



County of Los Angeles

April 8, 2025

Dawyn R. Harrison
County Counsel

Board of Supervisors

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Supervisor, First District


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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
Aaron, Malik, et al. v. Target Corporation, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:22-CV-01237**



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 Aaron, Malik, et al. v. Target Corporation, et al. United States District Court Case No. 2:22-CV-01237.

Los Angeles County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board's recommendation:
Authorized Settlement of the matter entitled **Aaron, Malik, et al. v. Target Corporation, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:22-CV-01237 in the amount of \$150,000 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 civil rights violations, excessive force, and false imprisonment involving a Sheriff's Deputy.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

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| CASE NAME | Malik Aaron, et al. v. Target Corporation, et al. |
| CASE NUMBER | 2:22-CV-01237 |
| COURT | United States District Court |
| DATE FILED | January 14, 2022 |
| COUNTY DEPARTMENT | Sheriff's Department |
| PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT | \$ 150,000 |
| ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF | Toni Jaramilla and J. Bernard Alexander |
| COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY | Minas Samuelian Senior Deputy County Counsel |
| NATURE OF CASE | <p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$150,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Malik Aaron and Gregory Kim ("Plaintiffs"), alleging unlawful seizure and excessive force arising out of Plaintiffs' detention.</p> <p>Given the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs. The full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$150,000 is recommended.</p> |
| PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE | \$ 163,853 |
| PAID COSTS, TO DATE | \$ 13,076 |



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.

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| Date of incident/event: | January 17, 2021 |
| Briefly provide a description of the incident/event: | <p style="text-align: center;">Summary Correction Action Plan 2024-171</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 Sunday, January 17, 2021, Deputies One, Two, and Three responded to a "Target" store in the city of Westlake Village regarding a "grand theft that had just occurred" call for service. When they arrived, a Target loss prevention officer directed the Deputies to a cash register where Plaintiffs One, Two, and a friend of theirs (AF) stood. The loss prevention officer believed the Plaintiffs and AF acted as "lookouts" while several unknown suspects stole three "iPhones" and a "Samsung" tablet from the store.</p> <p>Plaintiffs One, Two, and AF were detained pending a theft investigation. The Plaintiffs and AF verbally protested their detention from the beginning. Deputy Two tried to detain Plaintiff One, but Plaintiff One retreated and resisted Deputy Two's efforts.</p> <p>Deputy One then utilized control holds to handcuff and detain Plaintiff One, while facing the cash register conveyor belt. Plaintiff One alleged Deputy One forcefully placed his hands behind his back, slammed him against the cash register conveyor belt, bent forward, and handcuffed him tightly; however, Target surveillance video footage appears to corroborate the Deputies' version of events.</p> <p>Deputy One escorted Plaintiff One to a patrol vehicle. Plaintiff One resisted placing his feet inside the patrol vehicle. Deputy One told Plaintiff One to place his foot inside the vehicle multiple times. Even though Deputy One waited until Plaintiff One placed his feet inside the patrol vehicle, Plaintiff One cried out, and said the door was slammed on his foot. Plaintiff One was detained in the backseat of the patrol vehicle for approximately 23 minutes.</p> <p>Deputy Two detained Plaintiff Two and held his hands behind his back until he calmed down. Without being handcuffed, Plaintiff Two was seated on a planter wall outside of the store. Deputy Three handcuffed and detained AF in a patrol vehicle. No force was used on Plaintiff Two or AF.</p> <p>The use of force and the detention of the Plaintiffs were captured on video by the Target security cameras. There was no audio, and the vantage point was high up. These videos were obtained by the Department.</p> |

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| | <p>Plaintiff One was seen on video shaking the deputies' hands at the conclusion of their interaction. The vantage of the video was too far away to determine if the Plaintiffs or AF sustained injuries.</p> <p>The Plaintiffs and AF were released after the Deputy Sheriffs were not able to substantiate their involvement in the theft.</p> <p>Deputy One did not immediately recognize he used force on Plaintiff One. The use of force was discovered later in the evening on January 17, 2021, after the Plaintiff's mother filed a complaint with the Department. The complaint was documented on a Watch Commander's Service Comment Report (WCSCR).</p> <p>The use of force was appropriately documented and in compliance with Department protocols. The Plaintiffs did not provide statements for the investigations into the use of force or the WCSCR.</p> <p>An administrative investigation was subsequently initiated, and appropriate administrative action was taken.</p> |
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Deputy One used non-categorized force and did not report the incident to a supervisor.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was body-worn cameras had not yet been issued to Malibu/Lost Hills Station personnel. Had the incident been captured on body-worn camera, important context into the contact would have been available to prove or disprove the allegations in the lawsuit.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was Plaintiffs' resisting deputies' efforts to legally detain them pending a grand theft investigation.

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

Administrative Investigation

The Internal Affairs Bureau conducted an administrative investigation. The results from the investigation found Deputy One to be out of policy and appropriate administrative action was taken.

Since the incident, Deputy One attended additional training.

Body-Worn Camera Unit

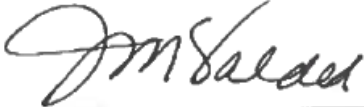
As of March 17, 2021, all sworn personnel assigned to Malibu/Lost Hills Station were issued a body-worn camera (BWC), as a form of transparency. The use of BWC's ensures reliable recording of enforcement and investigative contacts with the public. The Department established policy and procedures for the purpose, use, and deployment of the Department issued BWC:

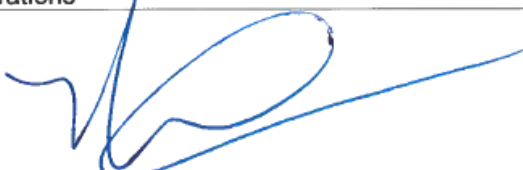
- Must be turned on during all public contacts and reviewed by the employee.
- Collect evidence for use in criminal investigation and prosecutions.
- Deter criminal activity and uncooperative behavior during law enforcement interactions with the public.
- Promote accountability.
- Assist with resolving public complaints and administrative investigation.


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

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| Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Julia Valdes, A/Captain Risk Management Bureau | |
| Signature:  | Date: 01/14/2025 |

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| Name: (Department Head) Myron Johnson, Assistant Sheriff Patrol Operations | |
| Signature:  | Date: 1/28/25 |

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| Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY | |
| Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this Department. | |
| Name: Betty Karmirlian (Acting Risk Management Inspector General) | |
| Signature:  | Date: 1/28/2025 |