



ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

55 December 2, 2025

County of Los Angeles

December 2, 2025

Dawyn R. Harrison
County Counsel

EDWARD YEN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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TO: JOSEPH M. NICCHITTA
Acting Chief Executive Officer

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
Regina Castro v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:23-CV-02810.



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:as

Attachment

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Settlement for Matter Entitled Regina Castro v. County of Los Angeles, et al. United States District Court Case No. 2:23-CV-02810

Los Angeles County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board's recommendation:
Authorized Settlement of the matter entitled **Regina Castro v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:23-CV-02810 in the amount of \$2,550,000 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 federal and state civil rights violations, use of excessive force, unreasonable seizure, Monell liability, battery, negligence, violation of Bane Act arising from a fatal shooting during an investigatory stop involving a Sheriff's Deputy.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Regina Castro v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:23-CV-02810
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	April 14, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 2,550,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	DALE K. GALIPO Law Offices of Dale K. Galipo
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	RICHARD T. HSUEH Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$2,550,000 inclusive of attorney's fees and costs, a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Regina Castro arising out of fatal shooting of her son, Samuel Nunez, on March 13, 2022.</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 \$2,550,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 67,285
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 15,245



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:	March 13, 2022, approximately 4:17 p.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p>Summary Corrective Action Plan 2024-177</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 March 13, 2022, at approximately 4:17 p.m., an on-duty Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy Sheriff assigned to Palmdale Sheriff's Station responded to a domestic violence call for service in the city of Palmdale. The call indicated that the Victim's boyfriend hit the Victim and he may have gone to his parents' home in Palmdale.</p> <p>Deputy One contacted Deputy Two and informed him of a plan to go to the parents' home in search of the suspect. Deputies One and Two proceeded to the location in search of the suspect, in separate marked black and white patrol vehicles.</p> <p>Deputy Two saw the Decedent, who was of the same ethnicity as the suspect they were looking for, standing next to a blue Honda Civic parked along the curb in front of the target location. As the deputies approached, the Decedent got into the vehicle and drove away. Deputy One believed the Decedent to be the suspect of the domestic violence incident.</p> <p>Deputies One and Two followed the Decedent in their marked black and white patrol vehicles. They activated the overhead emergency lights to conduct an investigative traffic stop. The Decedent did not yield and continued to drive to a cul-de-sac in a residential area in Palmdale.</p> <p>The Decedent drove to the end of the cul-de-sac, made a U-turn in an attempt to exit the cul-de-sac. Deputy One stopped in the center of the roadway and opened his driver's side door. The Decedent did not stop.</p> <p>Deputy Two entered the cul-de-sac and stopped his vehicle in front of the Decedent's vehicle, which was attempting to leave the cul-de-sac. The Decedent reversed and collided into Deputy One's driver's door.</p>

	<p>Deputy One reversed out of the path of the Decedent, allowing the Decedent to reverse his vehicle. The Decedent reversed a few feet then proceeded to drive forward, colliding into Deputy Two's vehicle. Deputy One exited his vehicle and gave the Decedent repeated orders, "Don't do it," and "Stop."</p> <p>The Decedent revved the engine and again moved in reverse. Deputy One fired six rounds from his duty weapon, striking the Decedent through the driver's side window. Deputy Two broadcast emergent radio traffic over the radio and they waited for assisting units to arrive. The Decedent's vehicle rolled backwards into a front yard and collided into the front of a residence.</p> <p>Assisting units arrived and approached the Decedent who was still inside the vehicle. Deputy Two and an assisting deputy removed the Decedent from the vehicle, placed the Decedent on the ground and checked the Decedent's neck for a pulse, but none was found.</p> <p>Los Angeles County Fire was immediately requested and responded. Los Angeles County Fire Paramedics arrived and administered medical aid to the Decedent, who was pronounced deceased at the scene at 6:20 p.m.</p> <p>No Deputy Sheriffs were injured during this incident.</p> <p>Upon being notified, Homicide Bureau investigators arrived and assumed control of the investigation.</p> <p>Deputy Sheriff personnel involved in the incident were wearing and had activated their body worn cameras.</p>
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Deputy One's use of deadly force.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Deputies One and Two failed to positively identify the domestic violence suspect.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Deputy Two blocked the Decedent's driving path.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the Deputy Sheriffs stayed in harm's way of a moving vehicle rather than moving to a position of safety.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the Decedent refused to yield for a lawful traffic stop.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the Decedent refused to comply with lawful orders given by the Deputy Sheriffs.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the Decedent's assault on the Deputy Sheriffs with his vehicle.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:

(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

The incident was investigated by the Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau. The results of their investigation were submitted to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Justice System Integrity Division. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office concluded their investigation and determined the evidence was insufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Deputy One acted unlawfully. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office closed the file and would be taking no further action in this matter.

Palmdale Station personnel were briefed on handling calls for service involving domestic violence incidents, along with requesting additional resources for follow-up investigations, and requesting a field supervisor as needed. Additional focus was placed on officer safety, tactical preparedness and lessons learned.

An administrative review was conducted. Appropriate administrative action was taken.


As a result of this incident, Deputies One and Two attended additional training.

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 M. Valdes, Acting Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 08/16/25

Name: (Department Head)	
Jorge A. Valdez, Acting Assistant Sheriff Patrol Operations	
Signature: 	Date: 8/28/25

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)

Roberto Chavez

Signature:

Date
08/28/25