



"Enriching Lives"

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER**

1104 N. MISSION RD, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033



Odey C. Ukpo, M.D., M.S.  
Chief Medical Examiner

**DEATH INVESTIGATION SUMMARY**

**Medical Examiner Case Number:** 2025-18661

**Decedent Name:** RIOS, DIEGO ALFONSO

**Date of Birth:** 02/03/1995

**Date of Injury:** 11/28/2025 (estimated)

**Place of injury:** North Claremont Blvd at Andrew Drive , Claremont, CALIFORNIA 91711

**Pronounced date/time:** 11/28/2025 4:37:00 PM

**Date of examination:** 12/04/2025

**Medical Examiner Investigator:** McGuire, Kristina

**Deputy Medical Examiner:** Dr. Moshea, Lauren

**Supervisor Deputy Medical Examiner:** Dr. Hunt, Brice

**Forensic Technician:** Fernandez, Roy

**CAUSE OF DEATH A:** CARDIOPULMONARY ARREST

**CAUSE OF DEATH B:** EFFECTS OF COCAINE AND ATHEROSCLEROTIC  
CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE IN THE SETTING OF PRONE PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

**MANNER OF DEATH:** HOMICIDE

**HOW INJURY OCCURRED:** PRONE PHYSICAL RESTRAINT BY LAW ENFORCEMENT  
AFTER INTAKE OF DRUGS

Dr. Moshea, Lauren

Completed On: 02/05/2026 2:23 PM

Dr. Hunt, Brice

Senior Deputy Medical Examiner

Approved On: 02/05/2026 7:09 AM

Families of the decedent please call (323) 343-0520 should you have any questions after reviewing this material.

## Medical Report Summary

1. Postmortem toxicology detected cocaine
  - a. See separate toxicology report for further information
2. Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease
  - a. Left anterior descending coronary artery: 70-80% stenosis
  - b. Right coronary artery: 70-80% stenosis
  - c. Left circumflex coronary artery: 50% stenosis
3. Pulmonary edema
  - a. Right lung: 750 grams
  - b. Left lung: 700 grams
4. Blunt force trauma
  - a. Contusions, multiple
    - i. Back with foci of subcutaneous hemorrhage
    - ii. Scalp with subgaleal hemorrhage, left occipital region
    - iii. Bilateral upper extremities
  - b. Superficial abrasions, bilateral upper extremities and knees
5. No traumatic injuries of the neck

## Summary and Opinion Narrative

On November 28th, 2025, this 30-year-old male was found to be unresponsive after being handcuffed following a physical altercation involving prone restraint by law enforcement personnel. The encounter between the decedent and law enforcement personnel was initiated due to a 9-1-1 call stating that the decedent was acting erratically and driving away in a vehicle. During the traffic stop the decedent exited the vehicle and law enforcement personnel attempted to place him in handcuffs. Eventually he was taken to the ground and restrained in a prone position while handcuffs were being applied. Once the handcuffs were placed, he was found to be unresponsive and resuscitative efforts, including administration of Narcan, were attempted. He was transported to the hospital via ambulance and death was pronounced in the emergency department.

External examination revealed blunt force trauma including scattered abrasions and contusions predominately involving the torso and extremities. Internal examination revealed pulmonary edema and moderate to focally severe atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. There were no acutely fatal traumatic injuries.

Postmortem toxicology detected cocaine and its metabolite benzoylecgonine in Mr. Rios' system. Cocaine is a stimulant narcotic which can have multiple adverse effects on the cardiovascular and central nervous systems. These effects can be suddenly fatal on their own and/or exacerbate underlying natural disease processes.

Body camera footage of Mr. Rios' encounter with law enforcement personnel was reviewed. It showed the use of a choke hold and prone physical restraint, including a knee on Mr. Rios' right upper back, during his interaction with law enforcement personnel. The choke hold itself did not incapacitate Mr. Rios as he continued to move and react after it was released. At autopsy there were no traumatic injuries to the anterior or posterior neck. The knee on his right upper back did not cause any fractures or injuries to internal organs. Based on the video footage there does not appear to be an overt asphyxial event throughout the encounter. However, the temporal relationship between the prone physical restraint and cardiopulmonary arrest suggests that these two events were likely not simply coincidental. Based on the autopsy findings, toxicology testing, and body camera footage Mr. Rios' death was multifactorial in etiology. Autopsy cannot determine the extent to which each individual factor played a role in death.

The cause of death is cardiopulmonary arrest due to effects of cocaine and atherosclerotic cardiovascular

disease in the setting of prone physical restraint. The manner of death is homicide due to volitional human involvement regardless of the intent of any individuals' actions.

### Decedent Identification

- Two unique patient identifiers reviewed
  - Same As Decedent Name
    - Decedent Name: RIOS, DIEGO ALFONSO
  - Case Num: 2025-18661

### Phenotypic Sex

- Male

### Type of examination

- Full

### Form Sections

- Decedent Identification
- Prior Postmortem Procedures
- External Examination
- Evidence Of Traumatic Injury
- Internal Examination
- Cardiovascular System
- Respiratory System
- Digestive System
- Urinary Tract
- Male Reproductive Tract
- Endocrine System
- Lymphoreticular System
- Musculoskeletal System
- Head And Central Nervous System
- Special Senses
- Examination Procedures And Ancillary Testing
- Exam Start: 12/04/2025 08:54

### Prior Postmortem Procedures

- Radiology Reviewed: Yes
  - CT Scans
  - Interpretation: - Pulmonary edema
  - Anterolateral rib fractures, bilateral
  - Endotracheal tube
- Organ/Tissue Donation: No
- Mortuary Preparation: No

**External Examination****General**

- Appropriately-Developed

**Race**

- Hispanic

**Phenotypic Sex**

- Male

**Body Weight and Height**

- Weight: 222 lb
- Height: 69 in
- BMI: 32.7 lb/in<sup>2</sup>

**Extremities**

- Well developed

**Skin**

- Without Significant Pathologic Finding
- Scars: Present
  - Elbow, Left
    - PosteriorDescription: White scar
  - Foot, Left
    - AnteriorDescription:
    - White scar
    - Pink scar, distal to white scar

**Tattoos**

- None

**Hair**

- Short

**Facial hair**

- Mustache
- Beard

**Hair color**

- Black

**Eye Color**

- Brown

**Sclerae**

- Anicteric
- Congested

**Conjunctival Petechiae**

- Not identified

**Facial petechiae (i.e. non-conjunctival)**

- Absent

**Ears**

- Unremarkable

**Nose**

- Unremarkable

**Oral cavity**

- Dentition: Good Dentition
- Frenulae and Mucosae: Intact

**Neck**

- Normal

**Chest**

- Normal

**Abdomen**

- Normal

**Back**

Other: See evidence of traumatic injury

**External genitalia**

- Male
- Other External Genitalia: Scrotum with red abrasions

**Evidence of medical intervention/therapy at examination**

- Oral airway device
- Other Medical Intervention/Therapy: Central chest with multiple orange-red abrasions as well as anterolateral rib fractures, right ribs 6-8 and left rib 5, consistent with cardiopulmonary resuscitation efforts.
- Right antecubital fossa with 1-1/4 inch purple contusions with puncture marks consistent with intravenous access.
- Left antecubital fossa with 1/2 inch purple contusions with puncture marks consistent with intravenous access.

**Postmortem Changes**

- Livor mortis: Fixed (except in areas exposed to pressure)
- Color: Purple
- Location: Posterior
- Rigor mortis: Altered

**External decomposition changes**

- None

**Internal Organs and Tissue**

- Well Preserved

**Evidence of traumatic injury****Blunt Force Trauma****Disclaimer for Labeling/Measuring Wounds**

The order in which the injuries are described is for descriptive purposes only and is not intended to imply the sequence of injuries. All medical examiner diagrams are not intended to be facsimiles nor are they drawn to scale.

- Diagrams Used for Injuries: 18661\_000FORM20
- Blunt Force Trauma, Head and Neck: Applicable
- External: Present

**External #1**

- Location: Right cheek
- Other Injury Type: Multiple scattered abrasions in a 1-1/4 x 1 inch area that range from 1/16 to 1/8 inch
- Description: Red

- Internal: Present

**Internal #1**

- Location: Posterior left scalp
- Description: Subcutaneous and subgaleal hemorrhage

- Blunt Force Trauma, Upper Extremities: Applicable

- External: Present

**External #1**

- Location: Anterior right shoulder
- Dimension: 1/2 inches
- Injury Type: Abrasion
- Description: Red

**External #2**

- Location: Medial upper right arm
- Dimension: 6 x 3 inches
- Injury Type: Contusion
- Description: Purple-green

**External #3**

- Location: Anterior right forearm
- Dimension: 1/4 inches
- Injury Type: Contusion
- Description: Purple

**External #4**

- Location: Lateral right wrist
- Dimension: 1 x 3/4 inches
- Injury Type: Contusion
- Description: Red

**External #5**

- Location: Medial right wrist
- Dimension: 1 inches
- Injury Type: Contusion
- Description: Red

**External #6**

- Location: Medial right wrist
- Dimension: 1/4 inches
- Injury Type: Abrasion
- Description: Red

**External #7**

- Location: Right elbow
- Other Injury Type: Multiple scattered abrasions in a 4 x 3-1/2 inch area that range from 1/8 to 1-1/2 inch

- Description: Red

**External #8**

- Location: Anterior left forearm
- Dimension: 3/4 inches
- Injury Type: Contusion
- Description: Purple

**External #9**

- Location: Medial left wrist
- Dimension: 1 x 1/2 inches
- Injury Type: Contusion
- Description: Red

**External #10**

- Location: Lateral left wrist
- Dimension: 1 inches
- Injury Type: Abrasion
- Description: Red

**External #11**

- Location: Superior left elbow
- Dimension: 1-1/4 x 1 inches
- Injury Type: Contusion
- Description: Red

**External #12**

- Location: Left elbow
- Dimension: 1 x 1/2 inches
- Injury Type: Abrasion
- Description: Red

**External #13**

- Location: Posteromedial forearm
- Dimension: 3/4 inches
- Injury Type: Abrasion
- Description: Red

**External #14**

- Location: Left third knuckle
- Dimension: 1/4 inches
- Injury Type: Abrasion
- Description: Red

**External #15**

- Location: Posterior left hand
- Dimension: 1 x 1/2 inches
- Injury Type: Contusion
- Description: Red

**External #16**

- Location: Left fifth knuckle
- Dimension: 1/2 x 1/2 inches
- Injury Type: Contusion
- Description: Red

- Internal: None

- Blunt Force Trauma, Torso: Applicable
- External: Present

**External #1**

- Location: Lateral upper left back
- Dimension: 2-1/4 x 1 inches
- Other Injury Type: Multiple confluent contusions
- Description: Purple

**External #2**

- Location: Upper left back
- Dimension: 4-1/2 x 1/4 inches
- Injury Type: Contusion
- Description: Purple

**External #3**

- Location: Upper right back
- Dimension: 3/4 inches
- Injury Type: Contusion
- Description: Purple

**External #4**

- Location: Lateral upper right back
- Dimension: 4 x 1-3/4 inches
- Other Injury Type: Multiple confluent contusions with associated petechiae
- Description: Purple

**External #5**

- Location: Medial upper right back
- Dimension: 1/2 inches
- Injury Type: Contusion
- Description: Purple

**External #6**

- Location: Lateral upper right back
- Dimension: 1/4 inches
- Injury Type: Contusion
- Description: Purple

**External #7**

- Location: Medial mid right back
- Dimension: 3/4 inches
- Injury Type: Contusion
- Description: Purple

**External #8**

- Location: Lateral mid right back
- Dimension: 3/4 inches
- Injury Type: Contusion
- Description: Purple

**External #9**

- Location: Lateral lower right back
- Dimension: 3/4 x 1/4 inches
- Injury Type: Contusion
- Description: Purple

- Internal: Present

**Internal #1**

- Location: Back
  - Description: Scattered subcutaneous hemorrhages
- Blunt Force Trauma, Lower Extremities: Applicable
  - External: Present

**External #1**

- Location: Right knee
- Other Injury Type: Multiple (approximately 13) abrasions in a 3 x 2 inch area that range from 1/16 to 1/2 inch
- Description: Red

**External #2**

- Location: Superior medial left knee
- Dimension: 1/4 inches
- Injury Type: Abrasion
- Description: Red

**External #3**

- Location: Inferior medial left knee
- Dimension: 1/16 inches
- Injury Type: Abrasion
- Description: Red

**External #4**

- Location: Lateral left knee
  - Dimension: 1/8 inches
  - Injury Type: Abrasion
  - Description: Red
- Internal: None

**Internal Examination****Body Cavities**

- Organs in Normal Anatomic Positions: Yes

**Right Pleural Cavity**

- Smooth
- Glistening

**Right Pleural Fluid**

- None

**Left Pleural Cavity**

- Smooth
- Glistening

**Left Pleural Fluid**

- None

**Peritoneal Fluid**

- None

**Peritoneal Surfaces**

- Smooth
- Glistening

**Cardiovascular System**

- Heart Weight: 400 gr

**Shape**

- Usual

**Pericardium**

- Intact
- No Adhesions

**Pericardial Fluid**

- Within Physiological Range

**Epicardial Surface**

- Smooth
- Glistening

**Coronary Ostia**

- Normally Positioned
  - %Stenosis: None

**Foramen Ovale**

- Closed

**Septal Defects**

- None

**Coronary Arteries**

- Coronary Dominance: Right Dominant
- Coronary Artery Atherosclerosis: Present
  - Segmental
- Coronary Arteries Follow Normal Anatomic Course: Yes

**Left Anterior Descending Artery (LAD)**

- %Stenosis: Present
  - Stenosis Percentage: 80
  - Stenosis Location
    - Proximal
    - Mid
  - Stenosis Description: Eccentric

**Left Circumflex Artery (LCX)**

- %Stenosis: Present
  - Stenosis Percentage: 50
  - Stenosis Location
    - Proximal
  - Stenosis Description: Eccentric

**Right Coronary Artery (RCA)**

- %Stenosis: Present
  - Stenosis Percentage: 80
  - Stenosis Location
    - Proximal
    - Mid
    - Distal

- Stenosis Description: Eccentric

**Chamber Dilation**

- No

**Heart Valves****Description**

- Leaflets Thin/Delicate
- Normal Number of Leaflets
- Absent of Vegetations
- Absent of Atheromas
- No Annulus Calcification

**Chordae Tendinae**

- Thin

**Myocardium**

- Usual Consistency
- Red-Brown
- Absent of Focal Lesions
- Absent of Abnormalities of Apices of Papillary Musculature

**Endocardium**

- Smooth and Glistening

**Thickness (not including trabeculations)**

- Left ventricular free wall: 1.2 cm
- Right ventricular free wall: 0.3 cm
- Septum: 1.1 cm

**Pulmonary Artery**

- Appropriate Caliber
- Normal Configuration

**Ascending Aorta**

- Appropriate Caliber Without Tortuosity or Widening
- Normal Configuration
- Atherosclerosis
  - Mild

**Major Arteries Arising From Aortic Arch**

- Normal Configuration
- Patent

**Thoracic Aorta**

- Appropriate Caliber Without Tortuosity or Widening
- Normal Configuration
- No Atherosclerosis

**Abdominal Aorta**

- Appropriate Caliber Without Tortuosity or Widening
- Normal Configuration
- No Atherosclerosis

**Venae Cavae**

- Patent
- Thin-Walled

**Respiratory System****Epiglottis, Larynx, Trachea**

- Absent of Lesions
- Unobstructed
- Secretions, Frothy
  - Scant

**Lung Weight**

- Right Lung Weight: 750 gr
- Left Lung Weight: 700 gr

**Right Lung Parenchyma**

- Red/Purple or Tan/Pink
- Edema
  - Moderate

**Left Lung Parenchyma**

- Red/Purple or Tan/Pink
- Edema
  - Moderate

**Bronchi**

- Patent

**Bronchial Mucosa**

- Smooth and Glistening

**Digestive System****Tongue**

- Absent of Trauma and Lesions

**Esophageal Mucosa**

- Intact

**Stomach**

- Contents: Present
  - Content Quantity: 200 ml
  - Content Description: Brown semi-solid food material
- Pill fragments: Absent

**Gastric Mucosa**

- Intact, with usual rugal folds without ulcers or mass lesions

**Appendix**

- Present
  - Normal

**Small Intestine**

- Without Significant Pathologic Findings

**Large Intestine**

- Without Significant Pathologic Findings

**Liver Weight**

- Liver Weight: 1950 gr

**Liver Capsule**

- Smooth
- Glistening
- Intact

**Liver Parenchyma**

- Consistency: Soft
- Color: Red-Brown
- Cirrhosis: Absent

**Gallbladder**

- Present
- Normal
- Bile Volume: Scant
- Calculi: Absent

**Pancreas**

- Tan, Lobulated Without Fibrosis

**Urinary Tract**

- **Right Kidney Weight:** 150 gr
- **Left Kidney Weight:** 175 gr

**Kidneys**

- Surfaces: Smooth
- Color: Red-brown
- Corticomedullary Junctions: Clearly Demarcated
- Calculi: Absent

**Bladder**

- Absent of Mucosal Lesions
- Volume and Color of Urine: 150 mL yellow

**Male Reproductive Tract****Prostate**

- Normal Size

**Testes**

- Present Within Scrotum

**Breast Tissue**

- Not Applicable

**Endocrine System****Adrenal parenchyma**

- Uniform yellow cortices and good demarcation from the medulla

**Thyroid**

- Present
  - Color: Red-brown
  - Appearance: Symmetric

**Pituitary**

- Normal Size Without Lesions

**Lymphoreticular System**

- **Spleen Weight:** 150 gr

**Spleen**

- Smooth, Intact, With Dark Red Parenchyma

**Bone Marrow**

- Dark Red and Trabeculated

**Lymph Nodes**

- Not enlarged

**Thymus**

- Involuted

**Musculoskeletal System****Bony Framework**

- Normal

**Vertebral column and Ribs**

- Normal Curvature

**Ribs**

Other: See evidence of therapeutic intervention

**Vertebral Bodies**

- No Fractures

**Head And Central Nervous System****Scalp**

- Usual Thickness

Other: See evidence of traumatic injury

**Calvarium**

- Normal thickness

**Brain Weight**

- Brain weight: 1450 gr

**Dura**

- Normal without subdural fluid collection

**Leptomeninges**

- Normal without lesions or discoloration

**Cerebral Hemispheres**

- Symmetrical without lesions

**Base of Brain**

- Absent of lesions

**Circle of Willis**

- Normal

**Cerebellum**

- Symmetrical without lesions

**Brainstem**

- No Lesions

**Spinal cord**

- Not Examined

**Special Senses****Eyes**

- Not Dissected

**Middle Ears**

- Not Dissected

**Examination Procedures and Ancillary Testing****Photography Taken**

- Yes
  - Photos taken prior to and during the examination

**Special Dissection**

- **Layer-wise Anterior Neck Dissection**
  - Trauma: No
  - Strap Muscle Hemorrhage: No
  - Carotid Sheath Hemorrhage: No
  - Thyroid Cartilage Injury: No
  - Hyoid Bone Fracture: No
  - Cervical Neck Injury: No
- **Posterior Neck Dissection**
  - Trauma: No
  - Soft Tissue Hemorrhage: No
  - Posterior Muscle Hemorrhage: No

- Cervical Vertebral Injury: No
- Vertebral Artery Injury: No

**• Back Dissection**

- Trauma: Yes

*See Evidence of Traumatic Injury for trauma.*

Back Trauma Description: Scattered foci of subcutaneous hemorrhage, predominately upper lateral regions

**Clothing Reviewed by DME**

- No

**Tissue retention**

- Stock Jar(s)
- Quantity: 1

**Histology Key**

- Applicable

Microscopic Diagnoses and Description:

- Lungs with vascular congestion and aspiration of foreign material
- Mild hepatic steatosis

**Slide #1**

- Tissue Type: Heart

Microscopic Description: A section of the heart shows myocardium without myofibrillar hypertrophy, necrosis, fibrosis, or acute or chronic inflammation.

**Slide #2**

- Tissue Type: Right lung

Microscopic Description: Sections of the lung show vascular congestion with extravasation of red blood cells into the alveolar spaces. Multiple bronchi have foreign material present. There is no smooth muscle hyperplasia, eosinophilic infiltration, or basement membrane thickening of the bronchi/bronchioles. There is no alveolar, interstitial, or bronchial inflammation, chronic or acute identified.

**Slide #3**

- Tissue Type: Left lung

Microscopic Description: Sections of the lung show vascular congestion with extravasation of red blood cells into the alveolar spaces. Multiple bronchi have foreign material present some of which is polarizable. There is no smooth muscle hyperplasia, eosinophilic infiltration, or basement membrane thickening of the bronchi/bronchioles. There is no alveolar, interstitial, or bronchial inflammation, chronic or acute identified.

**Slide #4**

- Tissue Type: Liver and Spleen

Microscopic Description: A section of the liver shows mild large droplet steatosis (<5%). There is no fibrosis, sinusoidal dilation, or acute or chronic inflammation.

A section of the spleen is unremarkable.

**Slide #5**

- Tissue Type: Kidney

Microscopic Description: A section of the kidney shows glomeruli with no hypertrophy, sclerosis, basement membrane thickening, mesangial expansion, or chronic or acute inflammation. The tubules show no atrophy, basement membrane thickening, matrix expansion, or chronic or acute inflammation. No arteriosclerosis or vascular hyaline sclerosis identified. There are no crystals identified upon polarization.

**Additional Samples Taken**

- Typing Blood - Heart, Vitreous, Urine, Liver, Gastric Contents, Femoral Blood, Heart Blood

**Ancillary testing**

- Radiology

*Please see Prior Postmortem Procedures Radiology section for details.*

- Toxicology
- Histology

Attendee Organization	Autopsy Attendee	Badge/Serial Number
Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department	Sergeant John Ganarial	
Hall of Justice	Raymond Bustos	

*Lauren Moshea*

Dr. Moshea, Lauren  
Completed On: 02/05/2026 2:23 PM

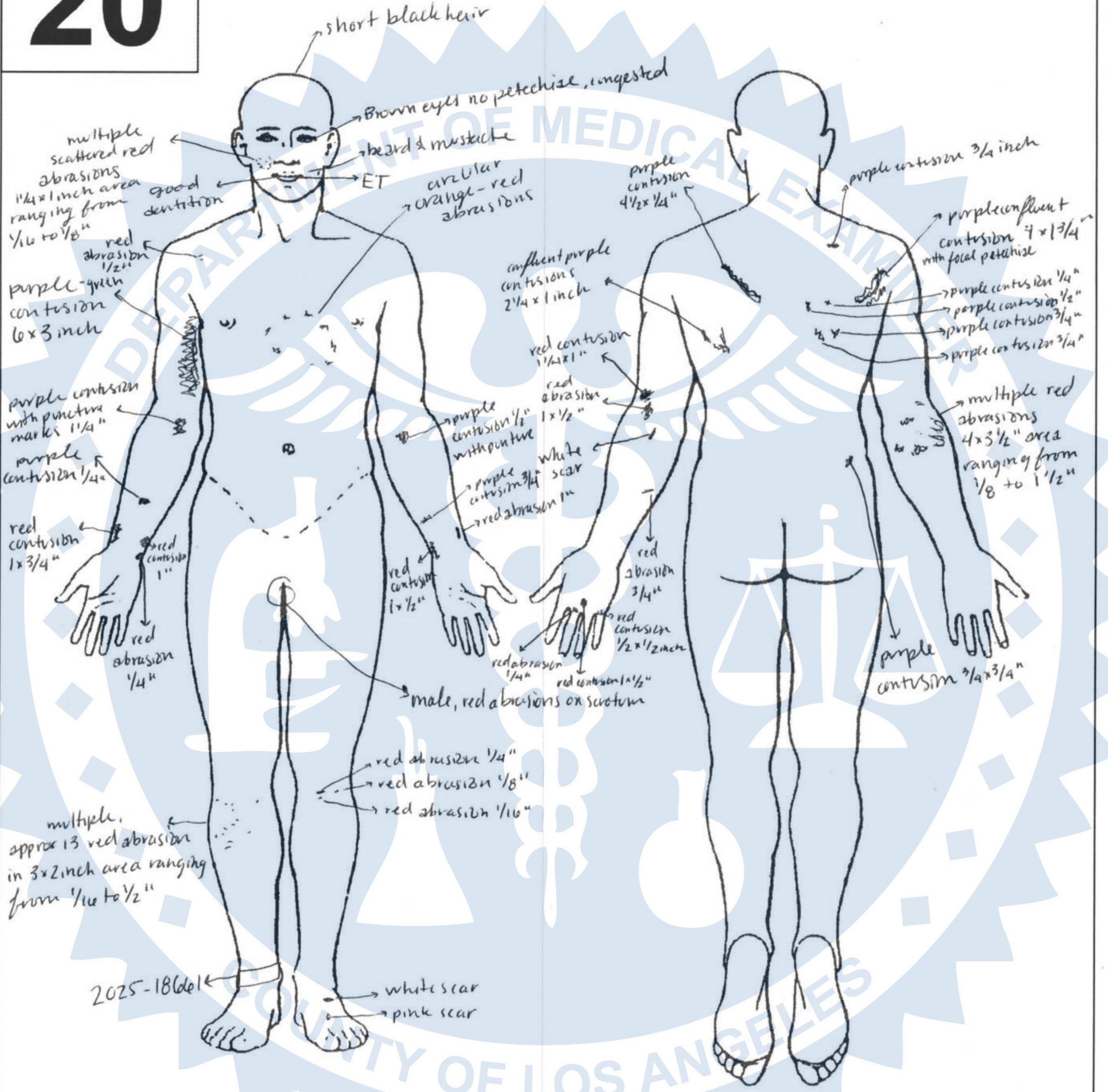
*1344*

Dr. Hunt, Brice  
Senior Deputy Medical Examiner  
Approved On: 02/05/2026 7:09 AM

Decedent: RIOS, DIEGO ALFONSO

Case Number: 2025-18661

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Date: 12/04/2025 start 0854  
end 1128

Lauren Moshea

B7H

Dr. Hunt, Brice  
Supervisor DME

Dr. Moshea, Lauren  
Medical Examiner

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Decedent: RIOS, DIEGO ALFONSO

Case Number: 2025-18661

**EXTERNAL EXAM**

- Sex
- Race
- Age
- Height
- Weight
- Hair
- Eyes
- Sclera
- Teeth
- Mouth
- Tongue
- Nose
- Chest
- Breasts
- Abdomen
- Scar
- Genitals
- Edema
- Skin
- Decubitus

**HEART Wt. 400**

- Pericardium
- Hypertrophy
- Dilation
- Muscle
- Valves
- Coronaries

RV 0.3  
 Septum 1-1  
 LV 1-2  
 TV/PV/MV/AV:

LAB 70-80% RCA 70-80% LCA 50%

**AORTA**

**VESSELS**

**LUNGS Wt.**

- R 750
- L 700
- Adhesions
- Fluid
- Atelectasis
- Oedema
- Congestion
- Consolidation
- Bronchi
- Nodes

**PHARYNX**

**TRACHEA**

**THYROID**

**THYMUS**

**LARYNX**

**HYOID**

**ABDOMINAL WALL FAT**

**PERITONEUM**

- Fluid
- Adhesions
- LIVER Wt. 1950**
- Capsule
- Lobules
- Fibros
- GB +
- Calculus -
- Bile ducts

**SPLEEN Wt. 150**

- Color
- Consistency
- Capsule
- Malpiment

**PANCREAS +**

**ADRENALS +**

**KIDNEYS Wt.**

R 150

L 175

**Capsule**

**Cortex**

**Vessels**

**Pelvis**

**Ureters**

**BLADDER 150 a yellow**

**GENITALIA**

**Prostate +**

**Testes +**

**Uterus**

**Tubes**

**Ovaries**

**OESOPHAGUS**

**STOMACH**

Contents 200 cc brown semi-solid

**DUOD. & SM. INT. +**

**APPENDIX +**

**LARGE INT. +**

**ABDOM. NODES**

**SKELETON**

**Spine**

**Marrow**

Rib Cage @ 6-8 @ 5 fracture ant.

**Long bones**

**Pelvis**

**SCALP** ② post subgaleal & scalp

**CALVARIUM**

**BRAIN Wt. 1450**

- Dura
- Fluid
- Ventricles
- Vessels
- Middle ears
- Other

**PITUITARY +**

**SPINAL CORD**

**TOXICOLOGY SPECIMENS**

**SECTIONS FOR HISTOPATHOLOGY**

**MICROBIOLOGY**

**DIAGRAMS  
X-RAYS**

**OTHER PROCEDURES**

**GROSS IMPRESSIONS**

Date: 12/04/2025

BHT

Lauren Moshea

Dr. Hunt, Brice  
Supervisor DME

Dr. Moshea, Lauren  
Medical Examiner



Department of Medical Examiner, County of Los Angeles  
**FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES**

1104 North Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90033

**Laboratory Analysis Summary Report**



Hunt, Brice M.D.

Deputy Medical Examiner  
 1104 North Mission Road  
 Los Angeles, CA 90033

PendingTox

**Case Number** 2025-18661 **Decedent:** RIOS, DIEGO ALFONSO

<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>DRUG</u>	<u>RESULT</u>	<u>ANALYST</u>
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**Alcohol Quantitation/Confirmation**

Blood, Heart

Alcohol-GC/FID-HS	Ethanol	Negative	C. Castellino
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**Drug Screen**

Blood, Heart

ELISA-Immunoassay	Benzodiazepines	ND	J. Posada
ELISA-Immunoassay	Cocaine and Metabolites	PP	J. Posada
ELISA-Immunoassay	Fentanyl	ND	J. Posada
ELISA-Immunoassay	Methamphetamine & MDMA	ND	J. Posada
ELISA-Immunoassay	Opiates: Codeine & Morphine	ND	J. Posada
ELISA-Immunoassay	Opiates: Hydrocodone & Hydromorphone	ND	J. Posada
ELISA-Immunoassay	Phencyclidine	ND	J. Posada

**Drug Screen/Confirmation**

Blood, Femoral

Cocaine-GC/MS	Benzoylcegonine	3.2 ug/mL	J. Reyes
Cocaine-GC/MS	Cocaethylene	ND	J. Reyes
Cocaine-GC/MS	Cocaine	2.8 ug/mL	J. Reyes

Blood, Heart

Bases-GC/NPD &/or MS	Basic Drugs	ND	M. Liebl
Cocaine-GC/MS	Benzoylcegonine	4.8 ug/mL	J. Reyes
Cocaine-GC/MS	Cocaethylene	ND	J. Reyes
Cocaine-GC/MS	Cocaine	6.0 ug/mL	J. Reyes

**SPECIMEN**    **SERVICE**    **DRUG**    **RESULT**    **ANALYST**

<b>Legend:</b>	ND	Not Detected	SNS	Specimen Not Suitable
g	Grams	ng/g	TNP	Test Not Performed
g%	Gram Percent	ng/mL	ug	Micrograms
Inc.	Inconclusive	PP	ug/g	Micrograms per Gram
mg	Milligrams	QNS	ug/mL	Micrograms per Milliliter

The alcohol analysis was performed in accordance to California Code of Regulations "Title 17" compliance by a qualified analyst in the Forensic Toxicology Laboratory, Forensic Laboratories Division, County of Los Angeles Department of Medical Examiner.

Enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay (ELISA) provides only a preliminary analytical result that is contingent upon a confirmatory test. A "presumptive positive" (PP) signifies a detection of a drug class and must be confirmed by additional testing for true identification and/or quantitation of specific drug(s) present in the specimen.

Per the Department's Evidence Retention Policy, the blood specimen(s) will be retained for one year (minimum) and all other specimens six months (minimum) from Postmortem Exam.

**Final Review By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sarah Buxton de Quintana**  
**Supervising Criminalist II**

*The above results relate only to the items sampled and tested and have been technically and administratively reviewed and are the opinions and conclusions of the analysts noted. The final review has been certified by the noted Toxicologist to ensure that all standard operating procedures were followed as set by the Forensic Toxicology Laboratory, Forensic Sciences Laboratory Division, County of Los Angeles Department of Medical Examiner.*





"Enriching Lives"

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

1104 N. MISSION RD, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033

Case Number: 2025-18661 - Decedent's Name: **RIOS, DIEGO ALFONSO**



Odey C. Ukpo, M.D., M.S.  
Chief Medical Examiner

<b>COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES</b>	<b>INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY REPORT</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER</b>
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1	APPARENT MODE	Accident/Natural	CASE NO 2025-18661
	SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES In Custody / Law Enforcement Related		CRYPT R-42

LAST, FIRST MIDDLE RIOS, DIEGO ALFONSO	AKA	#
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ADDRESS [REDACTED]	CITY [REDACTED]	STATE [REDACTED]	ZIP [REDACTED]
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SEX	RACE APPEARS	DOB	AGE	HGT	WGT	EYES	HAIR	TEETH	FACIAL HAIR	ID VIEW	CONDITION
Male	Hispanic/Latin o	2/3/1995	30 y	69 in	222 lb	Brown	Brown		Yes	No	FAIR

MARK TYPE	MARK LOCATION	MARK DESCRIPTION

NOK [REDACTED]	ADDRESS [REDACTED]	CITY [REDACTED]	STATE [REDACTED]	ZIP [REDACTED]
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RELATIONSHIP Mother	PHONE [REDACTED]	PENDING BY	DATE 11/29/2025	TIME 00:05:00
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SSN	DL ID	STATE
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ID METHOD Fingerprints-Livescan
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L.A. #	MAIN #	CII #	FBI #	MILITARY #	POB
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IDENTIFIED BY NAME(PRINT)	RELATIONSHIP	PHONE	DATE 12/2/2025	TIME 07:41:00
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PLACE OF DEATH/PLACE FOUND Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, Hospital	ADDRESS OR LOCATION 1798 North Garey Avenue	CITY Pomona	ZIP 91767
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PLACE OF INJURY Street	AT WORK No	DATE 11/28/2025	TIME 15:18:00	LOCATION OR ADDRESS North Claremont Blvd at Andrew Drive , Claremont	ZIP 91711
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DOD 11/28/2025	TIME 16:37:00	FOUND OR PRONOUNCED BY Dr. Tom, Jonathan
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OTHER AGENCY INV OFFICER LASD Homicide Bureau	PHONE 323-890-5500	REPORT No 025-00105-3199-058
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TRANSPORTED BY MAI,	DATE 12/1/2025	TIME 19:30:00
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FINGERPRINTS? Yes	CLOTHING No	PA RPT No	MORTUARY
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MED EV Yes	INVEST PHOTOS#	SEAL TYPE	HOSP RPT Yes
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PHYS EV Yes	PROPERTY? No	HOSP CHART No
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SUICIDE NOTE No	PF NO
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**SYNOPSIS**  
**2 HOUR NOTIFICATION REQUESTED**  
 The decedent is a 30-year-old Hispanic male who became unresponsive during a traffic stop. On 11/28/2025 Claremont Police Department received a call of a person acting erratically. Officers conducted a traffic stop on the decedent and as he was being handcuffed he became unresponsive and went into cardiac arrest. He was transported to the hospital via ambulance. Upon admission to the hospital he was unable to be resuscitated and was pronounced dead at 1637 hours by Dr. Tom.



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# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

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Odey C. Ukpo, M.D., M.S.  
Chief Medical Examiner

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## Investigator's Narrative

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

### Information Sources:

1. Detective Machuca, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department-Homicide Bureau, 1 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755, (323) 890-5500.
2. Medical Records, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, 1798 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767, (909) 865-9500.
3. [REDACTED], brother of the decedent [REDACTED].

### Investigation:

On 11/28/2025 at 1703 hours hospital personnel from Pomona Valley Medical Center called to report this apparent accidental versus natural in-custody death to Beverly Ramirez, reporting desk, at the Los Angeles County Department of the Medical Examiner. It was reported that the decedent went into cardiac arrest while being handcuffed during a traffic stop. He was transported to the hospital and was subsequently pronounced dead. I was assigned this hospital investigation on 12/03/2025 by Acting Supervisor Elisa Ising. On 12/03/2025 I conducted a telephone interview with Detective Machuca from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department-Homicide Bureau and [REDACTED], brother of the decedent.

### Location:

Location of Death: 1798 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767,+1 909-865-9500 Location of Injury: North Claremont Blvd at Andrew Drive , Claremont, CALIFORNIA 91711

### Informant/Witness Statements:

On 12/03/2025 I conducted a telephone interview with Detective Machuca from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department-Homicide Bureau. All information provided is preliminary and the investigation is ongoing. He relayed the following information:

Detective Machuca stated in essence that on 11/28/2025 a 911 call was received for a person, identified as the decedent, acting erratically. The decedent proceeded to drive away in a vehicle. At approximately 1518 hours a traffic stop was initiated by Claremont Police Department. During the traffic stop the decedent exited the vehicle and began to resist Officers. They were able to place one handcuff on the decedent and he was taken to the ground. The second handcuff was placed on the decedent and he was rolled onto his side. Upon rolling the decedent onto his side he was found to be unresponsive and cardiopulmonary resuscitation was initiated.

A review of medical records from Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center revealed the following information:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] he decedent was unable to be resuscitated and was pronounced dead at 1637 hours by Dr. [REDACTED].

On 12/03/2025 I conducted a telephone interview with [REDACTED], brother of the decedent. He relayed the following information:

[REDACTED] stated in essence that his brother has no known medical history. It is unknown if he smokes cigarettes, he drinks alcohol socially and it is unknown if he uses illicit substances.

### Scene Description:

Medical Examiner personnel did not visit the scene.

### Body Examination:

Please see the Deputy Medical Examiner's report for body examination information.

### Identification:

On 12/02/2025 at 0741 hours the decedent was positively identified as Diego Alfonso Rios (DOB: 02/03/1995) via Department of Justice fingerprints.



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# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

1104 N. MISSION RD, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033

Case Number: **2025-18661** - Decedent's Name: **RIOS, DIEGO ALFONSO**



Odey C. Ukpo, M.D., M.S.  
Chief Medical Examiner

### Next of Kin Notification:

██████████ mother of the decedent, was notified of the decedent's death by law enforcement personnel.

### Tissue Donation:

Not addressed.

### Autopsy Notification:

Detective Machuca and Sergeant Ganarrial from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department-Homicide Bureau are requesting a 2-hour autopsy notification. Please see case notes for contact information.

### Evidence:

Underwear collected on 2025-12-02, at approximately 09:51:00 hours - Forensic Technician Supervisor - White, Tara

Socks x2 collected on 2025-12-02, at approximately 09:51:00 hours - Forensic Technician Supervisor - White, Tara

Pants collected on 2025-12-02, at approximately 09:51:00 hours - Forensic Technician Supervisor - White, Tara

Bloodstain card collected on 2025-12-09, at approximately 13:37:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Hardy, Winters

Fingernail Kit collected on 2025-12-02, at approximately 07:20:00 hours - Forensic Attendant - Wheeldon, Cody

Hair Kit collected on 2025-12-02, at approximately 07:18:00 hours - Forensic Attendant - Wheeldon, Cody

baggie with residue collected on 2025-12-02, at approximately 08:36:00 hours - Forensic Technician Supervisor - White, Tara

Investigator: McGuire, Kristina

Inv. Report Date/Time: 12/27/2025 at 19:49:33.3133333

Reviewed By: Epperson, Justine

Reviewed Date/Time: 1/4/2026 at 03:38:49.9866667