



County of Los Angeles

February 3, 2026

Dawyn R. Harrison
County Counsel

Board of Supervisors

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Supervisor, First District

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Supervisor, Second District

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Supervisor, Third District

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Kathryn Barger
Supervisor, Fifth District

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
Brian Gonzalez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AVCV00591

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:ljz

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Brian Gonzalez v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AVCV00591, in the amount of \$325,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Children and Family Services' budget.

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving an employee of the Department of Children and Family Services.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME Brian Gonzalez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.

CASE NUMBER 23AVCV00591

COURT Los Angeles Superior Court

DATE FILED June 1, 2023

COUNTY DEPARTMENT Department of Children and Family Services

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT \$ 325,000

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF RANDI L. THOMPSON, ESQ.
Jacoby & Meyers Attorneys LLP

COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY SANJAY ATHALYE, ESQ.
Deputy County Counsel

NATURE OF CASE This lawsuit arose after a Department employee, driving in the course and scope of employment, made a left turn and collided with Plaintiff's vehicle as he was entering the intersection of Avenue M and 20th East Street in the City of Palmdale. Plaintiff claims to have sustained injuries and damages from the incident.

Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted

PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE \$ 157,400

PAID COSTS, TO DATE \$ 39,981



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:	July 26, 2022
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	The Plaintiff claims to have suffered physical and property damages, as well as loss of wages, due to a traffic collision caused by a DCFS employee.

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

On July 26, 2022, the DCFS employee made an unsafe left turn while en route to a foster home to conduct a home inspection.

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

On December 14, 2022, the Vehicle Accident Review Committee (VARC) reviewed the accident involving the DCFS employee dated July 26, 2022. Based on the information provided, the Committee classified the accident as "preventable." The DCFS employee was issued a Notice of Expectation on May 23, 2023.

The DCFS employee was asked to participate in Defensive Driver training, which was completed on June 15, 2023.

On or about May 1, 2025, DCFS began requiring all mileage permittees to complete Defensive Driver training biennially. On October 20, 2025, the Department issued a memo to all mileage permittees, dated October 15, 2025, informing them of this new biennial training requirement.

County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

On April 22, 2025, Chief Executive Office released a Safety Bulletin on Distracted Driving. The bulletin was shared with DCFS employees on May 1, 2025.

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) Veronica Pawlowski	
Signature: 	Date: 11/5/25

Name: (Department Head) Brandon T. Nichols, Director	
Signature: 	Date: 11/10/25

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	
Signature: 	Date: 11/25/25