



County of Los Angeles

July 15, 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', is placed next to the name 'ADRIENNE M. BYERS'.

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Claims Board Recommendation
Adrian Romero v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:23-cv-02025



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 Adrian Romero v. County of Los Angeles, et al., United States District Court Case No. 2:23-cv-02025, in the amount of \$450,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Sheriff's Department's budget.

This federal civil rights lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff was wrongfully shot by Sheriff's Department's deputies.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Adrian Romero v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:23-cv-02025
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	March 20, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 450,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Dale K. Galipo, Esq. Law Offices of Dale K. Galipo
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Millicent L. Rolon Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$450,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a federal civil lawsuit filed by Plaintiff Adrian Romero after he was shot by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputies.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ \$75,974
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 10,232



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:	February 23, 2022, approximately 2:37 p.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p>Summary Corrective Action Plan 2024-166</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 February 23, 2022, Norwalk Station Special Assignment Officers (SAO), consisting of Deputies One, Two, Three, Four, and Sergeant One were attempting to apprehend the subject of a Ramey Warrant (Plaintiff's Passenger One) believed to be at 14565 Chere Drive, Whittier, CA, 90604. The location of the incident was widely known amongst Norwalk Station personnel as a "South Side Whittier" criminal street gang "hangout." Several calls for service regarding disturbances in the area were associated with this address, as well as prior search warrants and an on-going surveillance operation.</p> <p>A few weeks prior to the incident, Deputy Two was involved in a vehicle pursuit of Plaintiff's Passenger One (Plaintiff's brother), who ultimately evaded the deputies during that encounter.</p> <p>Sergeant One monitored live surveillance from an offsite location and positively identified Plaintiff's Passenger One as he entered a blue sedan parked in the driveway of the location. The Plaintiff was seated in the driver's seat of the blue sedan. Sergeant One relayed the information to Deputies One, Two, Three, and Four, who immediately responded to the location. Sergeant One took a position at the rear of the location to enclose the containment.</p> <p>Deputies One, Two, Three and Four drove their marked black and white patrol vehicles to the location to detain Plaintiff's Passenger One. Deputy One (driver) and Deputy Two (passenger) arrived in the first patrol vehicle, followed closely by Deputy Three (passenger) and Deputy Four (driver) in the second patrol vehicle. The patrol vehicles parked on the street facing north, at the mouth of the driveway, behind the blue sedan in a configuration to prevent the vehicle from exiting the driveway.</p>

	<p>As the first patrol vehicle approached the location, the blue sedan drove in reverse down the driveway. As the first patrol vehicle arrived at the bottom of the driveway, the blue sedan then began to drive forward, up the driveway. Deputies One and Two exited the patrol vehicle. Deputy One approached the blue sedan on the driver's side and Deputy Two approached on the passenger side as the second patrol vehicle parked at the base of the driveway. At this time, Deputies Three and Four parked and exited their patrol vehicle.</p> <p>While Deputies One and Two approached on foot, the blue sedan revved the engine loudly and again drove in reverse. Commands were made to the driver (Plaintiff) to "Stop!" but he refused. Deputy One saw what he believed to be Deputy Two caught in the car door jam and dragged by the passenger door. The Plaintiff continued to drive in reverse at a high rate of speed out of the driveway, rammed through the front of the first patrol vehicle, ripping off the reinforced bumper and pushed it into the middle of the street. The sedan nearly struck Deputy Three as he attempted to run for cover, away from the path of the blue sedan. Deputy One believed Deputy Three was going to be trapped between the patrol vehicle and the reversing sedan. A Deputy Involved Shooting (D.I.S.) occurred as the vehicle reversed at a high rate of speed down the driveway, towards Deputy Three.</p> <p>A female passenger (Plaintiff's Passenger Two) exited the blue sedan just prior to it driving away from the location.</p> <p>As the blue sedan backed out of the driveway, striking the patrol vehicle after nearly striking Deputy Three, it began to drive west from the location. Deputy One fired two rounds at the vehicle believing it was, "going to come straight for us."</p> <p>Deputies One, Two and Three initiated a brief foot pursuit of the vehicle when they heard it crash shortly after it drove away.</p> <p>Deputy Four broadcast emergency traffic advising personnel a D.I.S. occurred, remained near the patrol vehicles, and monitored the residence for any possible occupants that may attempt to leave.</p> <p>The Plaintiff's vehicle stopped on Armsdale Avenue, north of Chere Drive, where Plaintiff's Passenger One exited and fled on foot into the residential neighborhood. The Plaintiff then drove north on Armsdale Avenue and abandoned the vehicle south of Telegraph Road. The Plaintiff fled into a nearby apartment complex where he was detained without incident by assisting deputy sheriff personnel.</p>
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	<p>Sergeant One, who was positioned at the rear of the location, did not witness the D.I.S.</p> <p>The Plaintiff was transported to UCI Medical Center Hospital in the city of Orange for treatment of non-life-threatening gunshot wounds he sustained during the incident.</p>
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the Deputy Sheriffs' use of force against the Plaintiff.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the Deputy Sheriffs' failure to follow high-risk traffic stop procedures.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the Plaintiff's assault upon a peace officer with his vehicle.

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

The Department's Homicide Bureau Detectives investigated the shooting and gathered facts and evidence to determine if the Deputy Sheriffs potentially engaged in criminal misconduct. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Justice System Integrity Division, reviewed the circumstances involved in the shooting. On July 15, 2024, the District Attorney's Office concluded the shooting was legally justified, as the Deputy Sheriff's acted in self-defense.

This incident is currently being investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Internal Affairs Bureau. Upon completion of this investigation, the findings and recommendations will be forwarded to the CEO's office.

Deputies involved in this incident received additional training pertaining to the circumstances surrounding this incident.

Department-wide Briefing

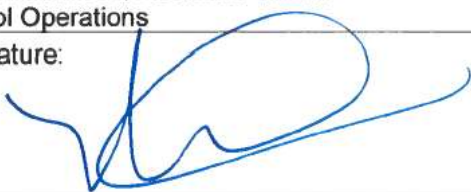
In an effort to mitigate future incidents, policies regarding tactical incidents and the use of firearms against vehicles and/or occupants were re-briefed Department-wide.

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: 02/27/2025

Name: (Department Head)	
Myron Johnson, Assistant Sheriff Patrol Operations	
Signature: 	Date: 2/26/25

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 (Acting Risk Management Inspector General)	
Signature: 	Date: 2/27/2025