OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY
COUNSEL

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

47 September 15, 2026

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

County of Los Angeles

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County Counsel

Board of Supervisors

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September 15, 2026

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
Elena Cardenas vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23NWCV02750

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

648 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012-2713

TEL 213.808.8729
TDD 213.633.0901
LCampos@counsel.lacounty.gov

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Elena Cardenas vs. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23NWCV02750, in the amount of $145,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Sheriff's Department's budget.

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiff sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department employee.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME		Elena Cardenas vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER		23NWCV02750
COURT		Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED		August 31, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT		Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	$	145,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF		CHRISTOPHER MANDALIAN, ESQ. Mann Law Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY		KEVIN ENGELIEN, ESQ. Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE		This is an auto-liability lawsuit which arises from a traffic collision that occurred on October 3, 2022. Plaintiff claims she suffered injuries and damages as a result of the collision. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	$	52,905
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	$	38,810

Case Name: Elena Cardenas v. County of Los Angeles, et al.

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:	October 3, 2022
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Summary Corrective Action Plan 2025-277 **Details in this document summarize the incident. The information provided is a culmination of various sources to provide an abstract of the incident.** On October 3, 2022, at approximately 7:00 a.m., an Electrician employed by the Sheriff's Department was driving a marked department utility truck headed from Whittier to Lynwood for a work order at a jail facility. He entered the left turn lane at a red signal and stopped at the intersection. When the signal turned green, the employee entered the intersection making a left turn onto a southbound avenue when another vehicle was traveling eastbound on Telegraph and collided with the employee within the intersection. The other vehicle struck the rear portion of the employee's vehicle broadside and both vehicles came to rest within a few feet of the intersection. The California Highway Patrol responded to the scene. The employee was transported to an urgent care center for treatment for minor injuries. The driver of the other vehicle was the sole occupant of the vehicle. They were transported by ambulance to a nearby hospital for injuries by Los Angeles County Fire Department.

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

The **Department** root cause in this incident was the employee who failed to yield to oncoming traffic.

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 the California Highway Patrol and by supervisors from the involved employee's unit of assignment. The collision investigation concluded that the employee caused the collision when he failed to yield to the plaintiff's vehicle, in violation of California Vehicle Code 21801(a). The results of the investigation were presented for Executive review. Appropriate administrative action was taken and the employee attended additional training.

Traffic Collision Assessment and Review

Facilities Services Bureau conducted a review and assessment of all traffic collisions for calendar the past five calendar years. During the audit, it was discovered there was a spike in 2024, with a reduction the following year. Personnel who have been involved in more than one traffic collision are directed to attend Department training, such as the Sheriff's Traffic Accident Reduction driving program, Emergency Vehicle Operations, and the Alternatives to Discipline Driving Course.

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 T. Hoang, Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature:	Date: 5.1.26

Name: (Department Head) Conrad Meredith, Division Director Administrative Services Division	
Signature:	Date: 05/14/26

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: Betty Karmirlian (Risk Management Inspector General)	
Signature: Betty Karmirlian	Date: 5/19/26