



County of Los Angeles

July 29, 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

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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
Moreno, Austin Richard v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's
Department, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV40269



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 Moreno, Austin Richard v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV40269.

Los Angeles County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board's recommendation: Authorized Settlement of the matter entitled **Moreno, Austin Richard v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.** Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV40269 in the amount of \$675,000 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	Austin Richard Moreno vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	21STCV40269
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	November 2, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ \$675,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Robert T. Simon, Esq. The Simon Law Group, LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin J. Engelen Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This case arises from a traffic collision involving Plaintiff, Austin Richard Moreno and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy, John Keith. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 33,948
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 59,221



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:	January 27, 2020, approximately 7:00 p.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;">Summary Corrective Action Plan 2023-162</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 Monday, January 27, 2020, at approximately 7:00 p.m., an on-duty Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy Sheriff, assigned to a patrol station was responding to an emergency assistance request with overhead lights and sirens activated when a collision occurred.</p> <p>Deputy One was driving a marked patrol vehicle eastbound. Deputy One made a right southbound turn when he collided with the driver's side of the Plaintiff's vehicle. The Plaintiff was stopped at a red light facing north.</p> <p>A station traffic unit responded to the collision site and conducted a traffic collision investigation. The investigation concluded Deputy One caused the collision by conducting a right turn at an unsafe speed, in violation of California Vehicle Code Section 22350 CVC.</p> <p>During the traffic collision investigation, the traffic deputy contacted the Plaintiff, who stated he was uninjured and refused medical treatment. The traffic deputy did not note or see any injuries to the Plaintiff. The traffic deputy noted moderate damage to both vehicles without airbag deployment.</p> <p>Deputy One and the Plaintiff were wearing factory-installed seatbelts at the time of the incident.</p> <p>A Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department sergeant was notified of and responded to the traffic collision. The sergeant authored a Supervisor's Report of Incident or Damage to County Vehicle report.</p> <p>Deputy One's statement is based on the traffic collision report:</p> <p>Deputy One stated he was driving authorized Code-3 to an emergency assistance request. Deputy One was driving eastbound, and slowed down as he made the right turn. As he applied the brakes, the patrol vehicle's brakes and steering wheel "locked up" and his patrol vehicle collided with the Plaintiff's vehicle.</p>

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

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the Deputy Sheriff traveling at an unsafe speed upon the highway in violation of California Vehicle Code Section 22350.

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 the Sheriff's Station traffic unit who concluded the Deputy Sheriff caused the collision by driving at an unsafe speed upon the highway in violation of California Vehicle Code Section 22350 CVC.

Administration Investigation

The incident was investigated by a representative from Lakewood Sheriff's Station to determine if any administrative misconduct occurred before, during, or after this incident. The results of the investigation were presented for Department executive adjudication.

Appropriate administrative action was taken.

Deputy One received additional training surrounding the circumstances of this incident.

Traffic Collision Assessment and Review

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Station conducted a review and assessment of their traffic collisions for the calendar year 2019 through 2023. The audit revealed the following:

The number of preventable collisions has decreased significantly from 2020 to 2023.

To advocate for employee safety and reduce the Department's liability and exposure, the Station continually schedules personnel to attend the Department's Traffic Accident Reduction (S.T.A.R.) driving program and behind the wheel EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operations Center) 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.

Department-Wide Broadcast Announcement-Sheriff's Communication (SCC)

In an effort to mitigate traffic collisions, Risk Management Bureau has partnered with the Sheriff's Communication Center to create Department-Wide announcements. Additionally, the Department has embarked on a robust traffic safety campaign.

County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

3. Are the corrective actions addressing Department-wide system issues?

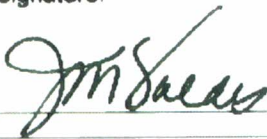
- ☐ Yes – The corrective actions address Department-wide system issues.
☒ No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)

Julia Valdes, A/Captain
Risk Management Bureau

Signature:



Date:

04/10/2025

Name: (Department Head)

Myron Johnson, Assistant Sheriff
Patrol Operations

Signature:



Date:

4/22/25

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:

4/23/2025