



County of Los Angeles

July 1, 2025

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

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

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Claims Board Recommendation
Gariel Brownlee v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court No. 2:21-cv-01118



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 Gariel Brownlee v. County of Los Angeles, et al., United States District Court No. 2:21-cv-01118, in the amount of \$7,000,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Health Services' budget.

This federal civil rights lawsuit concerns allegations of delay in treatment while in custody and negligent surgery by the Los Angeles General Medical Center resulting in Plaintiff's partial paralysis.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Gariel Brownlee v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:21-cv-01118
COURT	United States District Court, Central District of California
DATE FILED	February 8, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services/Correctional Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 7 million
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Kevin S. Conlogue Conlogue Law, LLP Thomas S. Feher Feher Law, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Caroline S. Craddock Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$7 million, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by former inmate Gariel Brownlee. Plaintiff contends that a medical procedure resulted in partial paralysis. Due to the uncertainties of trial, the settlement is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 300,041.50
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 300,819.41



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for 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 4, 2019
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	This is a recommendation to settle for \$7 million, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by former inmate G.B. Plaintiff contends that a medical procedure resulted in partial paralysis. Due to the uncertainties of trial, the settlement is recommended.

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

Partial paralysis resulting from an embolization procedure to treat an arteriovenous malformation.

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

- The facility employed a new Neurosurgery attending physician.
- The Chief Medical Officer discussed the event reporting system with specialty Chief Physicians on May 2, 2025.

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)
Arun Patel, MD, JD

Signature:



Date:

05/15/2025

Name: (Department Head)
Christina Ghaly, MD

Signature:



Date:

5/20/25

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: (Risk Management Inspector General)
Betty Karmirlian

Signature:



Date:

5/20/2025