

**THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER**

INQUEST: IN RE ANDRES GUARDADO PINEDA

Inquest: In re Andres Guardado Pineda.	Inquest Proceeding Date: November 30, 2020
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INTRODUCTION

The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner appointed me to conduct an Inquest into the circumstances, manner, and cause of death of Andres Guardado Pineda. On November 30, 2020, I convened the Inquest and received evidence and testimony from various witnesses. A transcript of the November 30 proceeding will be made part of the public record, and is not summarized here. I continued the Inquest to review documents from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department submitted under seal and make findings.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department provided me with a sealed folder of subpoenaed records on November 30. I received additional sealed records from the Sheriff's Department on December 9 and 30. The records are comprehensive and I alone reviewed these records and resealed them after my review. These records shall remain excluded from the public record pursuant to California Government Code section 27498. In the

event questions arise in the future regarding what records the Sheriff's Department provided to the Hearing Officer and to maintain a complete record of this Inquest, I request that the Sheriff's Department maintain the integrity of the sealed folder intact as part of the evidence received in this Inquest.

Additionally, after the Inquest proceeding adjourned for the day on November 30, Deputy Miguel Vega submitted a declaration, signed under penalty of perjury, indicating that if he were to appear and be questioned at the Inquest, he would assert his Fifth Amendment right not to testify. Given the totality of the circumstances, and out of respect for Deputy Vega's rights under the Constitution, I will accept the declaration in lieu of Deputy Vega's in-person testimony.

A list of the live-testimony witnesses and documentary evidence reviewed for purposes of the Inquest is attached to these findings.

FINDINGS

After completing my review of the evidence, I determined the available evidence received is sufficient to make the required findings, and it is not necessary to further delay the conclusion of the Inquest. Therefore, I find it is unnecessary to call any further witnesses or receive additional evidence in this Inquest. This includes examination of any witnesses who remain under subpoena. For this reason, I will also not pursue the Fifth Amendment issues raised during the Inquest on November 30, 2020.

After considering all of the evidence, I find, more likely true than not, that:

- The deceased is Andres Guardado Pineda (Mr. Guardado).
- Mr. Guardado's date of death was June 18, 2020.
- Mr. Guardado died in the driveway at 420 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., Gardena, CA 90248 at approximately 18:01 hours (6:01 p.m.).
- The medical cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds.
- The manner of death was by the hands of another person other than by accident.

A copy of these written findings, an original transcript of the November 30 proceedings, and copies of documents made part of the public record, will be provided to the Medical Examiner-Coroner. Copies of all documents, video recordings, and photographs reviewed by the Hearing Officer will be maintained by the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner. The findings will be forwarded to the Los Angeles County District Attorney and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in accordance with California Government Code section 27504.1. The sealed, original Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department records provided to me under seal will be returned to the custodian of records at the appropriate time with a request that those records be maintained as described above.

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The Andres Guardado Pineda Inquest is now concluded.

DATED: January 12, 2021

By 
Justice Candace Cooper [Ret.]
Hearing Officer

Appointed by the Los Angeles
County Department of Medical
Examiner-Coroner

LIST OF EVIDENCE

LIVE-TESTIMONY WITNESSES

1. Kevin Young, M.D. (Deputy Medical Examiner – Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner)
2. Lianna Darabedian (Coroner Investigator – Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner)
3. Andrew Clemens (Firefighter/Paramedic – Los Angeles County Fire Department)
4. Dennis Cota (Firefighter/Paramedic – Los Angeles County Fire Department)
5. Mike Davis (Detective – Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department)
6. Joseph Valencia (Homicide Bureau Investigator – Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department)
7. Bennet Omalu, M.D. (Forensic Pathologist)
8. Guillermo Torres (Journalist)

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

1. Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner's Case File
2. Los Angeles County Fire Department Records
3. Los Angeles County Sheriff Department Records
(Records produced under seal)
4. Los Angeles County Sheriff Department Press Release Videos
5. Writ of Mandate (declaration by Deputy Hernandez)
6. LA Taco, Intl. LLC Media Files
7. Second Autopsy Case File
(Second Autopsy Performed by Bennett Omalu, M.D.)
8. Declaration of Deputy Christopher Hernandez
9. Declaration of Deputy Miguel Vega