



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CLAIMS BOARD

500 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2713

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Oscar Valdez
Office of the Auditor-Controller
Destiny Castro
Chief Executive Office
Liliana Campos
Office of the County Counsel

NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

The Los Angeles County Claims Board will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, October 5, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.**, at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Sixth Floor, Conference Room C, Los Angeles, California 90012. **Members of the public who would like to listen to the open session of the meeting or would like to provide public comment may call (323) 776-6996, then enter ID 799 652 043# at 9:30 a.m. on October 5, 2026.**

Reports of actions taken in Closed Session. The Los Angeles County Claims Board will report actions taken on any Closed Session Items on Monday, October 5, 2026, at approximately 1:05 p.m. Members of the public who would like to hear the reportable actions taken on any Closed Session items may call (323) 776-6996, then enter ID 799 652 043# at 1:05 p.m. on October 5, 2026. Please note that this is an approximate start time and there may be a short delay before the Closed Session is concluded and the actions can be reported.

TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT:

You may submit written public comments by e-mail to claimsboard@counsel.lacounty.gov or by mail to: Attention: Los Angeles County Claims Board, Executive Office, County Counsel, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012.

Written public comments or documentation must be submitted no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday, October 2, 2026. Please include the agenda item and meeting date in your correspondence. Comments and any other written submissions will become part of the official record of the meeting.

If you wish to address the Los Angeles County Claims Board in person, you may come to the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012, and enter on the Second Floor. Please advise the security guard station personnel that you would like to attend the public portion of the Claims Board meeting, and you will be escorted to the Sixth Floor and be assisted.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment is limited to the specific items on the agenda and general public comment is limited to subject matters within the jurisdiction of the Claims Board.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: The Agenda and any supporting documents will be posted at <https://lacounty.gov/newsroom/public-information/los-angeles-county-claims-board/> and can be provided upon request. Please submit requests for supporting documents to claimsboard@counsel.lacounty.gov.

If you would like more information, please contact Claims Board Administrator Thomas Finley at tfinley@counsel.lacounty.gov or Management Specialist Raina Mey at rmey@counsel.lacounty.gov.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.
3. Closed Session Item(s).

Conference with Legal Counsel – Significant Exposure to Litigation
(Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9.) (1)

- a. Non-Litigated Claims of Israel Gonzalez, et al.

These claims arise from alleged injuries Claimants sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Public Works employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$26,400.

Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
(Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9.)

- b. Josue Pereira Rivera, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STCV27137

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiffs sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Public Works employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$33,500.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- c. Amena Begum Omi v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24NNCV05841

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiff sustained at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$90,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- d. Marco Prado Rodriguez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23TRCV03236

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiffs sustained in a traffic collision involving a Fire Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$99,479.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- e. Jose Gonzalez Rios, et al. v. William Cash Reed, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AVCV00735

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiffs sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Public Health employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$200,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- f. Lucas Alvarez v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV14767

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiff sustained when struck by a broken tree that fell at Athens Park; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$350,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- g. Jose De Jesus Yanez Sanabria, et al. v. Martha Elena Navarro, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24TRCV00619

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiffs sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Children and Family Services employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$80,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- h. Knight Sunrise Fontana LLC v. Rafael Luis Feliciano, et al.
San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVSB2422254

This breach of contract lawsuit arises from a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$48,047.44.

[See Supporting Document](#)

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

This lawsuit arises from injuries sustained by Plaintiff due to alleged negligence of the Sheriff's Department; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$200,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- j. Kenji Howard v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:24-CV-04365

This federal civil rights lawsuit arises from the alleged wrongful conviction and imprisonment of Plaintiff for 26 years; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$4,000,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- k. Joseph Garrido v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles County Court Case No. 22STCV33687

This lawsuit alleges that an employee of the Sheriff's Department was subjected to retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$1,750,000.

- l. Amin Almuhabab v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 25STCV21414

This lawsuit alleges that an employee of the Executive Office of Board of Supervisors and Office of the Public Defender was subjected to disability discrimination, harassment, and retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$1,950,000.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the September 21, 2026, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

[See Supporting Document](#)

5. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Josue Pereira Rivera, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	24STCV27137
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 16, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 33,500
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Daniel F. Jimenez, Esq. Law Offices of Daniel F. Jimenez
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Erin Chang, Esq. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from a vehicle collision that occurred on October 2, 2023, between a Department of Public Works employee and Plaintiffs at the intersection of Main Street and Daly Street in the City of Los Angeles. Due to the risk and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 28,622
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 665

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Amena Begum Omi v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	24NNCV05841
COURT	Los Angeles County Superior Court
DATE FILED	November 15, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 90,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Moshe A. Yadegar, Esq. Legal Needs APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Erin Chang Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiff claims she suffered injuries and damages as a result of a slip and fall on January 18, 2024, at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 24,768
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 31,373

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Marco Prado Rodriguez, et al. vs County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23TRCV03236
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 2, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Fire Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 99,479
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	ANDREW L. ELLIS, ESQ. Ellis Law Corporation
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MELISSA McCAVERTY, ESQ. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from a vehicle collision that occurred on November 10, 2022, between a Fire Department employee and Plaintiffs at the intersection of 139th Street and Ocean Gate in the City of Hawthorne. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 67,192
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 56,742

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jose Gonzalez Rios, et al. v. William Cash Reed, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23AVCV00735
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	July 13, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Health
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 200,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	LAWRENCE H. MANDELL, ESQ. Mandell Law Firm EMERSON TABONE, ESQ. Law Office of Tabone, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MELISSA A. MCCAVERY, ESQ. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from a vehicle collision that occurred on November 19, 2022, where Plaintiffs' vehicle was involved in a collision with a vehicle operated by a Department of Public Health employee at or near Palmdale Boulevard and State Route 14 northbound, in the City of Palmdale, California. Plaintiffs claim to have suffered injuries and damages from the incident. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 106,037
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 20,489



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:	November 29, 2022, 6:00 p.m..
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On November 29, 2022, around 6:00 p.m., Plaintiff was driving north on SR-14 with his family after leaving a wake in Palmdale. After mistakenly exiting at Palmdale Boulevard, he attempted to reenter the freeway by crossing multiple westbound lanes outside the designated merge area. As he did so, his vehicle collided with a westbound Ford F-350 driven by COLA driver, who was traveling home from the Palmdale Sheriff's Station. According to the responding LASD deputy, Plaintiff acknowledged that he had taken the wrong exit and was trying to reach the northbound on-ramp when the crash occurred.

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

The COLA driver was found to be not at fault by the department's Vehicle Accident Review Committee (VARC) and California Highway Patrol.

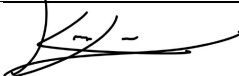
2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

- On December 20, 2022, VARC reviewed the collision report and determined that it was non-preventable work damage. Therefore, no other corrective actions were implemented for the COLA driver.
- May 5, 2026 – The department reviewed all County vehicle assignments to confirm operational necessity and determined that Emergency Operations staff do require immediate response capability. As a result, it is concluded that assigning a County vehicle in this case was appropriate and that the incident did not result from any departmental error or negligence.

3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?

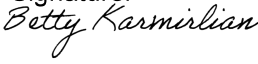
- ☐ Yes – The corrective actions address department-wide system issues.
- ☒ No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)
Kevin Lee

Signature: 

Date:
8/3/2026

Name: (Department Head) Dr. Barbara Ferrer	
Signature:  On behalf of Barbara Ferrer	Date: 8/11/2026

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: 	Date: 8/13/26

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Lucas Alvarez vs. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	23STCV14767
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	June 26, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Parks and Recreation
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 350,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	MARK GIANNAMORE, ESQ. Vaziri Law Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	KEVIN ENGELIEN, ESQ. Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a dangerous condition lawsuit which arises from a tree branch that fell in Athens Park on July 24, 2022. Plaintiff claims he suffered injuries and damages as a result of the falling branch. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 47,884
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 75,887



Summary Corrective Action Plan

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Date of incident/event:	7/24/2022
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Patron was at Athens Park when a large tree branch fell onto his head and hand. Plaintiff claims the tree constituted a dangerous condition of public property.

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

The incident was attributed to the inherent unpredictability of tree limb failure, including sudden limb drop or other failures that may occur without visible warning signs, the scale of the Department's tree population relative to available inspection resources, and the fact that tree inventory and inspection tracking systems were not fully implemented at the time of the incident.

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

The Department completed a department-wide tree inventory and condition assessment to improve tracking of tree assets and support risk-based tree management. The inventory supports prioritization of ongoing inspection and maintenance activities based on observed tree conditions. Trees identified as high-risk were prioritized for mitigation and addressed as appropriate through the use of in-house staff, contractors, and partner organizations. A priority-based inspection and maintenance approach has been implemented to focus resources on high-use public areas. Forestry operations utilize ArborPro to support tree inventory, condition assessment, and maintenance activities, with work activity recorded in the IBM Maximo system. Additionally, staff training has been enhanced to improve hazard identification, reporting, and work order documentation. Following the incident, Forestry staff evaluated the subject tree, removed the failed limb, evaluated surrounding trees within the immediate area, and completed additional tree maintenance, including contracted tree work within the park. The Department continues to refine its tree management program through ongoing monitoring, field observation, and data-informed decision-making.

3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?

County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

- ☒ Yes – The corrective actions address department-wide system issues.
- ☐ No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) <i>Vicky Santana</i>	
Signature: <i>Vicky Santana</i>	Date: <i>9/17/2026</i>

Name: (Department Head) Alina Bokde	
Signature: <i>Alina Bokde</i>	Date: 9/23/2026

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: <i>Betty Karmirlian</i>	Date: 9/23/26

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jose de Jesus Yanez Sanabria, et al. v. Martha Elena Navarro, et al.
CASE NUMBER	24TRCV00619
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	February 22, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 80,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	MICHAEL V. JEHDIAN, ESQ. for Plaintiff Jose MARIO E. MARTINEZ, ESQ. for Plaintiff Priscilla
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	LATASHA N. CORRY, ESQ. Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from a traffic collision that occurred on March 6, 2023, when a Department employee's vehicle and Plaintiffs' vehicle collided at the intersection of Center Drive and South Sepulveda Boulevard in the City of Los Angeles. Plaintiffs claim they suffered injuries resulting from 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	\$ 69,638
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 3,951

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Knight Sunrise Fontana LLC vs. Rafael Luis Feliciano, et al.
CASE NUMBER	CIVSB2422254
COURT	San Bernandino Superior Court
DATE FILED	July 8, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 48,047.44
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	VICTOR DANHI Arentfox Schiff LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	LATASHA N. CORRY Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a breach of a contract lawsuit that arose from a traffic collision that occurred on March 29, 2023, when Sheriff's Department Deputies rented a car from Plaintiff and were involved in an accident. Plaintiff alleges damages as a result. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 20,141
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 797

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



Summary Corrective Action Plan

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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:

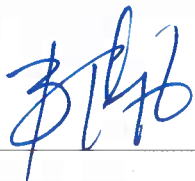
- The violent assault of the Plaintiff by the suspect.

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.

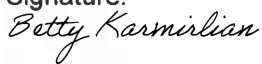
Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Brian A. Tolmasoff, Commander Custody Services Division – Specialized Programs	
Signature: 	Date: 9-3-2026

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: 	Date: 9/15/26

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Kenji Howard v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:24-CV-4365
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	May 24, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 4,000,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	DONALD W. COOK, ESQ. Law Offices of Rober Mann and Donald W. Cook
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MINAS SAMUELIAN Senior Deputy County Counsel Justice and Safety Division ANDREW BAUM, ESQ. Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro, LLP
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$4,000,000 inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a lawsuit filed by Kenji Howard, alleging federal civil rights violations for his alleged wrongful conviction. 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 \$4,000,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 338,076
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 106,822



Summary Corrective Action Plan

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Date of incident/event:	March 17, 1995
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Summary Corrective Action Plan 2025-290 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 10, 1997, a jury found the Plaintiff guilty of one count of first-degree murder, three counts of attempted murder, and one count of shooting at an occupied vehicle. The Plaintiff was sentenced to a prison term of 25 years to life on the murder count, plus additional years for the attempted murder counts, firearms, and great bodily injury enhancements. The Plaintiff's <i>habeas</i> petition, based on new evidence submitted, was granted on July 16, 2021. The reviewing court found that the new evidence would have likely affected the outcome of the criminal trial, vacated the Plaintiff's convictions, and ordered him to be re-tried within 60 days. The DA's Office declined to retry the Plaintiff consistent with Special Directive 20-14, the charges were dismissed, and he was released. The Plaintiff served 26 years in prison.

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

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the allegation that Homicide Investigators, and the Polygraph Deputy used subjectively coercive and deceptive interview and interrogation methods.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the manner in which investigative information was shared with the assigned firearms expert during the forensic examination of the suspect vehicle. The absence of contextual information ***allegedly*** limited the firearms expert's ability to fully evaluate relevant forensic factors during the examination.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the Plaintiff's failure to be forthcoming with Homicide Investigators.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the co-defendant later confessed to the murder years after the trial.

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

CUSTODIAL INTERROGATION OF JUVENILES

As part of a package of seven Senate bills passed in 2017 to address juvenile criminal justice reform, Senate Bill 395 took effect on January 1, 2018, and was later amended due to the enactment of Senate Bill 203 (2020). This resulted in section 625.6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) creating new requirements for law enforcement when interrogating juveniles in their custody.

Prior to a custodial interrogation, and **before** the waiver of any Miranda rights, a youth **17 years of age or younger** shall consult with **legal counsel** in person, by telephone, or by video conference. **The consultation may not be waived.**

AB 2644 (2024), as codified in WIC section 625.7, also prohibits law enforcement officers from employing threats, physical harm, deception, or psychologically manipulative tactics during custodial interrogation of a person 17 years of age or younger. The bill defines “**psychologically manipulative interrogation tactics**” as including interrogation practices that rely on a presumption of guilt or deceit, make promises of leniency, or employ a “forced choice” strategy.

POLYGRAPH PROCEDURE:

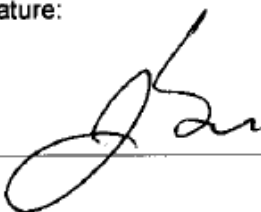
In addition to procedures that must be followed prior to the administration of a polygraph examination, a parent or legal guardian must sign for persons under 18 years of age, unless they are married, in military service or in any other way emancipated.

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: 8.17.26

Name: (Department Head) Jason A. Skeen, Assistant Sheriff Countywide Operations	
Signature: 	Date: 8/26/26

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: 	Date: 8/27/26

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

September 21, 2026

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:36 a.m. The meeting was held virtually with Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro, Claims Board Member Liliana Campos, Claims Board Member Oscar Valdez, and Claims Board Administrator Thomas Finley participating in person at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Sixth Floor, Conference Room C, Los Angeles, California 90012.

All other participants at the Claims Board meeting appeared virtually: Kevin Engeliem, Melissa McCaverty, Minas Samuelian, Caroline S. Craddock, Edward A. Morrissey, Erin Chang, Sanjay Athalye, Victoria Jalili, Stacey Y. Lee, and Anthony F. Marrone appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Tim Pescatello appeared for the Office of the District Attorney. Stephanie Lara, Captain Christopher Minott, Captain Brandon Barclay, Captain Patricia Thomas, Commander Jennifer Seetoo, Commander Terrence Bell, Commander Brian Tolmasoff, Lieutenant Michael Politano, Lieutenant Roberto Hernandez, Lieutenant Jennifer Roth, Sergeant Jennifer Romero, Deputy Nancy Madarasz and Chief Ronald Kopperud appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Ronald Castaneda, Tommy (Liu) Lau, Aracely Jaramillo, Jacklin Injijian, Andrew Ngumba, Rosemarie Brazal, and Jeff Hoawrd appeared for the Department of Public Works. Anish Mahajan, Johanna Prieto, and Kevin Lee appeared for the Department of Public Health. Joanne Schaeffer appeared for the Fire Department. Christina Lee appeared for the Department of Children and Family Services. Robb Myrtle appeared for the Department of Health Services. Simone Agee, Arnetta Counts, Ruth Gibson, and Justin Kimura appeared for the Department of Social Services. Paul B. Beach appeared for Lawrence Beach Allen & Choi, PC. Nicholas Weiss appeared for David Weiss Law. Sarah Hernandez appeared for BDG Law Group. Nohemi Ferguson and Calvin House appeared for Gutierrez Preciado & House, LLP.

2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.

Two unidentified members of the public appeared on the public teleconference phone line but did not respond to the opportunity to address the Claims Board. No member of the public appeared in person.

3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9).

At 9:37 a.m., Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro convened the meeting in closed session to discuss items 3(a) through 3(m).

Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session.

No member of the public appeared in person or on the public teleconference phone line to hear the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

At 1:40 p.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in closed session as follows:

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]

a. **Geoff Loui, et al. v. State of California, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV18116

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiff sustained while bicycling on a roadway maintained by the Department of Public Works.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(a) in the amount of \$100,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Liliana Campos, and Destiny Castro

b. **Rocio Gonzalez v. City of Diamond Bar, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23PSCV02319

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiff sustained while driving over an unsecured manhole cover maintained by the Department of Public Works.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(b) in the amount of \$65,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Liliana Campos, and Destiny Castro

c. **Jose Gonzalez Rios, et al. v. William Cash Reed, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AVCV00735

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiffs sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Public Health employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued Item 3(c) to a future meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Liliana Campos, and Destiny Castro

d. **Robert Greene v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23TRCV00016

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiff sustained when struck by a vehicle driven by an Office of the District Attorney employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(d) in the amount of \$180,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Liliana Campos, and Destiny Castro

e. **Tomas Rosas Zayas v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 25PSCV01987

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(e) in the amount of \$120,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Liliana Campos, and Destiny Castro

f. **Sebastian Palma v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:23-CV-06829

This federal lawsuit arises from alleged Plaintiff's civil rights violations by the Sheriff's Department.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(f) in the amount of \$250,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Liliana Campos, and Destiny Castro

g. **Kimberly Freeman, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:24-cv-01600

This wrongful death lawsuit arises from the in-custody death of Decedent at Men's Central Jail.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(g) in the amount of \$950,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Liliana Campos, and Destiny Castro

h. **Andy Paniagua v. Benjamin Tanner, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24AVCV01226

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(h) in the amount of \$99,999.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Liliana Campos, and Destiny Castro

i. **Slavka Rehacek, et al. v. Lane McGivern, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 25CHCV03718

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiffs sustained in a traffic collision involving a Fire Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(i) in the amount of \$99,999.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Liliana Campos, and Destiny Castro

j. **Ryan Soriano v. Briana Castro, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 25PSCV02672

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiff sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Children and Family Services employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(j) in the amount of \$75,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Liliana Campos, and Destiny Castro

k. **Chaka Theus v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV20479

This lawsuit alleges that an employee of the Department of Health Services was subjected to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(k) in the amount of \$35,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Liliana Campos, and Destiny Castro

l. **Kirsten Billing v. 4Leaf, Inc., et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STCV01989

This lawsuit alleges that a contract employee of the Department of Public Works was subjected to gender discrimination, sexual harassment, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(l) in the amount of \$50,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Liliana Campos, and Destiny Castro

**m. Joanna Smith v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV16950**

This lawsuit alleges that the Department of Public Social Services violated the California Fair Chance Act with a Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(m) in the amount of \$525,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Liliana Campos, and Destiny Castro

4. Approval of the Minutes of the August 17, 2026, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the August 17, 2026, meeting.

Vote: Ayes: – Oscar Valdez, Liliana Campos, and Destiny Castro

5. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By



Thomas Finley
Claims Board Administrator
Office of the County Counsel