



ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

15 February 18, 2025

County of Los Angeles

February 18, 2025

Dawyn R. Harrison
County Counsel

EDWARD YEN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Board of Supervisors

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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

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION ARISING OUT OF THE SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT DEPUTIES' USE OF FORCE IN EAST LOS ANGELES
(ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Recommendation to approve settlement of one lawsuit filed against Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department ("LASD") arising out of a use force incident on March 8, 2018, involving a TASER.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve settlement in the amount of \$1,300,000 million, inclusive of attorneys' fees, in Ricardo Lopez-Garcia v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV07044.
2. Instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the LASD budget.



PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Plaintiff Lopez-Garcia claims LASD deputies acted negligently when they used a TASER on him. Specifically, Plaintiff alleges that LASD deputies were aware that he had doused himself with gasoline. As the deputies were responding to a call due to a robbery involving the Plaintiff at a mini-market, that was later upgraded to an arson call, the Plaintiff fled the scene and the LASD deputies pursued. Plaintiff alleges that during that pursuit one of the deputies fired his TASER two times and that during the second TASER cycle he burst into flames causing severe burns to his upper torso, neck, and arms. Plaintiff was subsequently convicted of Penal Code section 211 (robbery).

A proposed settlement with the Plaintiff was reached. Your Board's authorization is now required to complete the proposed settlement, which will result in payment of \$1,300,000 to the Plaintiff. The County Claims Board did review this settlement and did not recommend approval of the proposed settlement. Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a fair and reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs; therefore, full and final settlement of this case is warranted. LASD supports the settlement recommendation.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The County is represented by Raymond Sakai of Lawrence, Beach, Allen & Choi, APC, law firm. To date, fees and costs incurred for this case amount to approximately \$301,231. Payment of such fees and costs will be from the LASD's existing budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS /LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The parties have participated in several mediations and reached the proposed settlement. Based on the agreement reached by the parties, we recommend settling this lawsuit for \$1,300,000. The proposed settlement is subject to your Board's approval.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

None.

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CONCLUSION

County Counsel and LASD recommend that your Board approve the settlement of this lawsuit and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement the settlement from the LASD budget.

Respectfully submitted,



DAWYN R. HARRISON
County Counsel

DRH:JPG:TJK:mag

c: Honorable Robert G. Luna
Sheriff

Fesia A. Davenport
Chief Executive Officer

Edward Yen
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors