



County of Los Angeles

March 4, 2025

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: TIMOTHY J. KRAL 
Acting Assistant County Counsel
Justice and Safety Division

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund
Claims Board Recommendation
Luzanilla, Louis Edward, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles,
et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22AVCV00653



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.

TJK:sr

Attachment

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

**Settlement for Matter Entitled Luzanilla, Louis Edward, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22AVCV00653 .**

Los Angeles County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board's recommendation:
Authorized Settlement of the matter entitled Luzanilla, Louis Edward, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22AVCV00653 in the amount of \$250,000 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 allegations of an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Deputy.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Louis Edward Luzanilla, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22AVCV00653
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	August 29, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 250,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Richard Weiss, Esq. Law Offices of Richard Weiss
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Melissa McCaverty Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This incident occurred on October 20, 2021. Plaintiffs, Louis Edward Luzanilla and Cindy Le alleged that they were injured when their car collided with a Sheriff's patrol vehicle making an unsafe left turn into Dominic Massari Park.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$250,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 36,165
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 18,550



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:	October 20, 2021, approximately 9:00 a.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p>Summary Corrective Action Plan 2023-159</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>Multiple investigative reports indicate on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at approximately 0900 hours, an on-duty Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy Sheriff assigned to patrol at Palmdale Sheriff's Station was driving a marked black and white patrol vehicle southbound. As the Deputy Sheriff prepared to turn east into a parking lot, he was involved in a traffic collision.</p> <p>While driving, the Deputy Sheriff entered the two-way left turn lane to make a left turn into a parking lot. He waited for pedestrians to clear the driveway. The Deputy Sheriff noticed the Plaintiff's vehicle traveling northbound in the number one lane. When the Deputy Sheriff noticed the driveway was clear of pedestrians, he proceeded to make a left turn. He then realized the Plaintiff's vehicle was traveling faster than originally anticipated. The Deputy Sheriff stopped in the middle of the northbound number one lane to avoid a collision with the Plaintiff; however, the Plaintiff's vehicle collided with the patrol vehicle.</p> <p>The Deputy Sheriff, nor Plaintiff One indicated being injured at the time of the incident. A Deputy Sheriff who was seated in the front passenger seat of the patrol vehicle had minor injuries and declined medical treatment.</p> <p>Plaintiff Two, who was seated in the front passenger seat of the Plaintiff's vehicle, was injured. Plaintiff Two was transported to the hospital where she received medical treatment.</p> <p>A Los Angeles County Sheriff's Station supervisor was notified of the traffic collision and responded to the location to conduct a Supervisor's Report of Incident or Damage to County Vehicle investigation.</p> <p>A Deputy Sheriff from Palmdale Sheriff's Station responded to the location and authored a traffic collision report. He determined the cause of the traffic collision was the Deputy Sheriff's failure to yield to oncoming traffic when making a left turn, a violation of California Vehicle Code Section 21801(a).</p> <p>The Deputy Sheriff's vehicle sustained major damage to the passenger side front quarter panel and was towed from the scene.</p>

	<p>The Plaintiff's vehicle sustained major damage to the front bumper and passenger side fender and was towed from the scene.</p> <p>Deputy One's Statement is based on the traffic collision report:</p> <p>Deputy One stated he was travelling southbound as he entered the two-way turn lane. He came to a brief stop with the intent to make a left turn into a parking lot. As he began the turn, he collided with the Plaintiff.</p> <p>The Deputy Sheriff's passenger in the patrol vehicle saw the Plaintiff's vehicle was not stopping and told Deputy One to stop.</p>
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

The **Department** root cause of this incident was the Deputy Sheriff's failure to yield to oncoming traffic, a violation of California Vehicle Code Section 21801(a).

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

Traffic Collision Investigation

The incident was thoroughly investigated by representatives from Palmdale Sheriff Station. The collision investigation concluded the Deputy Sheriff failed to yield to all traffic traveling in the opposite direction, and not initiate or continue a turn until such traffic is a safe enough distance away to negotiate the turn, a violation of California Vehicle Code section 21801(a).

Supervisor's Report of Incident or Damage to County Vehicle

The incident was investigated by a representative of Palmdale Station to determine if any administrative misconduct contributed to the traffic collision. The results of the investigation were presented for Department executive adjudication.

The Deputy involved in this incident received additional training.

Appropriate administrative action was taken.

Traffic Collision Assessment and Review

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Station conducted a review and assessment of all traffic collisions for the calendar year 2019 through the end of 2023. Personnel who have been involved in more than one traffic collision are 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.

Emergency Vehicle Operation Course – Department Expanded Briefing

In hopes of further mitigating financial liability to the Department as a result of traffic collisions, representatives from Risk Management Bureau briefed the participants of Emergency Vehicle Operations Courses (EVOG) on current trends as they pertain to Department driving practices.

Department-Wide Broadcast Announcements-Sheriff's Communication Center (SCC)

In hopes of mitigating the Department's traffic collisions, Risk Management has partnered with SCC to create Department-Wide announcements reminding personnel to maintain heightened awareness and employ safe and sound driving tactics.

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 Valdes, A/Captain
Risk Management Bureau

Signature:



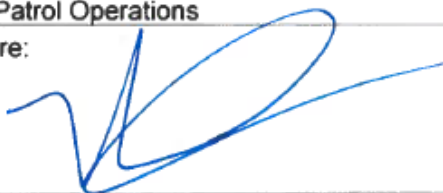
Date:

12/9/24

Name: (Department Head)

Myron Johnson, Assistant
Sheriff Patrol Operations

Signature:



Date:

12/26/24

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: Betty Karmirlian (Acting Risk Management Inspector General)

Signature:



Date:

12/31/2024