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
Adrienne M. Byers
Office of the County Counsel

NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

The Los Angeles County Claims Board will hold a regular meeting on Monday, July 21, 2025, 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 464 765 895# at 9:30 a.m. on July 21, 2025.

Reports of actions taken in Closed Session. The Los Angeles County Claims Board will report actions taken on any Closed Session Items on Monday, July 21, 2025, at approximately 11:40 a.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 464 765 895# at 11:40 a.m. on July 21, 2025. 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 comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday, July 18, 2025. 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 Laura Z. Salazar at lacounty.gov or 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 Existing Litigation (Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (a)).
 - a. <u>Cindy Kraus v. David Arthur Gomez, et al.</u> Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AHCV02044

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained by Plaintiff when a vehicle driven by a Parks and Recreation employee collided with her wheelchair while crossing the street within a crosswalk; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$30,000.

See Supporting Document

b. <u>Andy Burkhart v. Estevan Robles, et al.</u> Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22GDCV00905

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Public Works employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$75,000.

See Supporting Document

c. <u>Kimberly Lamb, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.</u> United States District Court Case No. 2:23-cv-03479

This lawsuit alleges wrongful death and civil rights violations arising out of the death of Plaintiffs' son while in custody at the Pico Rivera Sheriff's station; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$850,000.

See Supporting Documents

d. <u>Chad Sauter v. County of Los Angeles</u> Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV12692

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Sheriff's Department was subjected to retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$75,000.

e. <u>Peter Brosnan v. Los Angeles County</u> Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV16279

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee with the Department of Children and Family Services was subjected to age and race discrimination, and retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$99,000.

f. Francisco Hernandez v. County of Los Angeles
United States District Court No. 2:25-cv-01501

This lawsuit alleges that the Fire Department violated the Fair Labor Standards Act by not compensating for overtime; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$27,000.

County of Los Angeles Claims Board Agenda for July 21, 2025 Page 3

g. Mercury Insurance Company v. County of Los Angeles, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STLC08558

This subrogation lawsuit seeks reimbursement for property damage allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Fire Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$36,500.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the July 7, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

See Supporting Document

5. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME Cindy Kraus vs David Arthur Gomez, et al.

CASE NUMBER 23AHCV02044

COURT Los Angeles Superior Court

DATE FILED 09/06/2023

COUNTY DEPARTMENT Department of Parks and Recreation

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT \$ 30,000

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF JASON G. EISENBERG, ESQ.

Eisenberg Law Group, PC

COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY MICHAEL J. GORDON, ESQ.

Senior Deputy County Counsel

NATURE OF CASE On February 27, 2023, a County of Los Angeles

vehicle driven by an on-duty employee of the Department of Parks and Recreation collided with

Plaintiff, a pedestrian in a wheel chair, in a

crosswalk at the intersection of Fair Oaks Avenue and West Woodbury Road in Altadena. Plaintiff alleges the collision caused injuries for which she

seeks compensation.

Given the risk and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of

\$30,000 is warranted.

PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE \$ 101,996

PAID COSTS, TO DATE \$ 62,858

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME Andy Burkhart vs. Robles, Estevan, et al.

CASE NUMBER 22GDCV00905

COURT Los Angeles Superior Court

DATE FILED November 21, 2022

COUNTY DEPARTMENT Department of Public Works

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT \$ 75,000

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF JAMES L. MEIER, ESQ.

Law Offices of James L. Meier

COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY LATASHA N. CORRY

Deputy County Counsel

NATURE OF CASE On January 5, 2022, Plaintiff was driving his

employer's cargo van at or near 134 East freeway, in slowing traffic when his van was rear-ended by a

Department employee.

Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full

and final settlement of the case is warranted.

PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE \$ 44,509

PAID COSTS, TO DATE \$ 40,820

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME Kimberly Lamb, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et

al.

CASE NUMBER 2:23-CV-03479

COURT United States District Court

DATE FILED April 4, 2023

COUNTY DEPARTMENT Sheriff's Department

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT \$ 850,000

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF Michael S. Carrillo

COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY Minas Samuelian

Senior Deputy County Counsel

NATURE OF CASE

This is a recommendation to settle for \$850,000

inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a lawsuit filed by the parents of decedent Leland Wiliam Barnett against the County alleging civil rights violations and wrongful death following the in-custody death of

Mr. Barnett.

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 \$850,000 is recommended.

PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE \$ 65,187

PAID COSTS, TO DATE \$ 9,954

Case Name: Kimberly Lamb 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 <u>confidentiality</u>, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	July 5, 2022, approximately 5:00 p.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Summary Corrective Action Plan 2024-191
	Details in this document summarize the incident. The information provided is a culmination of various sources to provide an abstract of the incident.
	Multiple investigative reports indicate, on July 5, 2022, at approximately 5:00 p.m., two on-duty Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy Sheriffs, assigned to Pico Rivera Sheriff Station, responded to a "McDonalds" parking lot regarding a physical altercation between the Decedent and his boyfriend (Victim). The Deputies detained the Decedent pending their investigation. Upon the conclusion of their investigation, they placed the Decedent under arrest in violation of California Penal Code Section 273.5(a) - Corporal Injury to a Cohabitant.
	Deputy One placed the Decedent in the backseat of his patrol vehicle. As the Decedent sat down in the backseat of the patrol vehicle, he kicked over a plastic baggie which was located on the rear floorboard on the driver's side. The Decedent stated to Deputy One, "that's not mine." Deputy One retrieved the baggie and placed it on the front passenger seat of the patrol vehicle. Deputy One later evaluated the plastic baggie; there was nothing inside the baggie and Deputy One determined it was trash.
	Deputy Two did not pursue further investigation into the Decedent's claim of drugs in the back seat of the patrol vehicle because Deputy One had already informed and physically showed him he had removed a plastic baggie from the back seat of the vehicle.
	The Decedent was transported to a local hospital for a medical clearance, in preparation of the booking process. The Decedent was cleared for booking. The Decedent indicated his head hurt, but head trauma was not noted in the medical documents. The Decedent was transported and booked by Deputy One at the Pico Rivera Station jail at 7:01 p.m. and placed alone in Cell #6 due to his classification.

Document version: 4.0 (January 2013) Page 1 of 4

Custody Assistant One was responsible for the Decedent's supervision in the station jail and to manually log inmate safety checks after the Decedent was booked and housed.

On July 6, 2022, Custody Assistant One performed a safety check at 4:27 a.m. At 5:01 a.m., while distributing breakfast to inmates, Custody Assistant One discovered the Decedent was lying on his right side (facing the wall) on a lower bunk in the cell unresponsive, and appeared to not be breathing. Custody Assistant One entered the cell and tapped the Decedent on the shoulder to wake him; he observed blood on the Decedent's mattress and blanket which prompted him to activate the jail's panic alarm for assistance.

Deputies One and Five responded to the station jail. The Decedent was placed on his back, and foam was observed coming from his mouth. Deputies started Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Custody Assistant One retrieved the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) device; the AED instructed the cadence for the CPR. Deputies One and Five performed CPR until medical personnel arrived and took over. Medical personnel pronounced the Decedent deceased at 5:35 a.m.

Nearby inmates at the station jail were interviewed, but no one reported seeing or hearing anything.

LASD Homicide Bureau Detectives responded and investigated the death of the Decedent.

The coroner's report later indicated the autopsy report did not list any evidence of acute trauma and concluded the manner of death was accidental and identified the cause of death as drug use.

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

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Custody Assistant One's overdue safety checks, in violation of Department policy.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the lack of jail cameras in the cell corridors, which may have allowed personnel to notice the Decedent in distress and administer prompt life-saving measures.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the failure to deploy Narcan during the emergency response for the Decedent.

A **non-Department** root cause was the Decedent's ingestion of illegal narcotics, leading to an accidental overdose of fentanyl and methamphetamine.

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

Administrative Investigation

An Administrative Investigation was conducted regarding the poor quality of the inmate safety checks. Appropriate administrative action was taken.

Station Training - NARCAN

All station personnel have been re-briefed on Emergency Medical Procedures. NARCAN has been issued to each station jailer with a holster in addition to the NARCAN located near the "Livescan Machine" inside the jail.

<u>Jail Cameras - Upg</u>rade

The station is currently awaiting funding approval to complete this project.

- 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)		
Julia M. Valdes, Acting Captain Risk Management Bureau		
Signature:	Date:	
An alder	04/24/2025	

Name: (Department Head)

Myron Johnson, Assistant Sheriff
Patrol Operations

Signature:

Date:

1/3/25

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:		
Betty Karmirlian	7/7/2025		

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

July 7, 2025

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:37 a.m. The meeting was held virtually with Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro, Claims Board Member Oscar Valdez, Claims Board Member Adrienne M. Byers, and Claims Board administrator Laura Z. Salazar 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: Narbeh Bagdasarian, Jennifer Lehman, Melissa McCaverty, Mark W. Lomax, Michael J. Gordon, Latasha N. Corry, Kevin Engelien, Richard Hsueh, and Raina Mey appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Ly Ngo appeared for the Department of Mental Health. Jacklin Injijian, Michele Chimienti, Ronald Castaneda, and Alex Villarama appeared for the Department of Public Works. Anush Gambaryan, Brian Mejia, and Mika Yamamoto appeared for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Rachel Lara appeared for the Fire Department. Lieutenant Jennifer M. Roth, Lieutenant Tina L. Arevalo, Captain Jose L. Hernandez, and Commander Damon A. Jones appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Mitzie Dobson appeared for Bonne Bridges Mueller O'Keefe & Nichols. Sylvia Schweizer appeared for George Hills. Tom Guterres appeared for Collins & Collins LLP. Jill Williams appeared for Carpenter, Rothans & Dumont 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.

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

3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (a)).

At 9:41 a.m., Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(g).

4. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session.

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

At 12:29 p.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session to report the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Sharon L. Anderson v. County of Los Angeles, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV34038

This lawsuit concerns allegations of sexual assault and battery by a Department of Mental Health employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(a) in the amount of \$1,500,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers

Noes: Destiny Castro

b. <u>Matthew Reppa v. County of Los Angeles, et al.</u> Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AVCV00552

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Public Works' employee driving a snowplow.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(b) in the amount of \$50,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

c. Non-Litigated Claims of Steven B. Lam and Hisae K. Utsunomiya

These inverse condemnation claims seek compensation from the Department of Public Works for property damage allegedly caused by a sewage spill from a sewer mainline blockage.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(c) in the amount of \$161,089.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

d. <u>Ann Grigoryan v. County of Los Angeles</u> Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23GDCV00441

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained when she tripped and fell at Crescenta Valley Community Regional Park.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(d) in the amount of \$75,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Destiny Castro

Noes: Adrienne M. Byers

e. Mercury Insurance Company v. County of Los Angeles, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STLC08558

This subrogation lawsuit seeks reimbursement for property damage allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Fire Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued Item 4(e) to a future meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

f. <u>Diego Guarchaj v. County of Los Angeles, et al.</u> Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV27961

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained when a Sheriff's Department's vehicle struck Plaintiff's bicycle.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(f) in the amount of \$100,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

g. Marco Antonio Vazquez, Sr., et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al. United States District Court Case No. 2:20-cv-01527

This federal civil rights and wrongful death lawsuit arises from a fatal deputy-involved shooting of Decedent.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(g) in the amount of \$2,250,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Destiny Castro

Noes: Adrienne M. Byers

5. Approval of the Minutes of the June 16, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the June 16, 2025, meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By

Laura Z. Salazar Senior Paralegal

Office of the County Counsel