



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CONTRACT CITIES LIABILITY TRUST FUND CLAIMS BOARD

500 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2713

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Curtis Morris
City Council Member
Mark R. Alexander
City Manager
James Bozajian
City Council Member
Doug Prichard
City Manager
Margaret Finlay
City Council Member
Mark Waronek
City Council Member
Ray Cruz
City Manager
Kenneth Striplin
City Manager
Marcel Rodarte
California Contract
Cities Association
Patrick Kearney
City Council Member

NOTICE OF MEETING

The County of Los Angeles Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board will hold its Regular Meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2018, at 11:00 a.m., in the City of Monterey Park, Monterey Hill Restaurant, Carmel Ballroom, 3700 Ramona Boulevard, Monterey Park, California 91754.

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. Bertha Yanez Gonzalez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Raymundo Garcia Ceja v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 540696

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

4. Closed Session - Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9)

- a. Travis R. Dahle v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 632126

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

- b. Nekesha Robertson, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:16-CV-02761

This lawsuit concerns allegations of excessive force and wrongful death by Sheriff's Deputies.

5. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

6. Approval of Minutes for the December 13, 2017, meeting of the Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board.

[See Supporting Document](#)

7. 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.

8. Other Business

Adjournment

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Bertha Yanez Gonzalez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al. Raymundo Garcia Ceja v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC540696 (Gonzalez) BC540697 (Ceja)
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 26, 2014 (both cases)
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 330,000 (\$110,000 to each of the three plaintiffs)
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Wiesman Pirian and Steven Glickman of Glickman & Glickman (Gonzalez) Steven Glickman of Glickman & Glickman (Ceja)
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Richard K. Kudo Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This case involves a July 23, 2013, intersection collision between a Ford Crown Victoria radio car driven by an on-duty Deputy Sheriff and a Pontiac Grand Am vehicle driven by plaintiff Raymundo Ceja. Mr. Ceja's wife plaintiff Leticia Gonzalez and his sister-in-law plaintiff Bertha Gonzalez were also in the Pontiac. The collision occurred at the intersection of Studebaker Road and Imperial Highway in the City of Norwalk. Plaintiffs each claim to have suffered injuries and damages from 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	\$ 53,274
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 37,500

Case Name: Raymundo Ceja and Leticia/Bertha Gonzalez v. County of Los Angeles



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:	July 23, 2013
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p><u>Ceja / Gonzalez v. County of Los Angeles</u> Summary Corrective Action Plan 2017-032</p> <p>On July 23, 2013, at approximately 11:03 a.m., an on-duty Los Angeles County deputy sheriff, collided into another vehicle on Studebaker Road at Imperial Highway, in Norwalk.</p> <p>The deputy sheriff, the sole occupant of his vehicle, was driving a marked black and white patrol vehicle as he responded to a possible burglary in progress call. While driving north on Studebaker Road, the deputy sheriff encountered a red light for his direction of travel at the intersection with Imperial Highway. The deputy sheriff activated his overhead emergency lights and air horn as he proceeded into the intersection against the red light.</p> <p>As the deputy sheriff moved through the intersection, at about 10 miles per hour (MPH), the plaintiff's vehicle (driven by Raymundo Garcia Ceja with passengers Bertha Gonzalez and Leticia Gonzalez) entered the intersection westbound on Imperial Highway at approximately 25 MPH. The front of the plaintiff's vehicle collided with the passenger side rear of the deputy sheriff's patrol vehicle.</p> <p>The three plaintiffs complained of pain and were immediately transported to Coast Plaza Hospital where they received care and treatment for their respective complaints. The deputy sheriff was not injured.</p>

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

The **Department** root cause in this incident was the deputy sheriff failed to properly clear the lanes of traffic as he proceeded through an intersection against a red light.

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

The traffic collision was investigated by traffic investigators assigned to Norwalk Sheriff's Station. Their investigation included measurements of the scene, the gathering of witness statements, photographs, analysis and estimations of speeds, distances, road and weather conditions, as well as a factual diagram.

The subsequent traffic collision investigation determined the deputy sheriff was at fault for the collision in violation of California Vehicle Code section 21453(a), Signs, Signals, and Markings – Failure to Stop and Stay at a Red Traffic Signal.

County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

This incident was investigated and evaluated by Department executives to determine if any administrative misconduct occurred before, during, or after this incident.

The administrative investigation determined that the deputy sheriff caused the collision as he failed to clear the intersection lane-by-lane. Additionally, he was not wearing his seatbelt while driving a Department vehicle.

Appropriate administrative action has been taken.

Norwalk Station conducted a review and assessment of all traffic collisions from the time of this incident (July 2013) through 2016. Based on this audit, a traffic reduction – risk management plan was developed.

The Norwalk Station Traffic Collision Reduction - Risk Management Plan will serve as Norwalk Station's outline for ongoing traffic collision reduction efforts. The intent of the plan is to reduce exposure to auto liability by reducing preventable traffic accidents and minimize the loss or decline of Department resources.

During the audit, it was discovered that the total number of traffic collisions between July 2013 and the 2016 calendar year decreased by approximately 10%.

The most frequently cited causes of traffic collisions at Norwalk Station were unsafe starting or backing (16.7%), improper turning (13.6%) and unsafe speed (13.6%).

Within this plan, specific risk management issues have been identified and goals have been established. Strict audits concerning the condition of the fleet and coordination between Sheriff's Department patrol stations and Traffic Services Detail will ensure timely and appropriate mitigation efforts.


Additionally, Norwalk Station will increase driver's training to include all employees involved in a traffic collision to attend the Sheriff's Department Alternatives to Discipline Driving Course or the Sheriff Traffic Accident Reduction (S.T.A.R.) driving program.

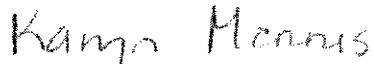
County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

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

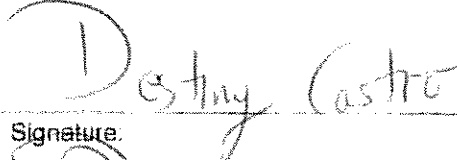

- Yes – The corrective actions address Department-wide system issues.
 No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)	
Scott E. Johnson, Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 10-18-17

Name: (Department Head)	
Karyn Mannis, Chief Professional Standards and Training Division	
Signature: 	Date: 10-22-17

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

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)	
	
Signature: 	Date: 10/24/2017

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CONTRACT CITIES LIABILITY TRUST FUND
CLAIMS BOARD**

MINUTES OF MEETING

December 13, 2017

1. Call to Order

This meeting of the County of Los Angeles Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board was called to order by Curtis Morris at 11:13 a.m. The meeting was held in the Monterey Hill Restaurant, Carmel Ballroom, 3700 Ramona Boulevard, Monterey Park, California 91754.

Present at the meeting were **Claims Board Members:** Curtis Morris, Chair, At-Large; Mark Alexander, East Division; Ray Cruz, South Division; Margaret Finlay, East Division; Patrick Kearney, Central Division; Doug Prichard, At-Large; Jose Pulido, Central Division; Ken Striplin, North Division; Mark Waronek, South Division; Marcel Rodarte, California Contract Cities Association; **Alternate:** Reva Feldman, At-Large; Ernie Hernandez, South Division; Steve Hofbauer, North Division; Lindsey Horvath, At-Large; Darrell George, East Division; Steve Mandoki, Central Division; **County of Los Angeles Staff:** Jennifer Lehman, Assistant County Counsel; Ruben Baeza, Assistant County Counsel; Bobby Denham, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department; Scott Gage, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department; Maxine Kallenberger, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department; Scott Johnson, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department; Matthew Squire, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department; Andrew Rosso, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department; **Attendees:** John La Salle, Sales Executive, Wells Fargo Insurance Services; Karen Bartak, Bedford Falls Insurance; Michael DeMatte, Milliman, Inc.; **Third Party Administrator for the County of Los Angeles:** Sylvia Hernandez, Claims Manager, Carl Warren & Company; **California JPIA:** Jim Thyden, Insurance Programs Manager; Jonathan Shull, Chief Executive Officer; Lyndsie Buskirk, Office Assistant; Denise Covell, Administrative Assistant.

2. Public Comment

Members of the public were provided the opportunity to address the Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board. No members of the public addressed the Board.

At 11:14 a.m., the Chair adjourned the County of Los Angeles Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board into Closed Session.

3. Closed Session - Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9)

There were no settlement proposals at this meeting.

4. Closed Session - Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9)

- a. Kathleen Anderson, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. CV 15-09289

This lawsuit concerns allegations of wrongful death and federal civil rights violations by Sheriff's Deputies.

Action Taken:

No reportable action taken

- b. Jessica Hernandez v. Lina Pimentel, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 607814

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

Action Taken:

No reportable action taken

- c. Brian Kahn v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 598547

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

Action Taken:

No reportable action taken

- d. Mildred Mae Mendoza, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 594206

This lawsuit involves excessive force shooting and wrongful death by Sheriff's Deputies.

Action Taken:

No reportable action taken

- e. Nekesha Robertson, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:16-CV-02761

This lawsuit concerns allegations of excessive force and wrongful death by Sheriff's Deputies.

Action taken:

No reportable action taken.

5. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

The meeting was reconvened into public session at 1:04 p.m. No action was taken in Closed Session which required a public report pursuant to Government Code section 54957.1.

6. Approval of the Minutes for November 8, 2017, meeting of the Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board approved the minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 11 - Curtis Morris, Marcel Rodarte, Margaret Finlay,
Mark Waronek, Ken Striplin, Mark Alexander,
Doug Prichard, Jose Pulido, Ray Cruz, and Patrick
Kearney

Absent: James Bozajian

7. **Items Not on the Posted Agenda, to be Referred to Staff or Placed on the Agenda for Action at a Further Meeting of the Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims 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**

None

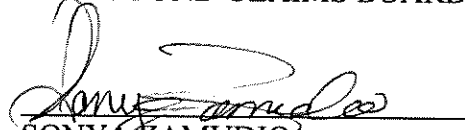
8. **Other Business**

None

9. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CONTRACT CITIES LIABILITY
TRUST FUND CLAIMS BOARD


SONYA ZAMUDIO