



County of Los Angeles

March 3, 2026

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

Janice Hahn
Supervisor, Fourth District

Kathryn Barger
Supervisor, Fifth District

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
Alejandra Gonzalez vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV01995**



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:gb

Attachment

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

**Settlement for Matter Entitled Alejandra Gonzalez vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV01995**

Los Angeles County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board's recommendation:
Authorized Settlement of the matter entitled Alejandra Gonzalez vs. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV01995 in the amount of \$1,500,000 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	Alejandra Gonzalez vs. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.
CASE NUMBER	21STCV01995
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	January 15, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 1,500,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	STACY AUGUSTINE, ESQ. Augustine Law Corporation
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	KEVIN ENGELIEN, ESQ. Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from an automobile accident that occurred on January 18, 2019. Plaintiff alleges she was injured and filed a lawsuit. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 43,443
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 36,297



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 18, 2019
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;">Summary Corrective Action Plan 2025-236</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>Based on multiple investigative reports, on January 18, 2019, at approximately 6:38 p.m., an on-duty Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff (Deputy One) assigned to patrol, was driving a marked black and white patrol vehicle northbound.</p> <p>Deputy One saw a person attempting to hide from him near a dumpster area as he drove by. The male quickly reached down into his pant leg area while watching Deputy One.</p> <p>Deputy One stopped his vehicle and placed it into reverse to contact the male. Deputy One reversed approximately two to three feet and collided into the Plaintiff's vehicle at approximately 5-10 mph.</p> <p>Deputy One was wearing the vehicle's factory installed seatbelt and was not injured.</p> <p>The rear of Deputy One's patrol vehicle and the front hood of the Plaintiff's vehicle both sustained minor damages. No air bags deployed on either vehicle.</p> <p>A station field supervisor responded to the location and conducted a supervisor review.</p> <p>The Plaintiff was wearing the vehicle's factory installed seatbelt. The Plaintiff did not have visible injuries but complained of back pain. The Plaintiff was offered medical attention twice and refused both times. She stated she did not need it. The Los Angeles County Fire Department did not respond per her refusal.</p>

	A station traffic deputy conducted a traffic investigation and determined that Deputy One caused the collision by backing his vehicle when it was unsafe to do so, a violation of California Vehicle Code Section- 22106.
--	---

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

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Deputy One's unsafe backing, in violation of California Vehicle Code Section-22106.

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 representatives from the station traffic unit.

The collision investigation concluded that the deputy sheriff caused the collision by backing when it was unsafe to do so.

The results of the traffic investigation were presented to Department executives to determine if the incident should be referred for a formal administrative investigation. Since this was a low-speed incident with minor damage, Department executives determined that an administrative investigation was not warranted, however points were assigned to Deputy One's record and he was sent to driver's training.

Traffic Collision Assessment and Review

The station conducted a review and assessment of all traffic collisions for the calendar year 2020 through the end of 2024. The audit revealed there were 206 total collisions for this five-year period, 135 of which were classified as preventable and 71 classified as non-preventable.

During the audit, it was discovered there were more preventable collisions in 2020, with a reduction in the following years. Personnel who have been involved in more than one traffic collision are directed to attend Department training, such as the Sheriffs Traffic Accident Reduction driving program, Emergency Vehicle Operations, and the Alternatives to Discipline Driving Course.

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.

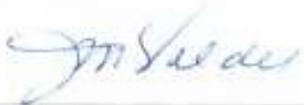
Department-Wide Broadcast Announcements–Sheriff’s Communication Center (SCC)

In an effort to mitigate the Department’s traffic collisions, Risk Management has partnered with SCC to create Department-Wide announcements.

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: 06/23/2025

Name: (Department Head) Myron Johnson, Assistant Sheriff Patrol Operations	
Signature: 	Date: 7/12/25

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: 7/18/25
---	------------------