



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
SAMUEL J. SIMON, DIRECTOR  
DIVISION OF CORRECTIONS  
GENE STUBBLEFIELD, SUPERINTENDENT

# ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Internal Affairs Unit  
RE: Arrestee LaVonda Kimble

## Executive Summary

Date: April 14, 2007

Report Number 07-33

### I. Introduction:

On April 10, 2007, LaVonda Kimble (B-F-30, DOB 8/8/1976) was arrested on a fugitive charge (i.e. MISCON) from Bel-Nor Police Department and held at the St. Louis City Justice Center (CJC), awaiting pick up. (Exhibit A) While detained at CJC, Arrestee Kimble had a "Medical Condition" which may have resulted in her death (e.g. pending autopsy report). The Internal Affairs Unit conducted an internal investigation per request of the Superintendent of Corrections, Gene Stubblefield, to determine if the following Division of Corrections Policy and Procedures were violated.


- Division of Corrections Policy and Procedure 4.2.5 *Level I/II Medical Screening*
- Division of Corrections Policy and Procedure 4.2.7 *Sick Call*

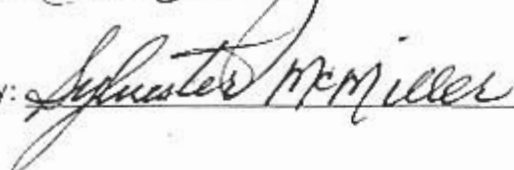
### III. Investigative findings:

Based on information obtained via personal interviews and review of pertinent documentation (i.e. Medical Records) during this during this investigation there is *no evidence* to support that the St. Louis City Division of Corrections failed to follow Policy and Procedure 4.2.5 *Level I/II Medical Screening*, by refusing Arrestee Lavonda Kimble treatment for her medical condition.

Based on information obtained via personal interviews and review of pertinent documentation (i.e. Medical Records) during this during this investigation there is *no evidence* to support that the St. Louis City Division of Corrections failed to follow Policy and Procedure 4.2.7 *Sick Call*, by refusing Arrestee Lavonda Kimble treatment for her medical condition

Based on information obtained via review of pertinent documentation (i.e. RELEASE) during this investigation there is **no evidence** that the St. Louis City Division of Corrections actions were not in accordance with the governing document and/or agency (i.e. Arrest Register/St. Louis Police Department).

Prepared By:  Date 4-30-07

Prepared By:  Date 4-30-07



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**Investigative Report**  
**Internal Affairs Unit**  
**RE: Arrestee Lavonda Kimble**

Date: April 14, 2007

Report Number 07-33

**I. Introduction:**

On April 10, 2007, Lavonda Kimble (b-f-30 dob 08-08-1976) was arrested on a fugitive charge (MISCON) from Bel-Nor Police Department (Exhibit A). Kimble was held at the St. Louis City Justice Center (CJC) awaiting pick up from Bel-Nor Police Department. While awaiting pickup Kimble complained of difficulty breathing in Housing Unit 5-C. Arrestee Kimble was taken to the Medical Department at CJC where she received a breathing treatment. While in Medical, at approximately 0120 hrs, Kimble became distressed. Arrestee Kimble was transported to St. Louis University Hospital by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) where she was later pronounced dead by the emergency room doctor. Gene Stubblefield, Superintendent of Corrections requested this matter be investigated to determine if the following Division of Corrections Policy and Procedures have been followed

- Division of Correction Policy and Procedure 4.2.5 Level I/II Medical Screening
- Division of Correction Policy and Procedure 4.2.7 Sick Call

**TIMELINE OF EVENTS**

**Intake: Nurse Cynette Jones-Collins LPN**

On April 10, 2007 at approximately 1430 arrestee Lavonda Kimble was arrested and charged as a fugitive from Bel-Nor Police Department.

- At 1502 arrestee Kimble was booked into the Justice Center.
- At approximately 1709 arrestee Kimble was seen by the intake Nurse Cynetta Jones-Collins LPN, No health problems were reported or detected. Inhalers were used.
- Kimble indicated that she has Asthma and Sickle cell

On April 14, 2007, Internal Affairs Investigators Louisa Lyles and Sylvester McMiller interviewed Nurse Cynetta Jones-Collins, LPN. During her interview she provided the following information.

- She takes Advair and Combivent Inhalers for her asthma

- She takes no medication for her sickle cell
- Kimble asked if she could use her inhalers.
- Nurse Collins contacted Doctor Singer via telephone who gave Nurse Collins permission for arrestee Kimble to have a treatment.
- Nurse Collins asked Kimble the whereabouts of her inhalers.
- Kimble stated they were in her purse in her property.
- Police Officers Love and Harold Davie retrieved arrestee Kimble's property. Police Officer Love removed the inhalers from her purse in the presence of Police Officer Davis, Kimble and Nurse Collins.
- Kimble used her inhalers on or about 1720
- Nurse Collins retrieved the inhalers marked them and placed them on her desk to be sent to the medical department.
- Arrestee Kimble indicated she smokes cigarettes

**End Note:** A transcription of Nurse Collins taped interview is attached reiterating the above statements. (Exhibit B)

**Pre-Admit: C/O Therese Smith**

- At approximately 1810 hrs Kimble arrived on the second floor. She was searched by C/O Therese Smith and placed in the female holding cell. Kimble reported no medical complaints to staff while in this area.

**End Note:** C/O Therese Smith's information report reiterating the above statement is attached. (Exhibit C)

**Escort: C/O Charmaine Berry**

- At Approximately 2125 hrs Arrestee Kimble was escorted from the second floor female holding cell to housing unit 5-C by C/O Charmaine Berry.
  - Berry said Kimble was smiling and joking with her and the other arrestees.
  - Kimble was very cooperative and sociable. Kimble continued walking and talking with the other arrestees.
  - Kimble reported no medical problems while she was being escorted from the second floor to Housing Unit 5-C

**End Note:** C/O Charmaine Berry information report reiterating the above statements is attached. (Exhibit D)

**Housing Unit 5-Charlie: C/O Kewania Yarborough**

- At approximately 2130 hrs Arrestee Kimble arrived in housing unit 5-C escorted by C/O Berry.
- At approximately 2135 hrs C/O Yarborough placed Kimble in cell # 41. Arrestee Kimble appeared to be fine and made no complaints.
- At approximately 2150 hrs C/O Yarborough started her housing unit count.
- At approximately 2210-2220 hrs while conducting her count:
  - Kimble informed Yarborough she needed a breathing treatment.
  - Yarborough informed Lt. Karen Walton, the floor supervisor.
  - Yarborough then contacted medical.
  - Yarborough told Nurse Modglin that Lavonda Kimble was having an asthma attack
  - Yarborough then went back to Kimble cell 41, 5-C-2 to check on her
  - Kimble was breathing fast and coughing up what appeared to be a clear mucus.
  - Yarborough escorted Kimble from the upper tier.

**End Note:** C/O Kewania Yarborough information report reiterating the above statements is attached (**Exhibit E**)

- At approximately 2230 C/O Lisa Moore arrived in housing unit 5-C to escort arrestee Kimble to medical.

**Lt Karen Walton:**

- At approximately 2210 C/O Yarborough returned to the bubble (5<sup>th</sup> floor control center) and informed Lt. Karen Walton, floor supervisor that arrestee Lavonda Kimble needed an inhaler. Lt. Walton pushed the button (Inter com) to call Kimble.
- Kimble responded to Lt. Walton by yelling, "I need my inhaler"
- Lt. Walton advised Kimble to give her a minute to contact medical.
- Lt. Walton told C/O Yarborough to call medical.
- Lt. Walton called for a female escort officer.
- C/O Lisa Moore arrived and escorted (walked) arrestee Kimble out of 5-C to medical

**End Note:** Lt. Karen Walton information report reiterating the above statements is attached (**Exhibit F**)

**Medical Escort: C/O Lisa Moore**

- At approximately 2234 C/O Moore arrived in Housing Unit 5-C where she was met by C/O Yarbrough and Arrestee Kimble.

C/O Yarbrough said Kimble was having an asthma attack, and that medical had been notified.

- En route to medical arrestee Kimble was walking with no assistance.
- Moore tried to assess arrestee Kimbles condition, but Kimble was verbally abusive.
- Kimble stated several times, "You motherfuckers don't give a damn about me I'm sick".
- "Bitch you don't care either".
- At approximately 2238 C/O Moore arrived in medical with arrestee Kimble.

**End Note:** C/O Lisa Moore information report reiterating the above statements is attached (**Exhibit G**)

**Medical Officer: C/O Karl Hense, 2<sup>nd</sup> shift**

- C/O Karl Hense said at approximately 2240 C/O Lisa Moore entered into the medical area escorting arrestee Lavonda Kimble.

**End Note:** C/O Karl Hense information report reiterating the above statements is attached (**Exhibit H**)

**Medical Officer: Peggy Wells, 3<sup>rd</sup> Shift**

- At approximately 2255 she assumed her post in medical
- Arrestee Lavonda Kimble was sitting in front of the nurse's station being seen by Nurse Kases.
  - The nurse put her in the treatment room and continued treating her.
  - Arrestee Kimble was placed in holding cell A after being okayed by Nurse Kases.
  - Arrestee Kimble complained to Nurses Evans and Weigert that she was still unable to breathe.
  - Nurse Evans put arrestee Kimble back in the treatment room and started treating her again.
  - Nurse Mason directed Wells to allow arrestee Kimble to have some water.
  - At approximately 0125 arrestee Kimble stated the oxygen wasn't working.
  - Arrestee Kimble was jumpy agitated, and kept taking the tube out of her mouth.
  - Arrestee Kimble also stated she was feeling faint.
  - Arrestee Kimble then started sliding from her chair to the floor.

- The nurses turned her over and began checking her vital signs, and started CPR
- Code three (3) was called at approximately 0135.
- 0145 EMS crew engine 2 arrived.
- 0155 EMS arrived

**End Note:** C/O Peggy Well information report reiterating the above statements is attached (**Exhibit I**)

**Medical:**

**Nurse Gina Modglin LPN**

On 4-11-2007 she was working in the medical unit and an officer escorted Arrestee Kimble to the unit at approximately 10:30 pm that evening.

- Kimble was complaining of some shortness of breath.
- While they began to assess her, Modglin went to first intake unit to get Kimble paper to find out what type of medication she was on.
- Modglin brought Kimble inhalers back up to the floor.
- At this time Kimble O2 saturation level was stable
- Kimble vital signs were ok at that time, although she had a lot of wheezing and some tightness.
- Modglin called Doctor Singer to get an order so she could treat Kimble properly.
- Doctor Singer gave Modglin an order to give Kimble a nebulizer treatment.
- Kimble O2 stats were stable and her vital signs were fine.
- Kimble was alert, she was breathing fine and her O2 stat had come up to 97%.
- Kimble heart rate was stable.
- Kimble responded well there was no coughing, she was laughing. Nurse Modglin teased her about witting smoking.
- Kimble told Nurse Modglin that she smoked weed (Marijuana).

**End Note:** Nurse Modglin typed interview reiterating the above statement is attached (**Exhibit J**)

**Nurse Marcie Warner LPN**

- She was working TCU Unit when an Officer called down from the fifth floor stating that a woman was having trouble breathing.
  - It was close to 11 o'clock, not sure of the exact time.
  - When she came down to the room she was sweating and leaning on the counter in front of the offices.
  - Nurse Warner got a plastic chair and sat her down.
  - Nurse Warner grabbed the oxygen machine APL/02 and put it on her finger to see what she was running.

- Kimble O2 level was in the low 90's, her heart rate was 150.
- Nurse Warner put oxygen on her SPL/O2, Nurse Warner put it up to 2 liters after Kimble got anxiety.
- Kimble said she used her inhalers; they called Dr. Singer at home. Dr. Singer was informed her oxygen level.
- Kimble was 96,97 and her heart rate was 91. Nurse Warner talked to her while she watched it.
- Nurse Warner asked arrestee Kimble did she smoke cigarettes
- Kimble said she smoked cigarettes.
- They asked her if she did any drugs or anything.
- Arrestee Kimble said she did smoke weed (Marijuana) she didn't say how often.

**End Note:** Nurse Warner typed interview reiterating the above statement is attached (**Exhibit K**)

#### **Nurse Laura Kases RN**

- Arrestee Kimble arrived in medical at approximately 2238.
- At approximately 2300 arrestee Kimble told Nurse Kases she was having a asthma attack
- At approximately 2315 hrs Nurse Kases gave Kimble a breathing treatment.
  - Kimble state, I'm feeling better".
  - Nurse Kases continued to monitor Kimble
  - 4-11-07 at approximately 0005 Nurse Kases indicated Kimble could return to her housing unit.

**End Note:** Nurse Kases Medical Notes reiterating the above statement is attached (**Exhibit L**)

#### **Nurse Renee Evans LPN**

- On 4-11-07 Kimble still in medical, at approximately 0120 Nurse Evans was advised by arrestee Kimble that she was out of her Advair.
  - Nurse Evans checked Kimble O-2 sat 86
  - Nurse Evans applied 2 liter O-2 nasal cannala.
  - Kimble voiced that her nose was stuffed up
  - Nurse Wiegert ask for a oxygen mask
  - Nurse Mason then gave Kimble a nebulizer treatment
  - Nurse Mason asked Nurse Evans to come into examine room 1 and stay with arrestee Kimble while she called the doctor.
  - Arrestee Kimble indicated that she had to use the bath room.
  - Nurse Evans explained to arrestee Kimble that she had to remove the nebulizer.
  - Arrestee Kimble then said she was going to faint and fell out the chair.



- Arrestee Kimble had a bowel movement on herself.
- Nurse Evans asked for help and Nurse Wiegert came in along with Nurse Mason and they started CPR.
- They worked on Kimble until EMS arrived.
- They talked with EMS and explained arrestee Kimbles condition.

**End Note:** Nurse Renee Evans Medical Notes reiterating the above statement is attached (**Exhibit M**)

### **Nurse Leamorne Weigert LPN**

On 4-11-07 Nurse L. Weigert submitted the following report

- Upon her arrival at the facility arrestee Kimble was in medical.
- Arrestee Kimble had been placed in holding cell to return to unit.
- Arrestee Kimble complained of having problem breathing
- Arrestee Kimble was started on O-2.
- Arrestee Kimble stated that her inhaler was empty
- Arrestee Kimble had been in chair fell on floor.
- Respiration dropped CPR started until EMS unit arrived.
- Relieved by them

**End Note:** Nurse Weigert Medical Notes reiterating the above statement is attached (**Exhibit N**)

### **Doctor Susan Singer, MD**

I first heard about this woman being intake by the nurses approximately about 7 or 8 p.m. on the evening that she was arrested. She was an asthmatic and had Sickel Cell disease. Apparently was not on any Sickel Cell medication, but was on her Asthma medication. So, an Albuterol inhaler was ordered, and she was apparently breathing fine when the nurse saw her. She was taken upstairs

- Albuterol is the medication that we have here (CJC). The order was written for that to be available to her if she needed it, ever four hours or so.
- We do not keep Advair or Combivent on hand in the building.
- Nurse Collins stated said contacted you (Dr. Singer) and made a request concerning arrestee Kimble.
- Dr. Singer does remember talking to Nurse Collins about arrestee Kimble, but do not remember at this point the discussion then about a breathing treatment.
- Dr. Singer was called back about 10:30 or 11:00 saying the women was in respiratory distress. They had her on oxygen I told them to go ahead and give her an nebulizer treatment.
- Approximately 11:45 to midnight Dr. Singer called back and talked with Nurse Kases.
- Nurse Kases informed Dr. Singer the patient had two treatments.
- Her oxygen saturation had gone up to normal. Her pulse rate had come down.

- At this point they thought they were making some improvements.
- That is when Dr. Singer remembered finding out that she had her own inhalers.
- Dr. Singer asked the nurse to give her inhalers back, let her keep them and use them the way she is use to using them.
- The next phone call Dr. Singer received was around 1:20a.m. or so from Nurse Kases calling to say that the woman was very agitated, short of breath again.
- Ms. Kases and I were worried about her. I said to call the ambulance and send her to the hospital. I think it was about that point in the conversation when Ms. Kases said they are calling me. She went to see what was going on. I think that is when the woman collapsed. The next thing I heard (I cannot remember if I called them or they called me), but it was a little bit later. I was told that the ambulance crew were there doing CPR, but it did not look as if it was going to be successful. They left with Ms. Kimble.

**End Note:** Doctor Singer typed interview statement reiterating the above statement is attached (**Exhibit O**)

**Hospital Transport/Release: Lt. Lorez Williams**

On 4-11-07 at approximately 0110 Lt. Lorez Williams was informed by Nurse Mason that arrestee Lavonda Kimble had been in medical since 2<sup>nd</sup> shift.

- And arrestee Kimble may have to go out to the hospital.
- Nurse Mason asked if Lt. Williams could find out if arrestee Kimble was getting released soon.
- Lt. Williams then telephoned prisoner processing and spoke with processor Harris and asked him if arrestee Kimble was up for release.
- Harris stated, No she is not we are still waiting for her paper work to show she has made bond.
- Lt. Williams then went to the admission area
- C/O Danielle Hamilton handed her the release packet for Kimble.
- C/O Angela Kelly stated, Mason said call now she needs 911.
- Lt. Williams called captain Bond and explained the situation to him
- Lt. Williams proceeded to medical and she observed the medical staff attending to Kimble who was lying on the floor in the medical room.
- Phillips, Rogers and Jerry from Fire Engine 2 arrived at 0144.
- Medic 5 Seperand Girolami arrived at 0157.
- They continued CPR while they exited the building going to the hospital.

**End Note:** Lt. Williams information report reiterating the above statement is attached (**Exhibit P**)

### **C/O Angela Kelly**

- At approximately 0135 C/O Angela Kelly was informed by Lt. Lorez Williams that she would be escorting arrestee Lavonda Kimble to the hospital via ambulance.
- Kelly proceeded to medical where the Fire Department, Engine 2 was providing treatment to arrestee Kimble.
- At approximately 0157 Medic 5 Paramedics: Seper and Girolami enter to assist and prepare arrestee Kimble for transport.
- At approximately 0215 C/O Kelly along with EMS left the Justice Center in route to St. Louis University Hospital.
- C/O Kelly was assisted by C/O Pasquel Robinson who followed in the CJC van.
- At St. Louis University hospital arrestee Kimble was pronounced dead by the attending physician.

**End Note:** C/O Angela Kelly information report reiterating the above statement is attached (**Exhibit Q**)

### **Property: Lt. Marilyn Ervin**

On April 11, 2007, Lt. Marilyn Ervin Property Supervisor stated at approximately 0638 she was informed by C/O T. Nelson that someone was waiting to pick up property.

- Annie Kimble the mother of arrestee Lavonda Kimble informed Lt. Ervin that someone had called her and told her to pick up the property because her daughter arrestee Lavonda Kimble had expired in our facility.
- At approximately 0715 after signing the proper paper work Annie Kimble received arrestee Lavonda Kimble property.
- At approximately 0805 Ms. Kimble walked back into the lobby with the seal property bag of Lavonda Kimble requesting that Lt. Ervin be present when she opened the property bag.
- Ms. Kimble proceeded to open the bag in the presence of Lt. Ervin and acting chief of security Captain Irene Mitchell,
- After searching the purse and bag Ms. Kimble discovered arrestee Lavonda Kimble inhalers were not there.

**End Note:** C/O Lt. Marilyn Ervin information report reiterating the above statement is attached (**Exhibit R**)

**Note:** Arrestee Kimble's inhalers were removed from her purse while she was in Medical Intake in the police processing area.

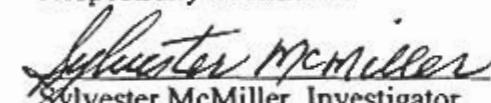
At approximately 1901 Arrestee Kimble made a telephone call. The call was in reference to her being released. During the conversation arrestee Kimble made no mention of any medical problems

**Investigative Finding:**

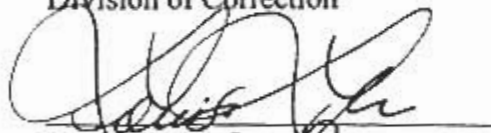
Arrestee Lavonda Kimble was held by the Division of Correction pending authorized release. The Division of Correction received the proper release authorization on 4-11-2007 at approximately 0130. At that time arrestee Kimble was already in duress and was being transported to St. Louis University Hospital. There was NO EVIDENCE that the Division of Correction violated any Policies and Procedures.

This concludes the investigation concerning arrestee Lavonda Kimble. A supplemental report will follow upon completion of the Medical Examiners' report.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Sylvester McMiller, Investigator  
Internal Affairs, Unit  
Division of Correction

4-30-07  
Date:

  
Louisa Lyles, Investigator  
Internal Affairs, Unit  
Division of Correction

4-30-07  
Date:

**Attachments:**

- |                                              |           |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Arrest File: (IJMS) Lavonda Kimble 97913  | Exhibit A |
| 1. Medical Intake records (Lavonda Kimble)   |           |
| 1. Interview statement Nurse Cynette Collins | Exhibit B |
| 1. Information report C/O Theresa Smith      | Exhibit C |
| 1. Information report Charmaine Berry        | Exhibit D |
| 1. Information report Kewania Yarbrough      | Exhibit E |
| 1. Information Report Karen Walton           | Exhibit F |
| 1. Information report Lisa Moore             | Exhibit G |
| 1. Information report Karl Hense             | Exhibit H |
| 1. Information report Peggy Wells            | Exhibit I |

1. Transcribed taped Interview statement Nurse Modglin
1. Transcribed taped Interview statement Nurse Warner
1. Medical Notes Nurse Kases
1. Medical Notes Nurse Evans
1. Medical Notes Nurse Weigert
1. Transcribed taped interview statement Dr. Singer
1. Information report Lt. Lorez Williams
1. Information report Angela Kelly
1. Information report Lt Marilyn Ervin
1. Transcribed taped Interview statement Nurse Modglin
1. Teletype message from Bel-Nor P.D.
1. Authorization for release from ST.L P.D
1. Transcribed taped Interview statement Nurse Marcie Warner

- Exhibit J
- Exhibit K
- Exhibit L
- Exhibit M
- Exhibit N
- Exhibit O
- Exhibit P
- Exhibit Q
- Exhibit R