



County of Los Angeles

June 3, 2025

Dawyn R. Harrison  
County Counsel

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**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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AMB'.

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**  
**County Claims Board Recommendation**  
**Non-Litigated Claim of Jose Rivas Barillas**  
**Claim No. 24-1657**



Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are 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 Non-Litigated Claim of Jose Rivas Barillas, in the amount of \$2,670,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Probation Department's budget.

This claim against the Probation Department alleges a minor was physically assaulted by juvenile detainees at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall.

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-Litigated Claim of Jose Rivas Barillas
CASE NUMBER	Claim No. 24-1657
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	April 10, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Probation Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 2,670,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Jeremy Lessem, Esq. Jamal Tooson, Esq. Lessem, Newstat and Tooson, LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Jonathan Mccaverty Assistant County Counsel  Andrew Baum Glaser Weil Fink Howard Avchen & Shapiro
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$2,670,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a tort claim filed by Claimant Heidi Barillas Lemus, on behalf of her minor son Jose Rivas Barillas, against the County of Los Angeles, the County Probation Department and a Deputy Probation Officer alleging her son was physically assaulted by juvenile detainees in December 2023 at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall.</p> <p>Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs; therefore, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 65,949
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 29,098



## 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:	December 22, 2023
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p>On December 22, 2023, Plaintiff was 16 years old and in custody at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. Plaintiff alleges and CCTV footage corroborates that Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) One along with several other deputy probation officers, orchestrated, provoked, and encouraged a physical assault on Plaintiff by the other juvenile detainees.</p> <p>Plaintiff claims that upon arrival at Los Padrinos, DPO One and her colleagues demanded to know Plaintiff's gang affiliation. Plaintiff responded that he was not a gang member. DPO One responded that she was aware he was from the "Canoga" gang, and commented that she "hoped he could fight." DPO One and several of her colleagues thereafter directed multiple African American juvenile detainees to attack Plaintiff in a day room at Los Padrinos.</p> <p>During the incident, Plaintiff was repeatedly punched, kicked, and stomped, while DPO One and her colleagues watched without intervening, or otherwise stopping the attacks from occurring.</p> <p>Video footage of this incident was published by the Los Angeles Times and other media outlets. On the video, DPO One appears to be organizing the timing of the attacks while her colleagues looked on. At no point did anyone attempt to stop the attacks outright or render aid to Plaintiff.</p> <p>Uninvolved probation staff noticed discrepancies between DPO One's report and the injuries of Plaintiff and elevated these inconsistencies to management.</p> <p>The Department opened an investigation and placed the involved employees on ordered absence. The California Attorney General's Office took over the criminal investigation and ultimately obtained an indictment against 30 current and former probation officers, including DPO One. The indictment alleges that probation officers allowed and, in some instances, encouraged 69 fights to occur between 143 youths at Los Padrinos between July 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. On March 3, 2025, DPO One, along with 29 others, were arraigned on felony charges for child abuse and conspiracy. The prosecution remains active.</p>

1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

- A. Employees' disregard of the law, their duties, and Probation Department policies.
- B. Failure by Department staff to review the CCTV footage.
- C. Delay in transporting Plaintiff to the hospital.
- D. Delay in notifying parents of incident and serious injuries.

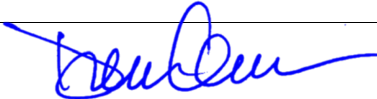
2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:


(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)


- A. Personnel involved in these incidents have been suspended pending the final disposition of the criminal case(s). Once completed, the Department will initiate investigation of this incident to determine if any administrative misconduct occurred before, during, or after this incident and take appropriate administrative action.
- B. The CCTV live footage is located in the Movement Control area, and at the time of the incident, the CCTV monitors were not routinely staffed. They are now staffed routinely; however full-time staffing depends on critical facility needs. To ensure coverage, the department will be including the assignment as a priority light duty post and developing a process for notification of unusual events.  
  
When a Special Incident Report (SIR) related to a use of force or physical intervention event is filed, the recordings are reviewed by management. The department will develop a process for random footage audits.
- C. Working with on-site medical personnel through Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS), medical assessments will be ranked to uniformly determine if (urgent) immediate medical transportation via emergency call (911) is needed, Priority transportation, or regular transportation. Protocols for ensuring that transportation is made within desired timelines for each ranked level will be developed.
- D. A protocol will be developed to include timeframes and responsible staff for providing parent/guardian updates when there are Injuries, illness or serious incidents within the facility.

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.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Crystal Hurtado by Deanna Carlisle, DHRM III	
Signature: 	Date: 04/18/25

Name: (Department Head) Guillermo Viera Rosa, by:	
Signature: 	Date: 04/18/25

<b>Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY</b>	
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: (Risk Management Inspector General) Betty Karmirlian	
Signature: 	Date: 4/18/2025