



California Association of Highway Patrolmen

2030 V Street ▪ Sacramento, CA 95818-1730
(916) 452-6751 ▪ Fax (916) 457-3398
www.thechhp.org

For Immediate Release:

March 31, 2023

Contacts:

President Rick Labeske

district4labeskecahp@aol.com

Statement from the California Association of Highway Patrolmen on the Death of Edward Bronstein

Los Angeles, CA –While Edward Bronstein’s death was regrettable, the California Highway Patrolmen acted within departmental policies while assisting a medical professional to obtain a routine and legally authorized blood draw from a DUI suspect. The California Association of Highway Patrolmen strongly supports these officers’ right to due process and asks the public to allow for the ongoing legal proceedings to reveal the totality of the circumstances that led to this death.

We already know that on March 31, 2020, California Highway Patrolmen pulled over Mr. Bronstein on suspicion of driving under the influence. The toxicology report established that Mr. Bronstein was under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, and methamphetamine. After being detained, Mr. Bronstein repeatedly refused to provide a chemical test to officers as required by law. Based on Mr. Bronstein’s refusal to cooperate, officers obtained a warrant to obtain a blood sample. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, officers were not permitted to take Mr. Bronstein to the hospital to obtain the blood sample, as would have occurred if the Safer-At-Home orders were not in effect. Per Covid-19 protocols at the time, they completed the test with the assistance of a registered nurse at the local CHP station.

While the complete coroner’s report is not yet available, we know the coroner determined Mr. Bronstein’s cause of death as “acute methamphetamine intoxication during restraint by law enforcement.” No evidence suggests Mr. Bronstein suffered from asphyxia during his restraint by law enforcement. In fact, the medical examiner found no evidence of fatal trauma to Mr. Bronstein and noted the “use of

“Serving California’s Finest”

methamphetamine can cause a severe increase in blood pressure and heart rate, which can lead to a cardiac arrhythmia (irregular heart rhythm) resulting in sudden death.” The report further explains, “due to [the] absence of autopsy findings of asphyxia or fatal trauma [and] the presence of methamphetamine”, the restraint could not be deemed contributing to his death.

The California Highway Patrol conducted an internal investigation into this incident and concluded that the actions of every officer involved were consistent with department policy, practices, and procedures in place at the time.

While any loss of life is a tragedy, unfairly blaming the officers three (3) years after the date of the incident evidences the District Attorney Gascon’s lack of impartiality. We ask the community to reserve their judgment until the facts are revealed and to continue their support for our officers that work tirelessly every day to keep our communities and roadways safe.

The California Association of Highway Patrolmen proudly represents the more than 7,000 active men and women of the California Highway Patrol who risk their lives every day to protect Californians.

“Serving California’s Finest”