



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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MARY C. WICKHAM
County Counsel

June 17, 2016

TO: LORI GLASGOW
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: ROGER H. GRANBO 
Senior Assistant County Counsel
Executive Office

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Claims Board Recommendation
Elsa Seifert v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 530 388

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

RHG:scr

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Elsa Seifert v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 530 388 in the amount of \$115,000 and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Sheriff's Department's budget.

This lawsuit arises from injuries received from a trip and fall accident at the Altadena Sheriff's Station.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Elsa Seifert v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC 530388
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	December 12, 2013
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 115,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Daniel G. Sheldon Scolinos, Sheldon & Nevell
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Richard K. Kudo Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from a trip and fall accident involving plaintiff Elsa Seifert that occurred at the Sheriff's Department's Altadena Station. Ms. Seifert claims to have suffered injuries as a result of the accident. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 98,251
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 18,936

Case Name: Seifert, Elsa v. County of Los Angeles, et al.



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	February 5, 2013; at approximately 7:10 p.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Seifert, Elsa v. County of Los Angeles</u> Summary Corrective Action Plan 2016-005</p> <p>On February 5, 2013, at approximately 7:10 P.M., the plaintiff alleges she was walking in a westerly direction on a cement walkway adjacent to and north of Altadena Sheriff's Station when she tripped and fell over a concrete wheel stop¹ that was in the walkway. As a result of the fall, the plaintiff claims she sustained severe injuries to her right arm and rib.</p> <p>The parking stall and wheel stop were designed and installed for compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA).</p> <p>Although the wheel stop was installed "to code," it clearly posed a risk and hazard to pedestrians. Previous attempts to reduce the risk and hazard of the wheel stop were to paint it a bright color and to place reflective tape on it.</p>

¹ The wheel stop, also commonly known as a parking block, is an industry standard cement block used to restrict vehicles from parking beyond the designated parking space.

1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

A **department** root cause of this incident was that the department did not take sufficient precautionary measures to reduce the risk of a pedestrian tripping hazard posed by a cement wheel stop that was in the direct path of a walkway.

Another **department** root cause of this incident was that the cement wheel stop was in line with a pedestrian walkway in an area that was poorly lit during hours of darkness, posing an additional risk and hazard to pedestrians on the path.

A **non-department** root cause of this incident was due to its design allowing for a cement wheel stop in the direct path of a pedestrian walkway. The parking spot was designed by the Department of Public Works.

Another **non-department** root cause of this incident was that the parking space and the cement wheel stop were installed with little or no forethought to its impact on pedestrian traffic on the adjoining through walkway. The parking space and wheel stop were installed by a Job Order Contractor (JOC) coordinated by Internal Services Department (ISD). The design and installation met the building code requirements and was approved by the required jurisdictional agency(s).

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

A bright yellow colored railing was installed near the wheel stop to direct any pedestrian traffic around the wheel stop.

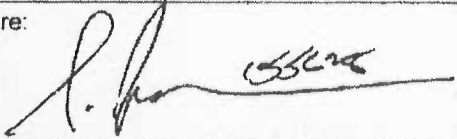
Additional lights were also installed on the roof line at and near the wheel stop to improve lighting and visibility in the area of the wheel stop during the hours of darkness.

County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

3. Are the corrective actions addressing Department-wide system issues?

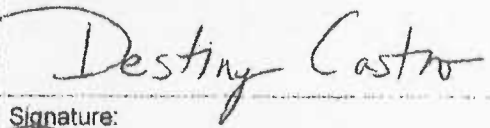
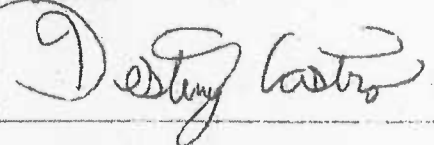
- Yes – The corrective actions address Department-wide system issues.
 No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Scott E. Johnson, Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 5-18-16

Name: (Department Head) Karyn Mannis, Chief Professional Standards Division	
Signature: 	Date: 05-19-16

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY	
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.	
<input type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this Department.	

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General) 	
Signature: 	Date: 5/23/2016