



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
Roger H. Granbo
Office of the County Counsel

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The County of Los Angeles Claims Board will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, March 5, 2018 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. Non-Litigated Claim of Jason Foster

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; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$54,815.65 (includes prior payment of \$20,000)

[See Supporting Document](#)
 - b. Kyndra Neven, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 595 039

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving an employee from the Department of Public Works; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$26,950.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- c. Jeremy Harris, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 672 388

This lawsuit alleges civil rights violations and wrongful detention of Plaintiff and his three children by the Probation Department while attempting to locate a probationer at-large; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$35,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- d. Jose Murillo v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 584 470

This lawsuit alleges that an employee from the Department of Children and Family Services was subjected to sexual orientation discrimination, harassment and retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$45,000.

- e. Arolyn Burns v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 637 319

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee from the Department of Children and Family Services was subjected to disability discrimination and that the Department failed to engage in the interactive process or provide a reasonable accommodation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$237,500.

- f. Sarisha Roby v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:16-CV-07879

This lawsuit alleges Plaintiff's civil rights were violated when Department of Children and Family Services personnel removed her children without a warrant; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$300,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.
5. Approval of the minutes of the February 5, 2018, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

[See Supporting Document](#)

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	Non-Litigated Claim of Jason Foster
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	July 31, 2016
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 54,815.65 (sum includes payment already made of \$20,000.00)
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Lillian Russell Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This claim arises from a blocked sewer mainline that caused a sewage backflow into Claimant's residence and damaged his real and personal property. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full settlement of the claim is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Kyndra Neven, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC595039
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	September 18, 2015
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 26,950
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Sanford Jossen, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On March 13, 2015, Plaintiffs were involved in an automobile versus automobile collision with an on-duty employee of the Department of Public Works in a private parking lot in which they sustained personal injuries. Plaintiffs allege that the County is vicariously liable for the negligence of its employee who they allege caused the accident by backing into their vehicle.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$26,950 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 39,928
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 14,754

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jeremy Harris, et al., v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC672388
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	August 15, 2017
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Probation Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 35,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Patrick S. Smith Beltran, Beltran, Smith & Mackenzie, LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Jonathan McCaverty Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$35,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a lawsuit filed by Jeremy Harris, Ebony Harris and their minor children, E.H., J.H., and N.H., arising out of an August 2015 incident where Probation Officers detained Mr. Harris and his three children in their home for approximately 20 minutes while attempting to locate a probationer at-large.</p> <p>The Probation Officers claim their actions were reasonable under the circumstances.</p> <p>Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 102,367
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 7,904

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Sarisha Roby v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:16-CV-07879 JAK (PJW)
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	October 21, 2016
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 300,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Vincent W. Davis Law Offices of Vincent W. Davis & Associates
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Katherine Bowser Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$300,000 this lawsuit filed by Plaintiff against the County of Los Angeles, the Department of Children and Family Services, a current employee, and a former employee, alleging that her constitutional rights were violated when her children were detained and continued to be detained without a warrant.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$300,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 41,805
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 1,599

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

February 5, 2018

1. Call to Order.

This meeting of the County of Los Angeles Claims Board was called to order at 9:28 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, Arlene Barrera and Roger Granbo.

Other persons in attendance at the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: Armita Radjabian, Lucia Gonzalez, Lillian Russell, Richard Kudo, Narbeh Bagdasarian, Adrian Gragas and Stacey Lee; Department of Children and Family Services: Christina Lee; Sheriff's Department: Christy Guyovich, April Carter, Kevin Percy, and Dominic Dannan; Department of Mental Health: Joseph Ortega, Margo Morales and Doris Benosa; Department of Public Works: Bill Winter and Mike Hays; Department of Health Services: Karen White, Deepa Kannampuzha, Arnulfo Alvarado, Michelle Sterling, and Arun Patel; Fire Department: William McCloud and Julia Bennett; Outside Counsel: David Weiss, Minas Samuelian, and George Peterson.

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 9:30 a.m., the Chairperson adjourned the meeting into Closed Session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(j) below.

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

At 11:07 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in Closed Session as follows:

a. Susan Spell, M.D., v. County of Los Angeles, et al. United States District Court Case No. 2:15-CV-07775

This lawsuit alleges Plaintiff's civil rights were violated when the Department of Children and Family Services detained her four minor children without a warrant.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$150,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

b. **Howard Bloomgarden v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. CV-11-9449

This lawsuit alleges civil rights violations and excessive force on an inmate at Twin Towers Correctional Facility when he was disciplined for possession of contraband.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$60,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

c. **Juan Isaac Garza v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 553 211

This lawsuit alleges deliberate indifference to an inmate's medical needs while he was incarcerated at Twin Towers Correctional Facility.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$5,900,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

d. **Non-Litigated Claim of Robert L. Ritchie and Deanna Ritchie**

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 \$29,257.91 (includes prior payment of \$14,621.67).

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

e. **Erin Hughes v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 549 059

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from injuries and property damage sustained when a County-owned tree maintained by the Department of Public Works fell on top of Plaintiff's car.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$99,999.99.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

f. **Javier Coria Gonzalez, et al. v. Juan G. Alonso, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 590 459

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in an automobile accident involving an employee from the Department of Public Works.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$70,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

g. **Old Republic General Insurance Corporation v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 582 690

This Department of Health Services lawsuit relates to a complaint in intervention relating to workers' compensation benefits paid to or on behalf of James Cobb.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$87,391.41.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

**h. Michael Young v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. VC 065 892**

This medical malpractice and dependent adult abuse lawsuit concerns allegations that Plaintiff suffered injuries while he was a patient at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$299,950.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

**i. Yan Kay v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 574 156**

**Juan Carlos v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 596 221**

These consolidated lawsuits arise from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Fire Department emergency engine.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$292,500.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo.

**j. Christopher Davis v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 556 634**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that the Fire Department denied employment to Plaintiff based on disability discrimination.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$250,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

5. Approval of the minutes of the January 8, 2018, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

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 11:09 a.m.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

By



Sandra C. Ruiz