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October 6, 2026

TO: 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
Derek Tercero, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24AVCV00068

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 and the Case Summary be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

TJK:sr

Attachment

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Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Settlement for Matter Entitled Derek Tercero, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24AVCV00068

Los Angeles County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board's recommendation: Authorized Settlement of the matter entitled Isadoro Villareal, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24AVCV00068 in the amount of $111,500 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 an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Deputy.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME		Derek Tercero, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER		24AVCV00068
COURT		Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED		February 16, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT		Sheriff's Department Contract Cities
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	$	111,500
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF		J. ELIAS SANCHEZ Sanchez PLC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY		KEVIN ENGELIEN Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE		This case arose after a Sheriff's Department Contract Cities' vehicle driven by an on-duty Deputy Sheriff entered an intersection against a red traffic signal causing a multiple vehicle collision. As a result of this incident, Plaintiffs claim to have suffered injuries and damages from the accident including loss of consortium. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	$	18,206
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	$	1,972

Case Name: Jaime Tercero et el. 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:	
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Summary Corrective Action Plan 2026-312 **Details in this document summarize the incident. The information provided is a culmination of various sources to provide an abstract of the incident.** Based on multiple investigative reports, on April 12, 2023, Deputy One was responding unauthorized Code 3, with lights and sirens activated, traveling eastbound in the left-turn lane of a roadway in the City of Palmdale. He entered the intersection on a red light and attempted to clear the intersection lane by lane. Vehicle-2 was traveling northbound in the number two lane approaching the same intersection at approximately 40 mph with a green light. As Deputy One entered the intersection on the red light, Vehicle-2 alleges he did not see or hear the lights and sirens, proceeded through the intersection, and impacted the patrol vehicle. Vehicle-3 was stopped in the number two westbound lane. The impact pushed the patrol vehicle toward Vehicle-3 causing a second collision. This second impact then caused Vehicle-3 to be pushed into Plaintiffs' vehicle (Vehicle-4) as it was stopped in the number three westbound lane. The Traffic Collision Report by Palmdale Sheriff's Station Traffic Unit and the Department's investigation concluded Deputy One was at fault for causing the accident for failing to yield into the intersection. Deputy One failed to clear the intersection before entering as required by Departmental policy. Additionally, he failed to request Code 3 authorization, and his body worn camera was not activated.

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

A **Department** root cause for this incident was Deputy One driving his vehicle into a signal-controlled intersection while the light was red.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Deputy One's failure to clear the intersection lane by lane.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Deputy One's speed while entering the intersection on a steady red signal. Deputy One's speed at the time of the collision was approximately 43.7 MPH. The speed limit is 50 MPH.

A **non-contributing** root cause in this incident was Deputy One failed to receive acknowledgement/authorization before responding Code 3.

A **non-contributing** root cause in this incident was Deputy One failed to activate his Body Worn Camera upon initiation of his Code 3 response.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was Vehicle-1's failure to yield to an emergency vehicle with red/blue lights and sirens.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:

Administrative Investigation

The traffic collision investigation concluded Deputy One was the primary cause of the collision for failing to stop at a solid red light and clear lane by lane as he entered the intersection. Appropriate administrative action was taken and the deputy completed additional related training.

Traffic Collision Assessment and Review

The unit conducted a review and assessment of all traffic collisions for the past four years. The most common casual factor was unsafe speed. Palmdale Station has implemented traffic collision mitigation efforts at the station.

Sheriff's Department Announcement- Department Wide Re-brief

Department wide briefings of policies related to safe driving practices were re-briefed to remind Department personnel that the safety of Department members and the public is paramount when engaged in routine driving and Code 3 responses.

Sheriff's Department Announcement - Department Wide Driver's Safety Broadcast

Safety messages are broadcast each shift to remind personnel of their responsibilities when entering intersections and their duties to drive in a safe manner and clear intersections lane by lane.

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: Tri Hoang	Date: 8.5.26

Name: (Department Head) Ronald W. Kopperud, Chief North Patrol Division	
Signature:	Date: 08/06/26

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: 8/12/26