OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY
COUNSEL

November 4, 2025

TO: EDWARD YEN
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: ADRIENNE M. BYERS
Litigation Cost Manager

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Claims Board Recommendation
Arturo A. Pineda Cobian v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV35856

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

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Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Arturo Antonio Pineda Cobian v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV35856, in the amount of $495,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Sheriff's Department's budget.

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department detective.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME		Arturo Antonio Pineda Cobian v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER		20STCV35856
COURT		Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED		September 21, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT		Sheriff
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	$	495,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF		SUZANNA ABRAHAMIAN, ESQ. Martinian & Associates, Inc.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY		KEVIN ENGELIEN Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE		This is an auto-liability lawsuit which arises from a traffic collision that occurred on May 8, 2019. Plaintiff claims he suffered injuries and damages as a result of the collision. Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	$	39,730
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	$	88,434

Case Name: Arturo Antonio Pineda Cobian v. County of Los Angeles, et

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:	May 8, 2019
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Summary Corrective Action Plan 2024-225 **Details in this document summarize the incident. The information provided is a culmination of various sources to provide an abstract of the incident.** Based on multiple investigative reports, on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at approximately 1610 hours, Detective One was driving her assigned county vehicle northbound when she was involved in a traffic collision. Detective One was traveling approximately 25 miles per hour when traffic in front of her came to an abrupt stop. Detective One quickly applied her vehicle's brakes but was unable stop before she struck the rear bumper of the plaintiff's vehicle, which was stopped directly in front of her. The Plaintiff was wearing his factory installed seatbelt. He complained of stiffness to his neck. He was treated by personnel from the Fire Department. The Plaintiff refused to be transported to the hospital. The Plaintiff later sought further medical treatment from his personal doctors. Detective One was wearing her factory installed seatbelt and was not injured. A California Highway Patrol Officer responded to the scene and conducted a traffic collision investigation. He determined Detective One at fault for traveling at an unsafe speed for road conditions, violation of the California Vehicle Code Section 22350. A Sheriff's Department Sergeant responded to the scene and conducted an administrative investigation regarding the traffic collision. He authored a supervisor's report describing his findings regarding the traffic collision and was in

	agreeance with the CHP Officer regarding the cause of the collision.

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

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Detective One failed to stop before colliding into the back of the plaintiff's vehicle.

A **Department** root cause was Detective One was traveling at an unsafe speed for traffic conditions, 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

This incident was thoroughly investigated by representatives from the California Highway Patrol who concluded that Detective One caused the collision due to traveling at an unsafe speed for road conditions, in violation of California Vehicle Code section 22350.

Administrative Investigation

An administrative investigation was conducted by the Sheriff's Department to determine if any administrative misconduct occurred before, during, or after this incident. The results of the investigation were presented for Department executive adjudication.

Executive evaluation of this incident found Detective One in violation of Department Manual of Policy and Procedures section:

- 3-01/090.10, Operation of Vehicles

Detective One received additional training surrounding the circumstances of this incident and appropriate administrative actions were taken.

Traffic Collision Assessment Review

As a result of this collision, an assessment of employee involved preventable and non-preventable traffic collisions from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2024, was conducted. The audit revealed the following:

During this time frame, there were 52 total collisions, 17 of which were classified as preventable and 35 classified as non-preventable.

Based on the results of the audit, a comprehensive Traffic Collision Reduction Plan was developed and implemented at the station in 2020. Since the implementation of the Traffic Collision Reduction Plan there has been a noticeable reduction of on duty preventable traffic collisions.

Sheriff Department Announcement - Department Wide Re-brief

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.

Department-Wide Broadcast Announcements–Sheriff's Communication Center (SCC)

In an effort to mitigate Department's traffic collisions, Risk Management Bureau has partnered with SCC to create Department-Wide announcements, to serve as a reminder for all personnel to adhere to Department policies associated with vehicle operations.

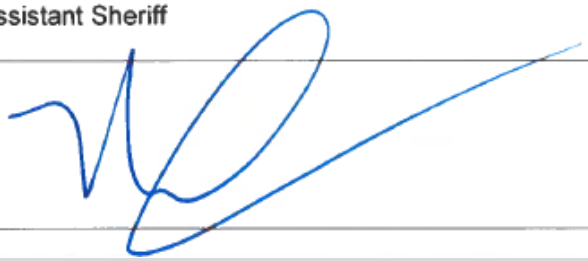
3. Are the corrective actions addressing Department-wide system issues?

☐ 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: 06/03/2025

Name: (Department Head) Myron Johnson, Assistant Sheriff Patrol Operations	
Signature: 	Date: 7/17/25

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: Betty Karmirlian	Date: 7/18/25