



## Ken Jenkins

Chairman of the Board  
Legislator, 16th District

To: Virginia Perez, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety & Security

Fr: Kenneth Jenkins, Chairman  
Board of Legislators

Dt: February 25, 2013

Cc: Steve Bass,  
Legislative Director

Re: County Jail Inmate Death

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On Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> an inmate at the Westchester County correctional facility died of a heart ailment. There has been conflicting reports regarding the details of this case.

Please invite Commissioner of Corrections, Kevin Cheverko, to a Public Safety and Security Committee meeting to discuss this unpleasant occurrence. Require copies of any incident reports from any correction officers and all staff involved, including but not limited to superior officers, supervisors and medical facility employees.

This discussion may require your committee to go into executive session to discuss any sensitive personnel issues.

Thank you for your attention to this important and difficult matter.

## Westchester jail inmate complained of chest pains before death

Written by Jonathan Bandler  
Feb 24

lohud.com

An inmate at the Westchester County jail who died of a heart ailment Tuesday complained of chest pains before he was evaluated at the infirmary and sent back to his cell, according to a report obtained Friday by The Journal News.

In recent days, county officials had said that Rashad McNulty was taken to the infirmary early that morning complaining of gastrointestinal and stomach pain related to food he ate.

But in the jail's official report notifying the state Commission on Correction of McNulty's death, a corrections captain wrote: "Inmate felt chest pains. Was evaluated and allowed to return to cell. Later stopped breathing and died at hospital."

McNulty was in the infirmary between 2:15 and 4:20 a.m. He collapsed on his way back to his cell and was taken to Westchester Medical Center, where he died at 6:10 a.m. An autopsy performed later that morning determined the cause of death was stenosing coronary arteriosclerosis, or hardening of the heart arteries, according to the county Medical Examiner's Office.

Deputy Commissioner Justin Pruyne said the report, filed by a jail employee and not a medical staffer, was not at odds with what county officials have said.

Pruyne said McNulty indicated he was having stomach problems or indigestion related to sausage he had eaten, complaining of a "burning in his chest." After he was given Zantac, Mylanta and water, Pruyne said, McNulty "expressed some relief" so he was returned to his cell.

Dr. Kunjlata Ashar, the county's chief medical examiner, said McNulty's heart condition would have built up over time and often goes undetected. She declined to speculate about any affect his treatment had on his heart ailment, as she has not yet been provided with any reports detailing the evaluation and treatment.

Medical services at the jail are provided by Correct Care Solutions, a company based in Tennessee. A company spokesman, Executive Vice President Patrick Cummiskey, declined to answer a series of questions posed by The Journal News regarding McNulty's care that morning, citing privacy laws.

He did emphasize in an email that the Westchester jail is accredited by both the American Corrections Association and the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare, "ensuring the program meets or exceeds national standards."

"The loss of any life is tragic," Cummiskey wrote. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Mr. McNulty."

McNulty, 36, of Yonkers, was at the jail since August 2011, when he was indicted on federal drug charges with 64 others linked to the Elm Street Wolves and Cliff Street Gangsters, two Yonkers gangs accused of conspiring to control crack sales in an area of Nodine Hill.

He pleaded guilty four months ago and was awaiting sentencing in February. He faced a minimum of 10 years in federal prison.