreasonable or excessive force that resulted in his death. Therefore, the deputies and officer bear no state criminal liability for their actions. A copy of this letter, along with the materials submitted for our review, will be retained in our files.

Sincerely,

  
SUMMER STEPHAN  
District Attorney

cc: Captain Christopher Lawrence, San Diego Sheriff's Department  
Captain Manuel Del Toro, San Diego Police Department