



County of Los Angeles

April 7, 2026

Dawyn R. Harrison  
County Counsel

**Board of Supervisors**

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Supervisor, First District

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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  
Monica Richards vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States District Court Case No. 8:24-CV-00238**



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 Monica Richards v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States Court Case No. 8:24-CV-00238**

Los Angeles County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board's recommendation:  
Authorized Settlement of the matter entitled Monica Richards v. County of Los Angeles, et al.,  
United States District Court Case No. 8:24-CV-00238 in the amount of \$1,200,000 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, unreasonable search  
and seizure, use of excessive force, denial of medical care, interference with familiar  
relationship, *Monell* liability, malicious prosecution, false arrest, battery, violation of Bane Act..

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Monica Richards, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	8:24-CV-00238
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	February 13, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 1,200,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	JORDAN MARSH, ESQ Law Offices of Jordan Marsh
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	RICHARD HSUEH, ESQ. Senior Deputy County Counsel  JOSEPH ESPOSITO Seki, Nishimura, & Watase, LLP
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$1,200,000, inclusive of attorney's fees and costs, a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Robert Ponce, by and through his conservators Monica Richards and Christina Slovenec, arising out of the arrest of Robert Ponce on September 3, 2022. Given the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 167,032
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 145,060



## 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:	September 3, 2022
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summary Corrective Action Plan 2025-265</b></p> <p>Based on multiple reports, on September 3, 2022, at approximately 0625 hours, a witness contacted a patrol station and reported that a transient (Plaintiff) was harassing employees and refusing to leave Panera Bread. A disturbance call for service was generated and assigned to Deputy One as the handling unit, with Deputy Two as the assisting unit. Deputies One and Two responded to the location and contacted the store manager (witness). The witness advised Deputy One the Plaintiff was disturbing customers and did not pay for his drink. She stated she wanted the Plaintiff to leave the location and agreed to sign a trespass form if necessary. The witness directed Deputy One to a booth where the Plaintiff was seated alone. Deputy One approached the Plaintiff and instructed him to leave the location, but the Plaintiff responded with incoherent statements.</p> <p>The witness informed Deputy One the Plaintiff had been in the establishment the previous day (September 2, 2022), during which he yelled at customers, shouted inside the restroom, smeared feces on the bathroom walls, and vandalized property. When the Plaintiff returned today (September 3, 2022), the witness told him to leave and refused him service. The Plaintiff took a beverage cup from the front counter and served himself soda without paying, prompting the witness to contact the station. Deputy One immediately informed the witness of the trespassing procedures and explained how to obtain a "Letter of Agency."</p> <p>The witness confirmed that she wanted the Plaintiff to leave the location or be arrested for trespassing. Deputy One advised Deputy Two of the request and formulated a plan to remove the Plaintiff from the business. The plan was to retrieve the cup from the Plaintiff and have him follow the deputies outside.</p>

	<p>Deputies One and Two approached the Plaintiff and ordered him to leave the location, but he did not comply. Deputy One took the Plaintiff's cup and walked toward the exit. The deputies again ordered the Plaintiff to leave. The Plaintiff stood up from the booth and followed Deputy One toward the exit. He then demanded his cup and reached toward Deputy One's hand. Deputy One extended his arm to prevent the Plaintiff from grabbing it. The Plaintiff then slapped Deputy One's right hand and pushed him. In response, Deputy One dropped the cup and struck the Plaintiff in the face approximately three to four times.</p> <p>Deputy One performed a takedown of the Plaintiff to gain better control of him. He ordered the Plaintiff to roll onto his stomach and place his hands behind his back, but he did not comply. Deputies One and Two used control holds to forcibly turn the Plaintiff onto his stomach. Each deputy controlled one of the Plaintiff's arms, placed his hands behind his back, and handcuffed him without further incident. Deputy One immediately requested a field sergeant via his handheld radio, and the sergeant responded to the location.</p> <p>The Plaintiff was asked to describe the incident. He made statements including, "...they gave me major pain," and, "...I feel I was going to die." The Plaintiff also made incoherent remarks and was unable to provide any additional details about the incident.</p> <p>The Plaintiff was medically evaluated on scene by the Fire Department and subsequently transported to a local hospital for treatment.</p>
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the force used by Deputy One during the interaction between the Plaintiff and himself.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Deputies One and Two's failure to utilize de-escalation verbal resolution techniques (DeVRT) while contacting the Plaintiff.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Deputy One's failure to immediately request paramedics once the Plaintiff was cuffed and began complaining of pain instead of continuing to walk him to the patrol vehicle.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Deputies One and Two's failure to request the Mental Evaluation Team (MET) prior to attempting to remove the Plaintiff from the establishment.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the Plaintiff's failure to follow lawful orders given by Deputies One and Two during the initial contact and detention.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the Plaintiff's decision to slap Deputy One's hand and push him, which resulted in the use of force.

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

### **Use of Force Investigation**

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Internal Affairs Bureau conducted a thorough investigation into the circumstances of this use of force. Upon completion of the administrative investigation, it was submitted for approval. Following approval, the case was presented to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Executive Force Review Committee (EFRC) for adjudication.

The EFRC Panel determined that the force and tactics used by Deputies One and Two were within Department policy. The panel also recommended that station-wide training on responses to mentally ill individuals be provided to sworn personnel.

### **Station Debriefing (Focus 360 / Mentally ill People)**

The EFRC Panel recommended a station-wide training on responses to mentally ill individuals be provided to sworn personnel.

This incident continues to be briefed periodically to patrol during shift briefings by sergeants.

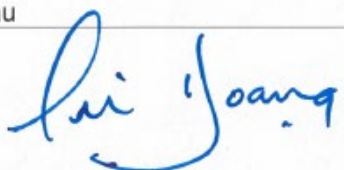
Topics included the following:

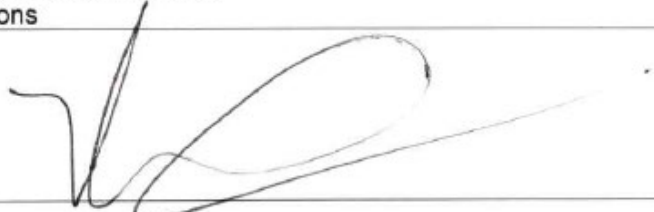
- MET call outs/ Mentally ill persons policy
- Calls for service involving alleged mentally ill persons.


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)	
Tri Hoang, Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 1.13.26

Name: (Department Head)	
Myron Johnson, Assistant Sheriff Patrol Operations	
Signature: 	Date: 1/21/26

<b>Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY</b>	
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this Department.	
Name: Betty Karmirlian (Risk Management Inspector General)	
Signature: 	Date: 1/23/26