



Office of Commissioner
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Precinct No. 2

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Commissioner Simmons Statement on Autopsy Results of In-Custody Death of Anthony Johnson

Another heart-wrenching jolt for the family of Anthony Johnson Jr. came today with the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's release of Mr. Johnson's autopsy results.

The manner of death in Mr. Johnson's Tarrant County jail death case has been ruled a homicide; the cause of death was determined to be both mechanical and chemical asphyxia.

I extend my sincerest condolences to Mr. Johnson's parents, siblings, and entire family during this incredibly challenging time.

I am saddened by the determination, yet I am not surprised by it, considering what we all witnessed in the partially released video.

Each and every individual who had a role in causing Mr. Johnson's death should be held accountable for their actions or inaction. The accountability I am calling for includes the filing of applicable charges for all involved to include detention officers, supervisors, and medical personnel. The shocking tactics displayed in the limited video that was released make clear that Sheriff Bill Waybourn is ultimately responsible for this tragedy.

I repeat my call for the sheriff to release all remaining video footage that captured the excessive force death of Mr. Johnson to commissioners' court members, followed by release to the public. As county executives, the first question we must ask and answer is: Could this have been avoided?

I look forward to next week, when I have my initial meeting with the United States Department of Justice.

I am committed to supporting efforts to ensure the Sheriff's Office is seeking and implementing best practices. Until such time, I believe the Tarrant County Jail could benefit by a review by the U.S. Justice Department.

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