

**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DISTRICT NINE
2350 E. Michigan Street
Orlando, Florida 32806-4939**

REPORT OF AUTOPSY

DECEDENT: JOEL RAYON PANIAGUA **CASE NUMBER:** ME 2016-000950

MANNER OF DEATH: Homicide

IDENTIFIED BY: Photo ID

AGE: 31 years

SEX: Male

RACE: White

DATE OF DEATH: June 12, 2016

DATE/TIME OF AUTOPSY: June 14, 2016 @ 8:30 a.m.

PERFORMED BY:

Marie H Hansen MD
Marie H. Hansen, MD, Associate Medical Examiner
August 5, 2016

CAUSE OF DEATH:

Multiple gunshot wounds

AUTOPSY FINDINGS

- I. Multiple gunshot wounds with:
 - A. Multiple gunshot wounds of left chest with
 - 1. Combined pathway including lung, ribs, heart, and spinal cord
 - 2. Projectile fragments recovered in mediastinum and spinal cord
 - 3. Overall pathway back to front, left to right, and upwards
 - B. Complex gunshot wound of left thigh and right scrotum with:
 - 1. Entry, posterior left thigh
 - 2. Exit, medial left thigh
 - 3. Re-entry right scrotum
 - 4. Projectile recovered in right scrotum
 - 5. Overall pathway back to front, left to right, and upwards

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TOXICOLOGY ANALYSIS: See laboratory report.

CONCLUSION: In consideration of the circumstances surrounding the death and after examination of the body, it is my opinion that the death of Joel Rayon Paniagua, a 31-year-old white Hispanic male, is the result of multiple gunshot wounds.

The manner of death is homicide.

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The autopsy of the body of Joel Rayon Paniagua is performed pursuant to Florida Statute 406.11 by Marie H. Hansen, MD, Associate Medical Examiner, District Nine at the Orange County Medical Examiner facility, Orlando, Florida on June 14, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

IDENTIFICATION: The body of Joel Rayon Paniagua is positively visually identified via comparison of decedent to photograph associated with Mexican Passport# G12857143. The identification is made by Special Agent, Matt Walsh, of the FDLE to Chief M.E. Investigator Carol Hicks on June 12, 2016 @ 10:44 p.m.

CLOTHING AND VALUABLES: The body is clothed in a shirt, pants with a belt, underwear, two shoes, two socks, and accompanied by a Mexican Driver's License, a Mexican passport, a billfold, two credit cards, a key with a key fob, a cell phone, personal papers, and a club ID bracelet. Also accompanying the decedent is cash in the amount of two \$5 bills and six \$1 bills and change in the amount of three quarters, one dime, one nickel, and one penny for a total of \$16.91 in cash and change. The clothing and valuables are turned over to law enforcement.

GENERAL STATEMENT: The body is that of a 68 inch, 167 pound, normally-developed, well-nourished, white Hispanic male, appearing consistent with the given age of 31 years. There is mild rigor mortis present (passing) and anterior and posterior non-blanching livor mortis observed.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The hair of the head is black and 1½ inches on the top and ½ inch on the sides. The irides are brown with equal round pupils bilaterally. The corneae are cloudy and the sclerae are congested but without distinctive petechiae. The earlobes are neither creased nor pierced. The mouth has a full set of natural white teeth in good repair. The upper lip is clean shaven and the lower jaw has a ½ inch outline-type beard.

The neck is unremarkable.

The chest has symmetric breasts that are without palpable masses. The chest has a slightly increased AP diameter. The nipples are without crusting or ulceration but there is a small amount of black body hair around each nipple and over the mid sternum. There is also black body hair in the mid abdomen and on the lower extremities and lower lumbar area of the back.

The upper extremities are remarkable for a 3 inch scar on the dorsum of the right hand, going from beneath the ring finger to beneath the middle finger. The lower extremities and back are without significant areas of scarring or tattooing.

SPECIAL PROCEDURES: Toxicologic analysis: body fluids and tissues consisting of peripheral and left chest blood, bile, urine, and ocular fluid are obtained. Forensic analysis: A DNA card.

EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL INTERVENTION: None.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY

There are multiple gunshot wounds to the body.

Gunshot Wound "A":

Gunshot Wound "A" is a penetrating gunshot wound of the left back with an entrance wound at a point 7½ inches below the top of the shoulder and 6½ inches left of the midline. The wound itself is 6 x 7 mm with an inferior abrasion.

Gunshot Wound "A" is associated with fractures of the posterior ribs 2-6 and then continues with the combined pathway.

Gunshot Wound "B":

Gunshot Wound "B" is a penetrating gunshot wound of the left back with an entrance wound at a point 12 inches below the top of the shoulder and 7 inches to the left of the midline through a 2½ x 2 cm defect with a 1½ x 1½ cm medial superior contusion.

The pathway of Gunshot Wound "B" begins with fractures through the 9th and 10th posterior ribs with maceration of the spleen, perforation of the diaphragm, with herniation of the stomach into the left chest and then continues in the combined pathway.

The combined pathway of Gunshot Wounds "A" and "B" includes laceration of the posterior aspects of the upper and lower lobes of the left lung and laceration of the posterior lateral aspects of the left ventricle for a 3 cm laceration extending through the entire thickness of the left ventricle, 1 cm below the valve ring. The combined pathway is associated with a right hemothorax of 50 cc and

a left hemothorax of 700 cc, as well as a pinpoint laceration of the aorta at T5 with periadventitial hemorrhage and a perforation of the vertebral column with transection of the spinal cord in the C7/T1 region.

A triangular fragment of the small-caliber, deformed, yellow metal jacketed projectile and fragments of yellow metal jacket as well as fragments of gray metal are recovered along the combined pathway of Gunshot Wounds "A" and "B."

The overall combined pathway of Gunshot Wounds "A" and "B" is therefore back to front, left to right, and upward.

Gunshot Wound "C":

Gunshot Wound "C" is a complex gunshot wound of the left thigh and right scrotum with an entrance present on the posterior left thigh at a point 25 inches above the heel via a 0.3 x 0.7 cm defect with an accompanying 0.5 x 0.3 cm inferior abrasion.

The wound track continues through the subcutaneous fat and muscle of the left thigh to an exit wound which consists of a 3 x 1 cm laceration on the medial inferior aspect of the left thigh, 26½ inches above the heel. The gunshot wound pathway continues with a re-entry perforation of the right scrotum at a point 27 inches above the heel through a 5 x 7 mm defect without surrounding soot or powder tattooing and continues with a perforation of the inferior aspect of the right testicle with a right testicle contusion and a yellow metal jacketed triangular deformed projectile recovered in the contused testicle of the right scrotum.

The overall pathway is therefore back to front, left to right, and upward.

Examination of the hands reveals no other areas of contusion or laceration.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

HEART: The pericardial sac is lacerated and has 30 grams of partially clotted blood. The 330 gram heart has a right anatomic dominant coronary arterial system that on serial section is without significant atherosclerosis. The atria are bilaterally unremarkable, and the foramen ovale is closed. Each of the heart valves has the correct number of thin pliable leaflets or cusps with unremarkable chordae tendineae.

The myocardium is 1 cm in thickness and tan-brown in color in the interventricular septum and left ventricular free wall in areas not described in the paragraphs on Evidence of Injury.

PERIPHERAL VASCULAR SYSTEM: The aorta is intact through its thoracic and abdominal distribution with a normal orientation of great vessels except for a perforation at the T5 region with associated periaortic adventitial hemorrhage. The iliac and carotid arteries are without evidence of stenosis, aneurysmal dilatation, and are otherwise unremarkable on examination and palpation.

HEAD and BRAIN: There is no subgaleal, epidural, or subdural hematoma. The leptomeninges are clear over the convexities of the cortex of the 1410 gram brain with congested vessels.

The vessels at the base of the brain that comprise the circle of Willis are thin-walled and without atherosclerosis or aneurysm. The inferior left frontal lobe has a focal 1 cm area of subarachnoid hemorrhage. Serial coronal sections reveal gray-tan cortical ribbon and diffusely softened white matter without inferior frontal contusions. The corpus callosum, basal ganglia, lateral ventricles, hippocampi, and posterior lobes are unremarkable. The cerebellum and brainstem are unremarkable grossly and on section.

Stripping of the dura reveals an intact calvarium and base of skull.

NECK ORGANS: The superficial and deep muscles of the anterior neck are without hematoma. The tongue is unremarkable on horizontal section and the hyoid bone and thyroid cartilage are intact. The epiglottis without edema or petechiae and the trachea is without occlusion by food or foreign material. Palpation of the anterior cervical vertebral column reveals no evidence of fracture.

LUNGS: The pleural cavities have bilateral hemothoraces of 50 cc on the right and 700 cc on the left. The right and left lungs weigh 510 and 300 grams respectively. The pleural surfaces are tan-pink to tan-gray with mild anthracosis and, except for hemorrhage associated with the gunshot wound pathways and fractured ribs, the remaining parenchyma is tan-pink with mild anthracosis and no evidence of pulmonary emboli, tumor, hemorrhage, or distinctive areas of consolidation. The distal tracheobronchial trees are without occlusion by mucus plugging.

LIVER: The 1550 gram liver has an intact capsule and a red-brown parenchyma with a lobular architecture and a slightly decreased resistance to sectioning. The gallbladder contains an estimated 6 cc of yellow-green runny bile without gallstones. The mucosa has diffuse yellow flecking.

RETICULOENDOTHELIAL SYSTEM: The 100 gram spleen has a macerated lateral capsule with the remaining parenchyma being red-purple and soft without fibrosis, hemorrhage, or tumor on section. The paratracheal lymph nodes are 3-5 mm and gray-black on section. The remaining lymph node chains are grossly unremarkable.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: The thyroid gland consists of brown lobes that are homogenous on section. The adrenal glands have bilaterally golden yellow cortices and gray medullae that are without tumor or hemorrhage on section. The pancreas consists of tan lobulated tissue, without interdigitated fat, fibrosis, hemorrhage, tumor, or pseudocyst formation.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM: The right and left kidneys weigh 120 grams each. The capsules strip easily revealing light red-tan cortical surfaces that are smooth and of normal thickness. The medullae, calices, collecting systems, ureters, and bladder are unremarkable. The bladder is moderately distended with an estimated 185 cc of clear yellow fluid.

The prostate is tan-brown and smooth without enlargement or nodularity on section and the testicles are unremarkable except as described in the paragraphs on Evidence of Injury.

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM: The esophageal mucosa is tan-white and glistening. The stomach contains 100 cc of brown opaque fluid with identifiable fragments of meat and pasta but no distinctive pill fragments or odor. The underlying rugal folds are mildly autolyzed but without evidence of antral or duodenal ulceration. The serosal surfaces of the small bowel, appendix, and colon are grossly unremarkable.

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM: The subcutaneous fat is 2 cm at the umbilicus. The muscle is normally formed. Examination of the clavicles, the anterior rib cages, the cervical, lumbar, and sacral vertebral column, as well as the pelvic girdle reveals no evidence of acute trauma. Examination of the long bones and joints of the upper and lower extremities reveals no palpable fractures.

Patient: RAYON PANIAGUA, JOEL
Age: 31 Sex: M
Client Patient ID: 9-16-950
Account#: VX83021
Physician: HANSEN, MARIE
Client: DISTRICT 9 MEDICAL EXAMINER MISC
TOXICOLOGY

Specimen Collected :06/14/2016

Lab Order No: 661501223

Reg Date: 06/15/16

Test Name	Result	Units	Cutoff/Reporting Limits
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VOLATILE PANEL - VOLP
SPECIMEN TYPE
PERIPHERAL BLOOD

ETHANOL	0.155	g/dL	0.010
ACETONE	NONE DETECTED	mg/dL	7.5
METHANOL	NONE DETECTED	mg/dL	15.0
ISOPROPANOL	NONE DETECTED	mg/dL	15.0

Analysis by Gas Chromatography (GC) Headspace Injection
BLOOD DRUG SCREEN - BDSME
SPECIMEN TYPE
HEART BLOOD
GC/MS
CAFFEINE
LC/MS/MS
LC/MS/MS PERFORMED ON PERIPHERAL BLOOD
CAFFEINE, CAFFEINE METABOLITE
BLOOD IMMUNOASSAY SCREEN

AMPHETAMINES	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.100
BARBITURATES	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.100
BENZODIAZEPINES	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.050
BUPRENORPHINE	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.001
CANNABINOIDS	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.050
COCAINE METABOLITE	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.100
FENTANYL	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.001
OPIATES	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.050
SALICYLATES	NEGATIVE	mg/L	50.0

Patient: **RAYON PANIAGUA, JOEL**
Client Patient ID: **9-16-950**
Physician: **HANSEN, MARIE**

Age: **31** Sex: **M**
Account#: **VX83021**
Client: **DISTRICT 9 MEDICAL EXAMINER MISC**

TOXICOLOGY

Specimen Collected :06/14/2016

Lab Order No: 662300908

Reg Date: 06/15/16

Test Name	Result	Units	Cutoff/Reporting Limits
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VOLATILE PANEL, VITREOUS - VOLPV

SPECIMEN TYPE

VITREOUS

ETHANOL	0.170	g/dL	0.010
ACETONE	NONE DETECTED	mg/dL	7.5
METHANOL	NONE DETECTED	mg/dL	15.0
ISOPROPANOL	NONE DETECTED	mg/dL	15.0

Analysis by Gas Chromatography (GC) Headspace Injection

Specimens were intact upon receipt. Chain of custody, specimen security and integrity has been maintained. Testing has been performed as requested

Reviewed by:  Date: 7/20/16

FINAL REPORT - THIS COMPLETES REPORTING ON THIS CASE

TOXICOLOGY REPORT

RAYON PANIAGUA, JOEL

ME16-00950

Rayon Paniagua, Joel

31 Years - M

6/12/2016

M/S 1d

