



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CLAIMS BOARD  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2713

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Arlene Barrera  
Auditor-Controller  
Steve Robles  
Chief Executive Office  
Adrienne M. Byers  
Office of the County Counsel

NOTICE OF MEETING

The County of Los Angeles Claims Board will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, May 20, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.**, in the Executive Conference Room, 648 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Los Angeles, California.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.
3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9).

- a. Mary R. Burns v. County of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 655 433

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from an alleged trip and fall on a displaced section of a walkway at the County-owned Lomita Administrative Center; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$150,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- b. Claim of Karen Nishita

This claim concerns allegations that an employee from the Office of the District Attorney was subjected to sexual harassment; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$300,000.

- c. Durrell Canty v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 671 791

This lawsuit arises from damages and injuries allegedly sustained in a motor vehicle accident involving a Sheriff's Department Deputy; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$60,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- d. Jane Doe v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 663 829

This lawsuit concerns allegations of violation of Plaintiff's right to privacy by the Sheriff's Department; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$376,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- e. John Doe v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 664 140

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Sheriff's Department was subjected to retaliation and adverse employment actions; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$99,000.

- f. Danah Merrick v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 674 277

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee from the Sheriff's Department was subjected to sexual harassment and sexual assault; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$1,000,000.

- g. Gladys Sandoval v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 652 404

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee from the Sheriff's Department was subjected to discrimination, retaliation, harassment, and failure to accommodate disabilities; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$50,000.

- h. Bradley Brody v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 508 614

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee from the Sheriff's Department was subjected to retaliation, disability discrimination, harassment, failure to accommodate and denial of a promotion; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$95,000.

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.
5. Approval of the minutes of the May 6, 2019, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

6. Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.
7. Adjournment.

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Mary R. Burns v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	BC655433
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 24, 2017
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 150,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Richard F. G. Thomas, Esq. HODGES & THOMAS, APPC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Yuan Chang Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiff Mary Burns alleges she suffered significant injuries when she tripped and fell on a walkway outside of a County building. Ms. Burns contends the walkway constituted a dangerous condition of public property. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$150,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 51,510
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 20,683

Burns, Mary



## 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:	August 30, 2016
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On August 30, 2016, at 11:25 a.m., Ms. Mary Burns tripped and fell on the walkway to the entrance of the Los Angeles County Building and Safety office located at 24320 South Narbonne Avenue, City of Lomita. The incident occurred on County property.

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

The incident occurred due to Ms. Burns's negligence and a 1-inch walkway displacement. In Ms. Burns' government claim, she stated that she was looking at her watch when she tripped.

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

Concrete repairs of the walkway at the Lomita building property have been completed. Quarterly facility inspection policy/procedures have been implemented at facilities Public Works manages effective immediately.

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.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)  
Michael J. Hays

Signature:

Handwritten signature of Michael J. Hays.

Date:

3/5/2019

Name: (Department Head)  
Mark Pestralla

Signature:

Handwritten signature of Mark Pestralla.

Date:

4/2/19

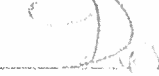
**Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY**

Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?

- Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.  
 No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)

Signature:



MH:psr  
PA:MBURNS, MARY SCAP

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Durrell Canty v. County of Los Angeles, et. al.
CASE NUMBER	BC 671791
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	August 10, 2017
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 60,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Omid Razi, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin J. Engelen Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from a vehicle versus vehicle collision that occurred on November 23, 2015, when a Deputy of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department reversed his vehicle traveling southbound on the northbound lane of Paulsen Avenue in Compton California. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 39,971
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 4,625

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Doe, Jane v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC 663829
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	June 5, 2017
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 376,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Goldberg & Gage
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Millicent L. Rolon, Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$376,000, the lawsuit filed by Jane Doe against the Sheriff's Department alleging violation of her right to privacy.</p> <p>Due to the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs. The full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$376,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 109,299
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 18,530



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

May 6, 2019

**1. Call to Order.**

This meeting of the County of Los Angeles Claims Board was called to order at 9:38 a.m. The meeting was held in the Executive Conference Room, 648 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Los Angeles, California.

Claims Board Members present at the meeting were: Chair Steve Robles and Adrienne Byers, with Arlene Barrera being absent.

Other persons in attendance at the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: Lindsay Yoshiyama, Adrian Gragas, Alexandra Zuiderweg, Jessica Rivas, Richard Hsueh, Millicent Rolon, and Wendy Sha; Department of Public Works: William Winter; Fire Department: William McCloud; Sheriff Department: Kerry Carter, April Tardy, Kevin Percy, Reginald Louie, Erico Sandoval, Jorge Valdez, Michael Burse, Michael Thatcher, Larry Waldie, Craig Walker, Ernest Chavez, and Todd Deeds; Outside Counsel: Rickey Ivie.

**2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.**

No members of the public addressed the Claims Board.

**3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code section 54956.9)**

At 9:40 a.m., the Chairperson adjourned the meeting into Closed Session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(h) below.

**4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.**

At 11:08 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in Closed Session as follows:

**a. Non-Litigated Claim of Bouayad and Abubaker v. County of Los Angeles**

This claim seeks compensation from the Department of Public Works for real and personal property damage allegedly caused from a backflow of sewage due to a sewer mainline blockage.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$49,650.50.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles and Adrienne Byers  
Absent: Arlene Barrera

b. **Felipe Diaz v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 612 070**

This lawsuit arises from damages and injuries sustained in an automobile accident involving a Fire paramedic squad.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$540,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles and Adrienne Byers  
Absent: Arlene Barrera

c. **Claim of the Estate of Ashley Flores, et al.**

This claim arises from a Sheriff's Deputy mishandling of 911 calls which resulted in the death of Plaintiffs' decedent.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$3,000,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles and Adrienne Byers  
Absent: Arlene Barrera

d. **Azatui Voskanyan v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 667 921**

This lawsuit arises from damages and injuries allegedly sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Sheriff's Deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$35,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles and Adrienne Byers  
Absent: Arlene Barrera

e. **Ricardo Bruno, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**United States District Court Case No. 8:17-CV-01301**

This lawsuit alleges Plaintiffs' federal civil rights were violated when their minor children were taken by the Sheriff's Department without a warrant.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$500,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 -- Steve Robles and Adrienne Byers  
Absent: Arlene Barrera

f. **Andrew Taylor, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. TC 028 803**

This lawsuit alleges wrongful death and State-law civil rights violations arising from the fatal shooting of Plaintiffs' son.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$7,000,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles and Adrienne Byers  
Absent: Arlene Barrera

g. **Consuelo Barajas, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 644 126**

This wrongful death lawsuit arises from the fatal shooting of Plaintiffs' son.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$650,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles and Adrienne Byers  
Absent: Arlene Barrera

h. **Rosa Gonzalez v. County of Los Angeles**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 591 056**

This lawsuit alleges the Sheriff's Department retaliated against Plaintiff after she made a gender discrimination complaint.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$1,000,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles and Adrienne Byers  
Absent: Arlene Barrera

5. **Approval of the minutes of the April 15, 2019, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles and Adrienne Byers  
Absent: Arlene Barrera

6. **Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.**

No such matters were discussed.

7. **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

By



Derek Slane