



County of Los Angeles

June 9, 2026

Dawyn R. Harrison
County Counsel

Board of Supervisors

Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor, First District

Holly Mitchell
Supervisor, Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor, Third District

Janice Hahn
Supervisor, Fourth District

Kathryn Barger
Supervisor, Fifth District

TO: EDWARD YEN
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: LILIANA CAMPOS
Litigation Cost Manager

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda
County Claims Board Recommendation
James Singleton, Jr. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 25SMCV03121**



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.

LC:tf

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled James Singleton, Jr. v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 25SMCV03121, in the amount of \$120,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Regional Planning's budget.

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Regional Planning employee.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CASE NAME | James Singleton, Jr. vs. County of Los Angeles, et al. |
| CASE NUMBER | 25SMCV03121 |
| COURT | Santa Monica Courthouse |
| DATE FILED | June 18, 2025 |
| COUNTY DEPARTMENT | Regional Planning |
| PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT | \$ 120,000 |
| ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF | Azin Barzin Makkabi Law Group, APC |
| COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY | Nena Vuong Deputy County Counsel |
| NATURE OF CASE | <p>On July 27, 2023, a collision between a County vehicle driven by Brian Paul McGinnis and Plaintiff's automobile occurred on the No. 4 Lane of the southbound 405 freeway, south of Jefferson Blvd in Culver City. Plaintiff alleges the collision caused injuries for which he seeks compensation.</p> <p>Given the risk and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$120,000 is warranted.</p> |
| PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE | \$ 9,523 |
| PAID COSTS, TO DATE | \$ 99 |



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 27, 2023 |
| Briefly provide a description of the incident/event: | <p>On Thursday, July 27, 2023, at approximately 4:15 p.m., the employee was operating a County-owned 2019 Ford Explorer while returning to the office from a field visit. While traveling southbound on the I-405 South Freeway in Culver City, the employee was driving in stop-and-go traffic conditions. Traffic speeds were intermittently fluctuating between a complete stop and approximately 30 miles per hour. As he approached an on-ramp area with merging vehicles, the employee initiated a lane-change maneuver. After checking his mirrors, he turned to check his blind spot. During this moment, the vehicle directly ahead came to a sudden stop. The employee was unable to stop in time and rear-ended the vehicle in front of him, a 2003 Mercedes C240, which was subsequently pushed into a 2007 Toyota Camry.</p> <p>The County vehicle's seatbelt restraint system engaged and the airbag deployed. Following the collision, the employee exited the vehicle when it was safe to do so and checked on the occupants of the other vehicles. All parties involved reported no injuries at the scene, including the employee.</p> <p>The County vehicle sustained damage and exhibited a fluid leak consistent with coolant. The Plaintiff's vehicle sustained damage to the rear bumper and rear windshield, while no visible damage was reported to the Toyota Camry. The employee was able to move the County vehicle out of the travel lane to allow traffic to proceed.</p> <p>The employee exchanged information with the other drivers and documented the scene with photographs. California Highway Patrol responded to the scene, collected driver information, and obtained statements from all parties involved. After being cleared by the officer, the employee resumed travel toward the Southwest Field Office.</p> <p>Approximately two miles from the collision site, the employee observed that the County vehicle's engine temperature had risen above normal levels. He safely pulled over and arranged for a tow of the County vehicle to LA County Centerra Repair Facility located at 1104 N. Eastern Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90063.</p> |

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

Case Name: JAMES SINGLETON, JR. V. COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Root Cause A: Collision was caused by the employee traveling at an unsafe speed based on traffic conditions.

Root Cause B: Collision was caused by the employee's momentary inattention while checking his blind spot, which prevented him from timely braking when the vehicle in front of him stopped suddenly.

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

Conduct internal review of incident to determine appropriate corrective action steps. This was completed on October 10, 2023. The accident was determined to be preventable resulting in the employee being disciplined and completing multiple on-line Defensive Driving-Safe Driving trainings.

Employees designated as mileage or occasional mileage permittees must complete the County's online Defensive Driver Training on TalentWorks every two years. The Department also reinforces safe driving and will distribute annual CEO Safety Bulletins (e.g., distracted driving, rear-end collision prevention) each January alongside the Mileage Reimbursement Program Update and certification form, posting Risk Management Safety Bulletins on The Planners Zone, and having HR present driver safety videos annually at Land Use Regulation/Zoning Enforcement meetings to support field staff.

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)
Kari Rodriguez

Signature:

Kari Rodriguez

Date:

4/16/2026

Name: (Department Head)
Amy J. Bodek

Signature:

Amy J. Bodek

Date:

4/16/2026

Case Name: JAMES SINGLETON, JR. V. COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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 Karmirian

Signature:
Betty Karmirian

Date:
4/16/26