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December 1, 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
Sergio Cruz Gonzalez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:22-CV-05872

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 Sergio Cruz Gonzalez v. County of Los Angeles, et al., United States District Court Case No. 2:22-CV-05872, in the amount of $200,000, 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		Sergio Cruz Gonzalez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER		2:22-CV-05872
COURT		United States District Court
DATE FILED		August 18, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT		Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	$	200,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF		JOVAN BLACKNELL Law Offices of J. Blacknell
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY		MINAS SAMUELIAN Senior Deputy County Counsel Justice and Safety Division LENORE C. KELLY Kern, Segal & Murray, A Law Corporation
NATURE OF CASE		This is a recommendation to settle for $200,000 inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a lawsuit filed by Sergio Cruz Gonzalez alleging federal and State civil rights violations. 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 $200,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	$	68,661
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	$	3,805

Case Name: Gonzalez, Sergio Cruz vs. 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:	July 12, 2021
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Summary Corrective Action Plan On July 12, 2021, Plaintiff was housed at Twin Towers Correctional Facility (TTCF), Module 272, B-Pod. During a Title 15 safety check, involved personnel had a conversation with the Plaintiff regarding institutional rules. Shortly after, the involved personnel moved an individual housed in an adjacent pod (the suspect) into B-Pod to have a conversation with the Plaintiff. The suspect ultimately assaulted the Plaintiff and was eventually moved back to his assigned pod. Upset about the assault, Plaintiff threatened the involved personnel. Additional personnel responded and a use of force occurred. During the investigation into the use of force, Department supervisors learned of the earlier actions of the personnel involved. An investigation was subsequently opened into the incident.

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

The following departmental root causes were identified:

- The movement of an individual from his assigned pod to an adjacent pod.
- The failure of personnel to recognize an assault was taking place.
- The availability of jail made alcohol.
- The use of non-Department individuals to mediate conflicts in the jail

The following non-departmental root causes were identified:

- The violent assault of the Plaintiff by the suspect.

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

1) Criminal Investigation – A criminal investigation into the incident was conducted. The investigation was presented to the District Attorney's office for filing considerations.
2) Administrative Investigation – An administrative investigation was conducted into the actions of the involved personnel before, during, and after the incident. Corrective action was taken where appropriate.
3) Employee Review – A comprehensive review of each involved employee's prior history, including investigations, complaints, and civil claims, was conducted.
4) Manufactured Alcohol Briefing – Personnel were updated on a novel method to manufacture alcohol in housing locations, and distribution of the product used was further restricted.

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) Brian A. Tolmasoff, Commander Custody Services Division – Specialized Programs	
Signature:	Date: 9-3-2026

Name: (Department Head) Tania E. Plunkett, Chief Custody Services Division – Specialized Programs	
Signature:	Date: 9.4.26

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: Betty Karmirlian	Date: 9/15/26