



County of Los Angeles

July 30, 2024

Dawyn R. Harrison
County Counsel

Board of Supervisors

Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor, First District

Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor, Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor, Third District

Janice Hahn
Supervisor, Fourth District

Kathryn Barger
Supervisor, Fifth District

TO: EDWARD YEN
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

FROM: ELIZABETH D. MILLER *EDM*
Assistant County Counsel
Justice and Safety Division

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda
County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund
Claims Board Recommendation
Yogi Grantz v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV29768.**



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:sr

Attachment

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Settlement for Matter Entitled Yogi Grantz v. County of Los Angeles, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV29768.

Los Angeles County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board's recommendation: Authorized Settlement of the matter entitled **Yogi Grantz v. County of Los Angeles, et al.** Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV29768 in the amount of \$115,000 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 allegation of an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Deputy

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Yogi Grantz vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV29768
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	September 13, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 115,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	NAEMA RHAMANI, ESQ. West Coast Trial Lawyers, APLC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MELISSA A. MCCAVERTY Deputy County Counsel KARI C. KADOMATSU, ESQ. Seki, Nishimura, & Watase, LLP
NATURE OF CASE	This case involves a vehicle collision between a Sheriff's Department Explorer and a BMW, driven by the Plaintiff, that occurred on November 2, 2021 at the intersection of Bouquet Canyon Road and a Lowe's parking lot entrance in the City of Santa Clarita. Plaintiff claims to have suffered injuries and damages from the collision. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 15,563
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 7,854



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:	November 2, 2021 approximately 8:35 p.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;">Summary Corrective Action Plan 2023-119</p> <p>Details in this document summarize the incident. The information provided is a culmination of various sources to provide an abstract of the incident.</p> <p>Based on multiple investigative reports, on November 02, 2021, at approximately 8:35 p.m., an on-duty Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy Sheriff, assigned to Civil Management Bureau, was working overtime when he was involved in a traffic collision.</p> <p>The Deputy Sheriff was driving approximately 25-30 m.p.h. southbound in the number two lane. The Deputy Sheriff's diverted his attention to the number three lane and did not observe the traffic light cycle to red. The Deputy Sheriff was unable to stop his patrol vehicle prior to entering the intersection and collided with the Plaintiff's vehicle. The Deputy Sheriff struck the Plaintiff's driver's side front and rear doors.</p> <p>The patrol vehicle sustained moderate damage to the front bumper. The Plaintiff's vehicle sustained moderate damage to the driver's side front and rear doors.</p> <p>A Los Angeles County Fire Department Engine responded to the collision. The Plaintiff complained of pain but declined to be transported for additional medical treatment.</p> <p>The Deputy Sheriff did not sustain any injuries from the traffic collision.</p> <p>A Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department sergeant was notified of the traffic collision and responded to the location.</p> <p>The Sergeant authored a Supervisor's Report of Incident and Damage to County Vehicle investigation.</p> <p>A Traffic Unit responded to the location and conducted a traffic collision investigation. The investigation concluded the Deputy Sheriff was the primary cause of the traffic collision by failing to stop at a red light.</p> <p>Involved Deputy's statement is based on the Supervisor's Report of Incident or Damage to County Vehicle:</p> <p>The Deputy Sheriff stated he was in the number two lane, driving 25 m.p.h. when he momentarily became distracted.</p>

	The Deputy Sheriff additionally stated he did not observe the traffic light cycle to red, [which caused him to strike the Plaintiff] who was traveling eastbound number one lane on Lowes Plaza.
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the Deputy Sheriff's failure to stop at a red light.

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

Traffic Collision Investigation

This incident was investigated by a Santa Clarita Traffic Unit.

The collision investigation concluded the Deputy Sheriff was the primary cause of the collision by failing to stop at a red light, in violation of California Vehicle Code Section —21453(a).

Supervisor's Report of Incident of Damage to County Vehicle

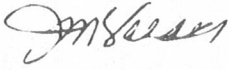
The incident was investigated by a representative from the Santa Clarita Valley Station to determine if any administrative misconduct occurred stemming from the traffic collision. The results of the investigation were presented for Department executive adjudication.

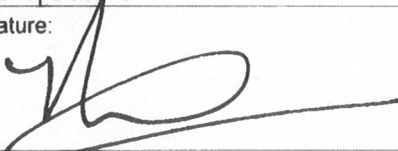
Executive evaluation found the collision was preventable and appropriate administrative action was taken.

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) Julia Valdés, A/Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 04/23/2024

Name: (Department Head) Myron Johnson, Assistant Sheriff Patrol Operations	
Signature: 	Date: 5/1/24

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: Daniela Prowizor-Lacayo (Risk Management Inspector General)	
Signature: 	Date: 5/3/2024

Case Name:	<u>Yogi Grantz v. County of Los Angeles</u>
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Corrective Action Plan

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General Information

Department:	Sheriff
Name of Department Contact Person:	Shanese Winfrey
• Title:	Sergeant, Risk Management Bureau
• Phone Number:	(323) 890-5398
• E-mail Address:	sewinfre@lasd.org

Incident/Event Specific Information

Date of Incident/Event:	November 2, 2021
Location of Incident/Event:	Bouquet Canyon Road/Newhall Ranch Road, Santa Clarita
Incident/Event Contact Person:	Lieutenant Brandon Barclay
• Phone Number:	(661) 287-5702
• E-mail Address:	blbarcla@lasd.org
Claim Adjuster: <small>(Third Party Administrator or County Counsel)</small>	Melissa McCaverty
• Phone Number:	(213) 974-1203
If claim is in litigation, please complete the following:	
County Counsel Attorney:	Melissa McCaverty, Deputy County Counsel
• Phone Number:	(213) 974-1203
Settlement Amount:	\$115,000 (Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund)

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Case Name:	<u>Yogi Grantz v. County of Los Angeles</u>
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County of Los Angeles
 Corrective Action Plan

List all Sheriff's Personnel Involved

Involved Deputies/Personnel	Deputy One: Jackson, C.
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Provide a Description of the Incident/Event:	<p>Details in this document summarize the incident. The information provided is a culmination of various sources to provide an abstract of the incident.</p> <p>Based on multiple investigative reports, on November 02, 2021, at approximately 8:35 p.m., an on-duty Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy Sheriff, assigned to Civil Management Bureau, was working overtime when he was involved in a traffic collision on Bouquet Canyon Road in the city of Santa Clarita.</p> <p>The Deputy Sheriff was driving approximately 25-30 m.p.h. in the number two lane, southbound on Bouquet Canyon Road approaching Lowes Plaza. The Deputy Sheriff diverted his attention to the number three lane and did not observe the traffic light cycle to red. The Deputy Sheriff was unable to stop his patrol vehicle prior to entering the intersection and collided with the Plaintiff's vehicle (BMW, X3). The Deputy Sheriff struck the Plaintiff's driver's side front and rear doors.</p> <p>The patrol vehicle sustained moderate damage to the front bumper. The Plaintiff's vehicle sustained moderate damage to the driver's side front and rear doors.</p> <p>Los Angeles County Fire Department Engine #11 responded to the collision. The Plaintiff complained of pain to his right wrist, right side of his chest, and left ear. The Plaintiff declined medical treatment and being transported to the hospital for further medical evaluation. The Deputy Sheriff did not sustain any injuries from the traffic collision.</p> <p>A Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department sergeant from Santa Clarita Valley Station was notified of the traffic collision and responded to the location.</p> <p>The sergeant authored a Supervisor's Report of Incident and Damage to County Vehicle investigation.</p> <p>A Santa Clarita Valley Station Traffic Unit responded to the location and conducted a traffic collision investigation. His investigation concluded the Deputy Sheriff was the primary cause of the traffic collision by failing to stop at a red light.</p>
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Case Name:Yogi Grantz v. County of Los AngelesCounty of Los Angeles
Corrective Action Plan**Involved Deputy's statement is based on the Supervisor's Report of Incident or Damage to County Vehicle:**

The Deputy Sheriff stated he was in the number two lane, driving 25 m.p.h. when he momentarily became distracted by a vehicle traveling in the number four lane. The Deputy Sheriff additionally stated he did not observe the traffic light cycle to red at Bouquet Canyon Road and Lowes Plaza which caused him to strike the Plaintiff who was traveling eastbound in the number one lane on Lowes Plaza.

Note: The Deputy Sheriff advised that he was distracted by commotion at a nearby In-N-Out directly across the intersection. The In-N-Out traffic overflows onto Bouquet Canyon Road at the point where Deputy One became distracted.

Summary of The Plaintiff's Medical Treatments

The Plaintiff received medical treatment for the injuries he sustained from the following healthcare providers:

On November 02, 2021, he was treated at Henry Mayo Hospital.

On February 08, 2022 – April 12, 2022, he was seen at ProHealth Advanced Imaging.

On March 23, 2022 – July 20, 2022, he was seen by Dr. Kevin Kohhan D.O., at Universal Pain Management.

On March 02, 2022 – June 06, 2022, he was seen by Dr. Yuraj Grewal.

On November 12, 2021 – January 26, 2022, he was seen at Unruh Spine Center.

On November 03, 2021, he was seen by Dr. Denis Lewis M.D. at SCV Quality Care.

On July 22, 2022 – September 17, 2022, he was seen at P&C Dragon Acupuncture Herb Centers, Inc.

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Case Name:	<u>Yogi Grantz v. County of Los Angeles</u>
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County of Los Angeles
 Corrective Action Plan

Incident/Event Description:

Identify as many root causes as necessary. Reference each root cause by its respective letter (i.e., Root Cause A) when describing the Corrective Action Plan Steps.

Root Cause A	
Describe Root Cause:	A Department root cause in this incident was the Deputy Sheriff's failure to stop at a red light.

Corrective Action Plan Steps

Reference each Root Cause letter(s) this Corrective Action Plan Step is addressing.

Associated Root Cause Reference Letter(s):	A
Step Number:	1 of 6
Step Name:	Traffic Collision Investigation
Scheduled Start Date:	November 02, 2021
Scheduled Completion Date:	November 02, 2021
Person Responsible:	Steven Jagiello, Deputy Sheriff
Step Description:	<p>This incident was investigated by a Santa Clarita Traffic Unit.</p> <p>The collision investigation concluded Deputy One was the primary cause of the collision by failing to stop at a red light, in violation of California Vehicle Code section —21453(a). (Exhibit A)</p>

Case Name:	<u>Yogi Grantz v. County of Los Angeles</u>
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County of Los Angeles
Corrective Action Plan

Associated Root Cause Reference Letter(s):	A
Step Number:	Supervisor's Report of Incident of Damage to County Vehicle
Step Name:	2 of 6
Scheduled Start Date:	November 09, 2021
Scheduled Completion Date:	November 09, 2021
Person Responsible:	James Royal, Lieutenant
Step Description:	<p>The incident was investigated by a representative from the Santa Clarita Valley Station to determine if any administrative misconduct occurred stemming from the traffic collision. The results of the investigation were presented for Department executive adjudication.</p> <p>An executive evaluation found the collision was preventable resulting in two points being added to the employee's Department driving record.</p>

Associated Root Cause Reference Letter(s):	A
Step Number:	3 of 6
Step Name:	Assignment of Administrative Driving Points
Scheduled Start Date:	November 23, 2021
Scheduled Completion Date:	November 23, 2021
Person Responsible:	James Royal, Lieutenant
Step Description:	<p>The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department training curriculum addresses the circumstance which occurred in this incident. Pursuant to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Manual of Policy and Procedures Section 3-09/070.45, Corrective Action, two administrative points were assessed against the Deputy's Department driving record.</p>

Case Name:	<u>Yogi Grantz v. County of Los Angeles</u>
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County of Los Angeles
 Corrective Action Plan

Associated Root Cause Reference Letter(s):	A
Step Number:	4 of 6
Step Name:	Employee Risk Assessment and Review
Scheduled Start Date:	November 15, 2023
Scheduled Completion Date:	November 15, 2023
Person Responsible:	Santa Clarita Valley Station Captain, Justin Diez
Step Description:	<p>To assess the employee's performance and evaluate his future risk, an executive review of this incident coupled with a review of each incident in the Deputy Sheriff's personnel history was conducted. The goal of this review was to determine if the employee's decision-making in this incident, or in a pattern of incidents, gives cause for the need to send the employee to additional training, have the employee assigned to a mentoring program, or if a re-assessment of the employee's ability for duty is warranted.</p> <p>The captain of the Santa Clarita Valley Station also conducted a comprehensive review of the involved employee's personnel history including all shootings, uses of force, civil claims, and complaints. Based on an evaluation of the Deputy Sheriff's personnel history, it was determined he was not working within the policies and guidelines of the Santa Clarita Valley Station and the Sheriff's Department.</p> <p>This assessment indicated the Deputy Sheriff was not working within best practices for vehicle safety procedures. These findings were forwarded to the Deputy Sheriff's unit of assignment, as he was working Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station on an overtime assignment.</p> <p>The Deputy Sheriff has been involved in three traffic collisions prior to this incident. The collision dates are the following: 10/01/2014, 07/30/2015, and 12/24/16. His previous traffic collisions were deemed preventable traffic collisions. The Deputy Sheriff had points assessed to his driving record for the previous traffic collisions.</p>

Case Name:	<u>Yogi Grantz v. County of Los Angeles</u>
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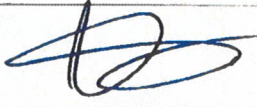
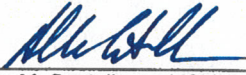
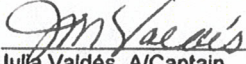
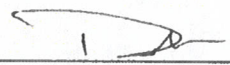

County of Los Angeles
Corrective Action Plan

Associated Root Cause Reference Letter(s):	A
Step Number:	5 of 6
Step Name:	Recommended Employee Training
Scheduled Start Date:	November 21, 2021
Scheduled Completion Date:	November 21, 2021
Person Responsible:	Scheduling/Training Sergeant, Santa Clarita Valley Station
Step Description:	<p>Since the incident, it was recommended to the Deputy Sheriff's unit of assignment for him to attend the following training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver Awareness

Associated Root Cause Reference Letter(s):	A																	
Step Number:	6 of 6																	
Step Name:	Traffic Collision Assessment and Review																	
Scheduled Start Date:	03/10/2019																	
Scheduled Completion Date:	12/31/2021																	
Person Responsible:	Scheduling/Training Sergeant, Santa Clarita Valley Station																	
Step Description:	<p>Santa Clarita Valley Station conducted a review and assessment of all traffic collisions for calendar year 2019 through the end of 2021. The audit revealed there were 84 total collisions for this five-year period, 58 of which were classified as preventable and 26 classified as non- preventable.</p> <p>During the audit, it was discovered there was a spike in 2019, with a reduction in the following years. Personnel who have been involved in more than one traffic collision are directed to attend Department training, such as the Sheriffs Traffic Accident Reduction Driving Program, Emergency Vehicle Operations, and the Alternatives to Discipline Driving Course.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Calendar Year</th> <th>Preventable Collisions</th> <th>Non-Preventable Collisions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>24</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>16</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>18</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTALS</td> <td>58</td> <td>26</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Calendar Year	Preventable Collisions	Non-Preventable Collisions	2019	24	8	2020	16	8	2021	18	10	TOTALS	58	26
Calendar Year	Preventable Collisions	Non-Preventable Collisions																
2019	24	8																
2020	16	8																
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TOTALS	58	26																

Case Name:	<u>Yogi Grantz v. County of Los Angeles</u>
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County of Los Angeles
Corrective Action Plan

Review and authorization steps	Signature	Date
Document Approved by Concerned Unit Commander:	 Justin R. Diez, Captain Santa Clarita Valley Station	3/13/23
Document Approved by Concerned Division Chief:	 Allen M. Castellano, A/Chief North Patrol Division	4-23-24
Document Approved by Department Risk Management Coordinator:	 Julia Valdés, A/Captain Risk Management Bureau	04/28/2024
Document Approved by Department Risk Management Commander:	 Rodney K. Moore, Commander Office of Constitutional Policing	4/30/24
Document Approved by Department head or designee:	 Myron Johnson, Assistant Sheriff Patrol Operations	5/1/24

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