



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

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
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MARY C. WICKHAM
County Counsel

March 12, 2019

TO: CELIA ZAVALA
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: ELIZABETH D. MILLER 
Assistant County Counsel
Sheriff's Services Division

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund
Claims Board Recommendation
Alvior Corozon v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC543100

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board's recommendation in the above-referenced matter. Also attached is the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan for the case.

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

EDM:js

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Settlement for Matter Entitled Alvior Corozon v. County of Los Angeles, et al.

Los Angeles County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matters entitled Alvior Corozon v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC543100 in the amount of \$425,000 and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Sheriff's Department Contract Cities Trust Fund's budget.

This lawsuit concerns allegations of an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Deputy.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Corozon Alvir v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC543100
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	April 18, 2014
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 425,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Gavin Long, Esq. Bisnar Chase
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On August 13, 2013, Plaintiff was involved in a motor vehicle versus motor vehicle collision with an on-duty employee of the Sheriff's Department, while driving in the intersection of Sanborn Avenue and California Avenue in the City of Lynwood. She allegedly sustained injuries to her neck, back, and shoulders, and underwent conservative care and two right rotator cuff surgeries as a result of injuries sustained in the collision.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$425,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 135,842
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 59,620

Case Name: Corozon Alvior 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:	
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Corozon Alvior v. County of Los Angeles, et al.</u> Summary Corrective Action Plan 2018-034</p> <p>On August 13, 2013, at approximately 4:50 a.m., an on-duty Los Angeles County deputy sheriff, assigned to Century Station, was driving a marked black and white patrol vehicle north on California Avenue. As the first deputy sheriff approached the intersection of Sanborn Avenue, his attention was drawn to another Los Angeles County Sheriff's radio car conducting a traffic stop north of the intersection. The first deputy sheriff intended to drive across the intersection and assist the other deputy sheriff with their traffic stop.</p> <p>The first deputy sheriff was uncertain if he came to a complete stop before proceeding into the intersection. He stated he his view to the west was blocked by a SUV vehicle parked along the west curb.</p> <p>Simultaneously, the plaintiff was driving his Toyota RAV-4 eastbound on Sanborn Avenue and entered the intersection.</p> <p>When the first deputy sheriff crossed the intersection the front of his vehicle collided with the passenger side of the plaintiff's vehicle.</p> <p>The collision caused minor damage to the passenger side of the RAV-4 with moderate damage to front portion of the patrol vehicle. The first deputy sheriff estimated his speed was five to seven miles per hour at the time of the collision.</p> <p>The plaintiff was transported to Saint Francis Medical Center where she received treatment for minor injuries. The deputy sheriff did not sustain any injuries.</p>

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

The **Department** root cause of this incident is the deputy sheriff failed to come to a complete stop before proceeding through the intersection.

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

This incident was thoroughly investigated by representatives from Century Station, Traffic Unit.

The collision investigation concluded that the deputy sheriff caused the collision as he failed to stop at a stop sign, in violation of California Vehicle Code section 22450.

The results of the traffic investigation were presented to Department executives to determine if the deputy sheriff's actions constituted misconduct.

As a result of this collision, an assessment of employee involved traffic collisions from January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2017, was conducted at Century Station. The audit revealed the following:

Calendar Year	Preventable Collisions	Non-Preventable Collisions
2013	11	15
2014	13	15
2015	18	30
2016	24	26
2017	22	28

- 88 preventable collisions occurred during the past five years.
- Approximately 24% of the collisions were a result of inattention.
- The most common causal factor was unsafe starting or backing.

Based on the results of the audit, a comprehensive Traffic Collision Reduction Plan was developed and implemented at Century Station in 2018. Since the implementation of the Traffic Collision Reduction Plan, there has been a noticeable reduction of on-duty preventable traffic collisions this year.


In an attempt to improve employee safety and reduce the Department's liability exposure, Century Station continually schedules personnel to attend the Department's Sheriff Traffic Accident Reduction (S.T.A.R.) driving program. This program focuses on low speed parking and starting maneuvers, hosted at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Emergency Vehicle Operations Center. Since this incident, 47 station employees have successfully completed the S.T.A.R. driving program.

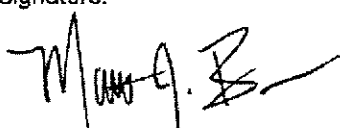
County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

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

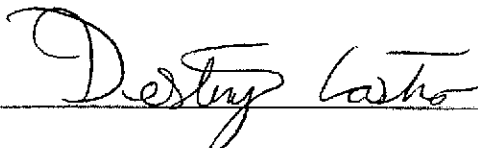
- Yes – The corrective actions address Department-wide system issues.
 No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Scott E. Johnson, Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 12-28-18

Name: (Department Head) Matthew J. Burson, A/Chief Professional Standards and Training Division	
Signature: 	Date: 12/31/18

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) Destiny Castro	
Signature: 	Date: 1/8/2019