



County of Los Angeles

August 4, 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'LC' or similar initials.

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Claims Board Recommendation
Donel Crespin v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STCV25582



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 Donel Crespín v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STCV25582, in the amount of \$800,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Sheriff's Department's budget.

This lawsuit arises from injuries sustained by Plaintiff due to alleged negligence of the Sheriff's Department.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Donel Crespin v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	24STCV25582
COURT	Los Angeles County Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 1, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 800,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	ERIK ZOGRABIAN D & Z Law Group, LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MINAS SAMUELIAN Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$800,000 inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a lawsuit filed by Donel Crespin (Plaintiff) against the County alleging negligence and premises liability. 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 \$800,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 72,175
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 9,576



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:	August 31, 2023
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Summary Corrective Action Plan On August 31, 2023, Plaintiff was moved from his assigned housing location at Men's Central Jail (MCJ) to the recreation area for his allotted recreation time. While Plaintiff was at his allotted recreation time outside of the housing module, another individual housed in a different cell within his housing module was removed from his cell for his allotted shower time. At the conclusion of his shower time, a deputy retrieved the individual to take him back to his assigned cell. The deputy inadvertently took the individual to the Plaintiff's cell, who was still at his allotted recreation time outside of the module. The individual hid in a corner of the cell. Approximately 30 minutes later, the Plaintiff returned from his allocated recreation time, escorted by a deputy from the recreation area. After placing the Plaintiff into his cell and closing the door, the individual who was placed in Plaintiff's cell accidentally emerged from a hiding spot and began to assault the Plaintiff. The deputy immediately gave orders to the individual to stop fighting, utilized his OC spray, and provided aid to the Plaintiff when sufficient personnel arrived. Plaintiff was transported to Los Angeles General Hospital (LAGH) for a higher level of care.

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

The following departmental root cause was identified:

- The placement of an individual in the wrong cell.
- A blind spot located in the affected cell.

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

- 1). Employee review – The involved employees and incident were thoroughly reviewed by MCJ executives.
- 2) Administrative investigation – An administrative investigation was conducted. The employees involved received appropriate administrative action, as applicable.
- 3) Housing list – The module officer now prints and makes available daily a list of the individuals housed in the module and their assigned cell.
- 4) Cell modifications – Facilities Services Bureau investigated possible methods to reduce/eliminate the blind spot in the cell.

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)	
Christine M. Coles, Commander Custody Services Division – Specialized Programs	
Signature: 	Date: 5-6-26

Name: (Department Head)	
Tania E. Plunkett, Chief Custody Services Division – Specialized Programs	
Signature: 	Date: 5-12-26

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: 5/19/26