OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY
COUNSEL

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

52 October 6, 2026

EDWARD YEN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

County of Los Angeles

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October 6, 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
Jeu'Quay Wooden v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:23-CV-00122

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

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Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Jeu'Quay Wooden v. County of Los Angeles, et al., United States District Court Case No. 2:23-CV-00122, in the amount of $130,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Probation Department's budget.

This lawsuit arises from alleged excessive force against Plaintiff by the Probation Department.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME		Jeu'Quay Wooden, v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER		2:23-CV-00122-AB-JPR
COURT		United States District Court
DATE FILED		January 17, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT		Los Angeles County Probation Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	$	130,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF		JUSTIN E. STERLING Law Offices of Justin Sterling
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY		JAMIE LOPEZ Deputy County Counsel Justice and Safety Division JIN CHOI, ESQ. Lawrence, Beach, Allen, & Choi, LLP
NATURE OF CASE		This is a recommendation to settle for $130,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, in Plaintiff Jeu'Quay Wooden's federal civil rights lawsuit against the County of Los Angeles, Probation Department, former Chief Adolfo Gonzalez, and Senior Detention Services Officer Frank Najera. The case alleges excessive force, failure to intervene and summon medical care, Monell liability, Bane Act violations, and negligence arising from a use-of-force incident at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall. Given the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	$	190,557
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	$	4,628

Case Name: J.W. vs. County of Los Angeles

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:	April 11, 2022
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On April 11, 2022, Barry J. Nidorf was placed on a facility-wide lockdown from approximately 4:50 p.m. to 7:11 p.m. due to multiple incidents occurring throughout the institution. The Plaintiff, who was housed in living unit C/D, alleges that during this period the Department intentionally deprived him of his routine medical care, withheld regular monitoring and treatment, and violently attacked him without cause. When the Plaintiff informed Probation staff that he needed to see the nurse, he alleged that Probation Staff threatened him and sprayed him in the face with oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray resulting in the staff being bit by the Plaintiff. The Plaintiff further alleged that staff slammed him to the ground and kicked and stomped his head. He also alleged that staff picked him up and took him to his room, banging his head on various objects along the way. The Plaintiff alleged due to the lockdown, he was not allowed to see the nurse prior to dinner for his typical medical routine check. He further alleged that staff retaliated against him for seeking treatment and other staff refused to intervene to protect the Plaintiff.

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

A. Lack of access to medical services during a lockdown.

B. Use of force

C. Inappropriate use of discipline

D. Lack of CCTV footage

E. Internal Affairs Investigation

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

A. A memorandum will be issued to all Barry J. Nidorf staff reminding them of their roles and responsibilities regarding access to medical services during a lockdown. The memorandum states, in part, during any partial or facility-wide lockdown, **essential medical services must continue without interruption**. The safety and well-being of those in our custody require that we maintain timely access to medical evaluation, treatment, and monitoring, regardless of operational restrictions.

B. In 2023, all Detention Services Bureau staff attended mandatory Physical Invention training on Departmental policy and procedure on how to respond to critical incidents.

Title 15 for Juvenile Institutions requires initial and regular/ refresher training for use of force but does not define the frequency of refresher training. Currently Officers are receiving the following refresher trainings:

- Juvenile Institutions Use of Force Policy Refresher - The purpose of this course is to serve as a refresher training. This course will review and discuss the Los Angeles County Probation's Use of Force Policy for Juvenile Institutions. This course will reinforce established knowledge in the subject matter as well as update the trainee in current changes in the law and departmental policies. NO PHYSICAL SKILL OUT/ POLICY REFRESHER ONLY.

- Physical Intervention Training (Take-Down Control and Arrest) - Participants will be trained in a range of take-down methods, both with and without a partner, to achieve dominant prone control positions. The curriculum emphasizes practical skills for transitioning from control holds to secure handcuffing.

C. SYTF Manual section 1100 (Discipline of Youth) was revised on May 10, 2024. It addresses Abusive Institutional Practices (section 1102) and Corporal Punishment (section 1104).

D. CCTV Monitor Post Order was issued on September 11, 2025, to all juvenile facility staff. Staff are assigned to watch the cameras in real-time. If a camera is blocked or covered, it must be reported to the Officer of the Day. The janitorial staff cleans/clear debris from the cameras. Malfunctions are documented and reported to ISB. The post order outlines the following:

A. Chain of Command
B. Duties and Responsibilities, including maintaining constant vigilance throughout the shift to promptly identify and address any security or safety concerns.
C. General Expectations, including maintaining confidentiality and adhering to facility protocols and guidelines regarding CCTV operation, incident documentation, and reporting procedures.
D. Emergency Procedures
E. Shift Handover
F. Additional Post-Order Information for Similar Positions
G. Compliance and Training

CCTV will aid in ensuring that all youth in our juvenile detention facilities shall be continually treated with dignity and respect regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity, education, or disability.

BJNJH – Construction on the project began in August 2022. The project was placed on hold in Spring 2023 due to prioritization of CCTV delivery for LP. The project restarted in early 2024 and installation was completed in December 2024. There are currently 665 active cameras on the FLIR system with ongoing efforts to improve coverage.

E. Internal Affairs investigated and determined the allegations were unsubstantiated.

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) Crystal Barker	
Signature: Crystal Barker	Date: 7/22/2026

Name: (Department Head) Stacy Lopez-Maddox	
Signature: Stacy Lopez-Maddox	Date: 7/22/2026

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: Betty Karmirlian	Date: 7/22/26