



County of Los Angeles

July 1, 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 
Assistant County Counsel
Justice and Safety Division

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund
Claims Board Recommendation
Rubio, Sylvia v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department,
et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AHCV00724



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 Rubio, Sylvia v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AHCV00724.

Los Angeles County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board's recommendation:
Authorized Settlement of the matter entitled **Rubio, Sylvia v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.** Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AHCV00724 in the amount of \$425,000 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	Sylvia Rubio vs. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.,
CASE NUMBER	23AHCV00724
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	April 3, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 425,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Michael Parker, Esq. M.R. Parker Law, PC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Melissa A. McCaverty, Esq. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This lawsuit arises from a vehicle collision that occurred on September 28, 2022, when a Deputy Sheriff failed to stop at a red light and collided into Plaintiff's vehicle causing injuries and damages.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 21,619
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 4,616



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:	September 28, 2022, approximately 3:19 p.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;">Summary Corrective Action Plan 2024-192</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 September 28, 2022, at approximately 3:19 p.m., an on-duty Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy Sheriff, assigned to patrol at Temple Station, was involved in a traffic collision.</p> <p>Deputy One was driving a marked black and white patrol vehicle eastbound on Valley Boulevard when he entered the intersection of Valley Boulevard and Ivar Avenue, against a red light.</p> <p>Deputy One was traveling behind a vehicle which was in violation of the following California Vehicle Code Sections: 22350 - Speeding and 22107 - Unsafe Lane Change.</p> <p>Deputy One drove through the intersection, against a red light to conduct a traffic stop. As he entered the intersection, he collided with the Plaintiff, who was driving northbound on Ivar Avenue.</p> <p>As a result of the collision, Deputy One's marked patrol vehicle hit a traffic light post and the Plaintiff's vehicle collided into two parked vehicles.</p> <p>The Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) responded to the location, assessed and treated Deputy One and the Plaintiff of their injuries. They were both transported to the hospital for further medical treatment.</p>

	<p>A Temple Station Traffic Detective and Sergeant responded to the collision site and conducted a traffic collision investigation. The Traffic Detective observed there was one marked black and white patrol vehicle, and three other vehicles involved. The Traffic Detective was unable to interview the Plaintiff because she was transported to the hospital for medical treatment. The Traffic Detective noted major damage to the marked patrol vehicle, major damage to three vehicles involved, damage to a street control light pole, and structure damage to a business front.</p> <p>A witness approached the Traffic Detective and provided dashcam footage of the traffic collision.</p> <p>Deputy One stated to the Traffic Detective, he did not remember the incident. The Traffic Detective determined Deputy One was at fault and found to be in violation of California Vehicle Code Section 21453(a) - Failure to Stop At a Red Light.</p> <p>The Field Supervisor interviewed the Plaintiff at the hospital, who stated, she saw a white van, traveling at approximately 100 miles per hour, which ran the red light in front of her. The Plaintiff proceeded forward into the intersection and was struck by the marked patrol vehicle. The Plaintiff added she did not hear sirens or see the emergency lights of the marked patrol vehicle.</p> <p>The Temple Station Field Supervisor authored a Supervisor's Report of Incident or Damage to county Vehicle or Permittee's Vehicle. The Field Supervisor reviewed the dashcam footage provided by the witness, witness interviews, and several traffic reports. The dashcam video from the witness corroborated the Plaintiff's statement that Deputy One entered the intersection against a red light, without his emergency lights or siren active, in an apparent effort to catch up to the vehicle which had gone through the intersection. The Field Supervisor determined the incident was a preventable traffic collision. The Sergeant additionally recommended an administrative investigation be initiated for Deputy One.</p>
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

A **Department** root cause of this incident is Deputy One's failure to stop at a red light, violation of California Vehicle Code Section - 21453(a).

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Deputy One's failure to activate his emergency lights and sirens when entering the intersection.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Deputy One's failure to clear the intersection.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Deputy One's speed at the time of the collision.

A **non-Associated** root cause in this incident was Deputy One's failure to wear factory-installed seatbelt.

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 Los Angeles County Sheriff's Temple Station.

The collision investigation concluded that the Deputy caused the collision by failing to stop at a red light, violation of California Vehicle Code Section - 21453(a).

Administrative Investigation

An executive evaluation found the collision was preventable and appropriate administrative action was taken. The employee involved in this incident received training surrounding the circumstances pertaining to this incident.

Traffic Collision Assessment and Review

Temple station conducted a review and assessment of their traffic collisions for the calendar years 2019 through 2023.

There were 116 traffic collisions for this five-year period, which were found to be preventable. To advocate for employee safety and reduce the Department's liability exposure, The Station continually schedules personnel to attend the Department's Sheriff Traffic Accident Reduction (S.T.A.R.) driving program and behind-the-wheel EVOC refresher training. The S.T.A.R. program focuses on low-speed parking and starting maneuvers, and EVOC replicates Code-3 and other dangerous driving situations.

Emergency Vehicle Operation Course – Department Expanded Briefing

In an effort to mitigate potential financial liability to the Department a result of traffic collisions, representatives from Risk Management Bureau briefed the participants of Emergency Vehicle Operations Courses (EVOC) on current trends as it pertains to Department driving practices.

Department-Wide Broadcast Announcements – Sheriff's Communication

In hopes of mitigating the Department's traffic collisions, The Risk Management Bureau has partnered with the Sheriff's Communication Center (SCC) to create Department-Wide announcements.

Sheriff Department Announcement – Department-Wide Rebrief

The purpose of this re-brief is to remind Department personnel that the safety of Department members and the public is paramount when engaged in routine driving and code-3 responses. It is essential to maintain heightened officer safety, common sense, and sound tactics to reduce collision-related injuries, deaths, and financial liability to the Department.

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:

4/2/2025

Name: (Department Head)

Myron Jonson, Assistant Sheriff
Patrol Operations

Signature:



Date:

4/16/25

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: Betty Karmirlian (Risk Management Inspector General)

Signature:



Date:

4/17/2025