



County of Los Angeles

July 15, 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**  
**Juan Zamora, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV07595**



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 Juan Zamora, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV07595, in the amount of \$190,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Sheriff's Department's budget.

This lawsuit alleges negligence by a Sheriff's Department deputy on an inmate incarcerated at Men's Central Jail.

## **CASE SUMMARY**

### **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

CASE NAME	Juan Zamora, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV07595
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court - Central Judicial District
DATE FILED	March 29, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 190,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	The Law Offices of Humberto Guizar, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MILLICENT L. ROLON Principal Deputy County Counsel Justice and Safety Division  LAURA INLOW, ESQ. Collinson, Daehnke, Inlow & Greco
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$190,000 inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a State civil rights lawsuit filed by Juan and Geraldine Zamora, after Mr. Zamora suffered a partial finger amputation while incarcerated at Men's Central Jail.</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 \$190,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 74,174
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 23,877



## 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:	April 19, 2021
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;">Summary Corrective Action Plan</p> <p>On December 19, 2020, Plaintiff was arrested by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), Palmdale Station, for a violation of California Vehicle Codes (VC) §23152(a) – Driving While Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs (DUI), §14601.2(a) – Driving With a Suspended License From a Prior DUI, §23247(e) – Driving Without An Ignition Interlock Device, and §23222(a) – Driving With an Open Container. Plaintiff was booked at Palmdale Station and subsequently transported to the Inmate Reception Center (IRC) for processing into the jail system.</p> <p>On March 20, 2021, Plaintiff was moved to Men's Central Jail (MCJ), Module 3800, Cell A2. Module 3800 contains four (4) linear cell blocks with a varying number of four (4) person cells in each block.</p> <p>On April 19, 2021, at approximately 1036 hours, Plaintiff was returning to his cell from a movement pass. The module deputy opened cell A2, and Plaintiff entered the cell and waved toward the control booth. Once Plaintiff was fully inside his cell, the module deputy turned the control wheel, closing the cell gate. The module deputy then began to open a different cell gate.</p> <p>While opening the different cell gate, the handle for Plaintiff's cell gate slipped out of the closed position, causing the gate to open. Plaintiff is then seen sticking his head out of the cell.</p> <p>Approximately two (2) seconds later the cell gate began to close. Plaintiff appeared to attempt to hold the gate and then abruptly pulled his hand away. The cell gate is then reopened, and Plaintiff is seen exiting his cell holding his right hand, which appeared to be bleeding.</p> <p>Plaintiff was taken to the MCJ clinic and subsequently transported to Los Angeles County General Hospital (LAGH).</p>



	LAGH treated Plaintiff for injuries he sustained from the gate closing on him. He was subsequently discharged from the hospital and re-housed at MCJ, general population.
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

The following departmental root causes were identified:


- The cell gate malfunctioning, causing it to unexpectedly reopen and then close.
- The public address system, used to warn individuals when the gates are moving, was inoperative, forcing personnel to make loud verbal announcements.


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

- 1) After this incident Men's Central Jail conducted a review of the incident. Men's Central Jail determined that the involved deputy performed his duties satisfactorily and as expected for a deputy sheriff.
- 2) An emergency repair of the gate system was completed on April 30, 2021, to address operating concerns with the gates.
- 3) Men's Central Jail leadership conducted a re-brief of the cell gate closing policy, including the announcement requirement.
- 4) To address intermittent issues with the public address system in Module 3800, Facilities Services Bureau completed a replacement of the face cover and microphone connector for the public address system.
- 5) Men's Central Jail conducted a briefing with all personnel assigned to Men's Central Jail, reminding them to check gates/cells and to submit a work order immediately upon discovering a maintenance concern with a gate/cell.

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)	
Christine M. Coles, Commander Custody Services Division – Specialized Programs	
Signature: 	Date:  2-26-25

Name: (Department Head)	
Hugo Macias, Chief Custody Services Division – General Population	
Signature: 	Date:  3/5/25

**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, Acting Risk Management Inspector General	
Signature: 	Date:  3/11/2025