



County of Los Angeles

October 8, 2024

Dawyn R. Harrison  
County Counsel

**Board of Supervisors**

Hilda L. Solis  
Supervisor, First District

Holly 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

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: ADRIENNE M. BYERS  
Litigation Cost Manager

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda  
County Claims Board Recommendation  
Jaime A. Byrne v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV09744**



Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached is the Case Summary and Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

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

AMB:lzs

Attachments

## Board Agenda

### MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Jaime A. Byrne v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV09744, in the amount of \$600,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Sheriff's Department's budget.

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a multi-vehicle accident involving a Sheriff's Department vehicle driven by a sergeant.

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jaime Byrne v. County of Los Angeles, etc.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV09744
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 21, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 600,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	ALEXIS GALINDO, ESQ. Curd, Galindo & Smith, L.L.P.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	RICHARD K. KUDO Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This lawsuit arose out of a multiple-vehicle, intersection collision and is brought by Jaime Byrne ("Plaintiff") against the County and a Sergeant of the Sheriff's Department. The collision occurred at the intersection of Grand Avenue and Valley Boulevard in the City of Diamond Bar. The Sergeant was driving a Sheriff's Department Ford sport-utility vehicle westbound on Valley Boulevard and was rolling Code 3 with the vehicle's emergency lights and siren engaged. The Ford entered the Valley Boulevard/Grand Avenue intersection against a red signal light at the same time Plaintiff's Toyota Corolla entered the intersection from southbound Grand Avenue, and they collided with each other when neither driver saw the other enter the intersection. The impact of the collision caused Plaintiff's Toyota to travel, uncontrolled, in a southwesterly direction where it struck another car that was stopped for the red light on eastbound Valley Boulevard. Plaintiff claims 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.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 26,388
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 20,180



## 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:	March 9, 2021, at approximately 3:00 p.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;">Summary Corrective Action Plan 2023-126</p> <p><b>Details in this document summarize the incident. The information provided is a culmination of various sources to provide an abstract of the incident.</b></p> <p>Based on multiple investigative reports, on March 9, 2021, at approximately 3:00 p.m., Sergeant One, who was assigned to a patrol station, was responding Code-3 (lights and siren) to a vehicle pursuit.</p> <p>Sergeant One was traveling west, driving approximately 10-15 m.p.h. when she approached the intersection. The signal at the intersection cycled red. Sergeant One attempted to clear the intersection lane-by-lane; however, her view of southbound lanes was obstructed by other stopped vehicles in the left southbound turn lane. The Plaintiff was traveling southbound in the number two lane when her vehicle was broadsided by Sergeant One's vehicle.</p> <p>The Los Angeles County Fire Department Engine responded to the scene and treated both Sergeant One and the Plaintiff. Both Sergeant One and the Plaintiff were transported via ambulance to the emergency room for further medical treatment.</p> <p>The Sergeant's vehicle sustained major traffic collision damage to the front bumper, the passenger's side quarter panel, hood, and full airbag deployment.</p> <p>The Plaintiff's vehicle sustained damage to the driver's side front and rear doors, rear quarter panel, gas tank.</p> <p>Sergeant One's statement was based on the County of Los Angeles Supervisor's Report of Incident or Damage to County Vehicle or Permittee's Vehicle report:</p> <p>Sergeant One stated she was returning to the station when a vehicle pursuit was initiated. Sergeant One activated her emergency lights and siren and responded to the vehicle pursuit.</p> <p>As Sergeant One approached the intersection, Deputy One was in the intersection and maneuvered the vehicle, which allowed Sergeant One to proceed through. Sergeant One proceeded to clear the southbound lanes of traffic.</p>

	<p>Sergeant One indicated she was traveling approximately 15-20 m.p.h. She indicated she did not see the Plaintiff's vehicle approaching the intersection and collided into the Plaintiff. Sergeant One advised she was involved in a traffic collision. Sergeant Two responded to the location and authored a Supervisor's Report of Incident or Damage to County Vehicle investigation.</p> <p>A California Highway Patrol Officer (CHP) responded to the collision and conducted a traffic collision investigation. The CHP Officer determined Sergeant One was the primary cause of the traffic collision, in violation of California Vehicle Code Section - 21453(a) failing to yield the right-of-way to any vehicle which has entered the intersection from a different highway.</p>
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

<p>A <b>Department</b> root cause in this incident was Sergeant One's failure to yield the right-of-way.</p> <p>A <b>Department</b> root cause in this incident was Sergeant One's failure to clear the intersection lane-by-lane prior to entering the intersection.</p> <p>A <b>Department</b> root cause in this incident is Sergeant One's failure to utilize the patrol vehicle installed seatbelt.</p> <p>A <b>non-Department</b> root cause in this incident was the Plaintiff's failure to yield to an oncoming emergency vehicle with emergency lights and siren activated.</p>
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2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:  
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

<p><b>Traffic Collision Investigation</b></p> <p>This incident was investigated by a California Highway Patrol Officer. The collision investigation concluded Sergeant One was the primary cause of the collision by failing to yield the right-of-way to any vehicle which has entered the intersection from a different highway, in violation of California Vehicle Code section - 21453(a).</p> <p><b>Administrative Investigation</b></p> <p>This incident was investigated by representatives of Walnut/Diamond Bar Sheriff Station to determine if any administrative misconduct occurred before, during, or after this incident.</p> <p>The evaluation of this incident found the Sergeant's actions were in violation of Department policy.</p> <p>The sergeant involved in this incident has attended additional training pertaining to the circumstances surrounding this incident.</p> <p>Appropriate administrative action has been taken.</p> <p><b>Station Recurrent Briefing</b></p> <p>Re-current briefings have been implemented on an ongoing basis. These briefings incorporated scenario-based situations which were similar to this incident. Special attention has been focused on Code 3 Vehicle Operations and Tactics.</p>
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**East Patrol Division-wide**

Re-current briefings have been implemented on an ongoing basis. These briefings incorporate scenario-based situations which are similar to this incident. Special attention has been focused on the following policies: Vehicle Pursuits, and Initiation of a Pursuit.

**Station Traffic Collision Assessment and Review**

The respective Sheriff's Station conducted a review and assessment of all traffic collisions for calendar year 2019 through the end of 2023.

The audit revealed there were 68 total collisions for this five-year period, 43 of which were classified as preventable and 25 classified as non-preventable.

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 were directed to attend Department training, such as the Sheriff's Traffic Accident Reduction Driving Program, Emergency Vehicle Operations, and the Alternatives to Discipline Driving Course.

**Sheriff Department Announcement – Department-wide Re-brief**

The purpose of this re-brief is to remind Department personnel that the safety of Department members and the public are paramount when engaged in routine driving and Code 3 responses.

It is essential to maintain heightened officer safety, common sense, and sound tactics to reduce collision-related injuries, deaths, and financial liability to the Department.

County of Los Angeles  
Summary Corrective Action Plan

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

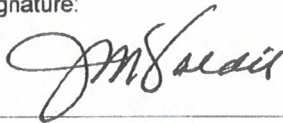
- Yes – The corrective actions address Department-wide system issues.  
 No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)

Julia Valdés, A/Captain  
Risk Management Bureau

Signature:



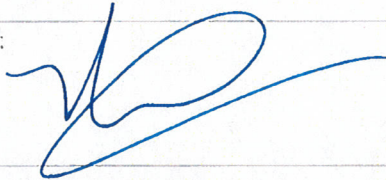
Date:

07/10/2024

Name: (Department Head)

Myron Johnson, Assistant Sheriff  
Patrol Operations

Signature:



Date:

7/23/24

**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: Daniela Prowizor-Lacayo (Risk Management Inspector General)

Signature:



Date:

8/1/2024