



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, August 18, 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 479 907 754# at 9:30 a.m. on August 18, 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, August 18, 2025, at approximately 12:45 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 479 907 754# at 12:45 p.m. on August 18, 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, August 15, 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 lsalazar@counsel.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. Baker Electric & Renewables LLC v. CannonDesign Builders, Inc., et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Nos. 22STCV22691 and 24STCV07116

These breach of contract lawsuits seek compensation for delay-related damages resulting in additional costs; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$3,200,000.
 - b. Hector Gonzalez Casado v. City of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22CMCV00705

This personal injury lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff was injured due to a dangerous condition when he stepped into a utility hole missing its cover and fell; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$50,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)
 - c. Jennifer Alderete, et al. v. Jim Alberto Vives, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23PSCV01512

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiffs allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Public Works employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$30,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)
 - d. Nancy Marie Hernandez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22CMCV00461

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained when she was struck by a vehicle driven by a Department of Mental Health employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$237,500.

[See Supporting Documents](#)
 - e. Non-Litigated Claim of Rickie Lee Leos, Jr.

This claim alleges that Claimant was injured in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department sergeant; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$50,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- f. Jose Luis Ponce v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:24-cv-01336

This lawsuit alleges that the Sheriff's Department failed to protect an inmate from harm and failed to provide medical care resulting in Plaintiff's injuries; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$75,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- g. Arturo Antonio Pineda Cobian v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV35856

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department detective; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$495,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- h. Juan Jimenez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV20197

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving an employee of the Department of Beaches and Harbors; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$50,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- i. Catherine Marie Cordova v. Jose Louis Macias, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV26528

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving an employee of the Internal Services Department; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$175,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- j. Francisco Hernandez v. County of Los Angeles
United States District Court Case 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.

- k. Evangelina Hernandez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV24771

This lawsuit alleges that the Department of Children and Family Services and its employees are liable for the death of a child and the abuse of the child's surviving siblings; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$20,000,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

5. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Hector Gonzalez Casado vs. City of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22CMCV00705
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	December 16, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 50,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	TIGRAN MARTINIAN, ESQ. Martinian & Associates, Inc.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	KEVIN ENGELIEN Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This dangerous condition lawsuit which arises from a trip and fall accident occurred on January 9, 2022. Plaintiff claims he suffered injuries and damages as a result of this incident. Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 43,976
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 9,328

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jennifer Alderete, et al. vs. Jim Alberto Vives, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23PSCV01512
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	May 18, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 30,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	NAREK VARDANYAN, ESQ. McReynolds Vardanyan, LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	LATASHA N. CORRY Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	On December 20, 2022, Plaintiffs were traveling eastbound on Badillo Street, when Jennifer stopped for a red traffic light and was rear-ended by Jim. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 30,633
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 9,623

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Nancy Maria Hernandez vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22CMCV00461
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 27, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Mental Health
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 237,500
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	MIA HONG, ESQ. Karns & Karns, LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	LATASHA N. CORRY Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This incident occurred on May 31, 2022, when a Department employee struck Plaintiff as she crossed the street at the parking lot of the Martin Luther King Hospital. Plaintiff claims she sustained severe injuries as a result of the accident. Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$237,500 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 37,982
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 51,615



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:	May 31, 2022
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	This case arises from an incident that occurred on May 31, 2022, in the parking lot of the Martin Luther King Hospital. Plaintiff was walking in the parking lot and crossed the driveway of the lot, when she was struck on her left side by Defendant employee's vehicle. Plaintiff sustained injuries. Employee was traveling at an unsafe speed (approximately 15 mph) for the parking lot where there are many pedestrians and was distracted at the time of the incident. The CHP was called to the scene and determined from surveillance footage at the Hospital that employee was traveling at a speed greater than was reasonable, prudent or safe for the location, thereby endangering the safety of others. Plaintiff was transported to the hospital.

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

Employee was traveling at a speed greater than was reasonable, prudent or safe for the location, thereby endangering the safety of others.

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

Accident was reviewed by the Vehicle Accident Review Committee and deemed preventable. Defensive driving training was recommended for the employee, who completed the training in October 2024.

3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?
- Yes – The corrective actions address department-wide system issues.
- x No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) TaNeisha Franklin	
Signature: <i>TaNeisha Franklin</i>	Date: 07/17/2025

Name: (Department Head)	
<i>Knall</i>	07/18/2025

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: 7/23/2025

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-Litigated Claim of Rickie Lee Leos, Jr.
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 50,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Joseph A. Langton Principal Deputy County Counsel Litigation Monitoring Division
NATURE OF CASE	This claim arises from an automobile accident causing damages. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full settlement of the claim is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jose Luis Ponce v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:24-CV-01336
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	February 20, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ \$75,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	DENISEE O. GASTELUM Gastelum Law, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	JAMIE D. LOPEZ Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$75,000 inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Jose Luis Ponce (Plaintiff), alleging negligence. 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 \$75,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 31,142
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 8,434

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Arturo Antonio Pineda Cobian v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV35856
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	September 21, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 495,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	SUZANNA ABRAHAMIAN, ESQ. Martinian & Associates, Inc.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	KEVIN ENGELIEN Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is an auto-liability lawsuit which arises from a traffic collision that occurred on May 8, 2019. Plaintiff claims he suffered injuries and damages as a result of the collision. Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 39,730
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 88,434



Summary Corrective Action Plan

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Date of incident/event:	May 8, 2019
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Summary Corrective Action Plan 2024-225 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 Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at approximately 1610 hours, Detective One was driving her assigned county vehicle northbound when she was involved in a traffic collision. Detective One was traveling approximately 25 miles per hour when traffic in front of her came to an abrupt stop. Detective One quickly applied her vehicle's brakes but was unable stop before she struck the rear bumper of the plaintiff's vehicle, which was stopped directly in front of her. The Plaintiff was wearing his factory installed seatbelt. He complained of stiffness to his neck. He was treated by personnel from the Fire Department. The Plaintiff refused to be transported to the hospital. The Plaintiff later sought further medical treatment from his personal doctors. Detective One was wearing her factory installed seatbelt and was not injured. A California Highway Patrol Officer responded to the scene and conducted a traffic collision investigation. He determined Detective One at fault for traveling at an unsafe speed for road conditions, violation of the California Vehicle Code Section 22350. A Sheriff's Department Sergeant responded to the scene and conducted an administrative investigation regarding the traffic collision. He authored a supervisor's report describing his findings regarding the traffic collision and was in

	agreeance with the CHP Officer regarding the cause of the collision.
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Detective One failed to stop before colliding into the back of the plaintiff's vehicle.

A **Department** root cause was Detective One was traveling at an unsafe speed for traffic conditions, Violation of California Vehicle Code Section – 22350.

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

Traffic Collision Investigation

This incident was thoroughly investigated by representatives from the California Highway Patrol who concluded that Detective One caused the collision due to traveling at an unsafe speed for road conditions, in violation of California Vehicle Code section 22350.

Administrative Investigation

An administrative investigation was conducted by the Sheriff's Department to determine if any administrative misconduct occurred before, during, or after this incident. The results of the investigation were presented for Department executive adjudication.

Executive evaluation of this incident found Detective One in violation of Department Manual of Policy and Procedures section:

- 3-01/090.10, Operation of Vehicles

Detective One received additional training surrounding the circumstances of this incident and appropriate administrative actions were taken.

Traffic Collision Assessment Review

As a result of this collision, an assessment of employee involved preventable and non-preventable traffic collisions from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2024, was conducted. The audit revealed the following:

During this time frame, there were 52 total collisions, 17 of which were classified as preventable and 35 classified as non-preventable.

Based on the results of the audit, a comprehensive Traffic Collision Reduction Plan was developed and implemented at the station in 2020. Since the implementation of the Traffic Collision Reduction Plan there has been a noticeable reduction of on duty preventable traffic collisions.

Sheriff Department Announcement - Department Wide Re-brief

The purpose of this re-brief is to remind Department personnel that the safety of Department members and the public is paramount when engaged in routine driving and Code-3 responses.

It is essential to maintain heightened officer safety, common sense, and sound tactics to reduce collision-related injuries, deaths, and financial liability to the Department.

Department-Wide Broadcast Announcements–Sheriff’s Communication Center (SCC)

In an effort to mitigate Department’s traffic collisions, Risk Management Bureau has partnered with SCC to create Department-Wide announcements, to serve as a reminder for all personnel to adhere to Department policies associated with vehicle operations.

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

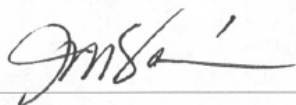
- ☐ Yes – The corrective actions address Department-wide system issues.
- ☒ No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)

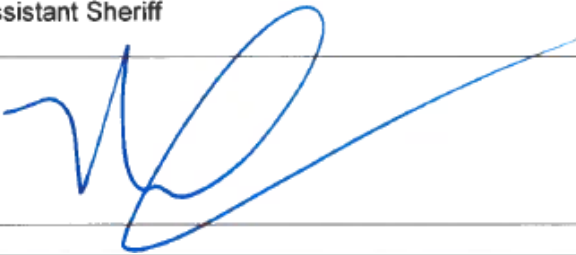
Julia Valdes, A/Captain
Risk Management Bureau

Signature:



Date:

06/03/2025

Name: (Department Head)	
Myron Johnson, Assistant Sheriff Patrol Operations	
Signature: 	Date: 2/17/25

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: 7/18/25

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Juan Jimenez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV20197
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	June 21, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Beaches and Harbors
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 50,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	KENNETH SHY, ESQ. M.R. Parker Law
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	KEVIN ENGELIEN, ESQ. Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is an auto-liability lawsuit which arises from a traffic collision that occurred on August 7, 2021. Plaintiff claims he suffered injuries and damages as a result of the collision. Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 31,963
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 18,135

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Catherine Marie Cordova vs. Jose Louis Macias, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV26528
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	August 16, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Internal Services Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 175,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	OGANES OGANESYAN, ESQ. Ness Law, Inc.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	KEVIN ENGELIEN, ESQ. Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is an auto-liability lawsuit which arises from a traffic collision that occurred on November 18, 2021. Plaintiff claims she suffered injuries and damages as a result of the collision. Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 67,032
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 16,767



Summary Corrective Action Plan

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Date of incident/Event:	November 18, 2021
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On November 18, 2021, at approximately 2:45pm, an ISD employee rear-ended plaintiff while traveling southbound on Eastern Avenue in Los Angeles. Reportedly, shortly after the traffic signal on City Terrace Drive changed from red to green, the two (2) vehicles collided. Per the Plaintiff, the County driver was negligent and rear-ended her vehicle. Per the County driver, the Plaintiff's actions caused him to have no opportunity to stop; and therefore, avoid hitting her vehicle from behind. The results of both internal and external investigations revealed that likely, the County driver was the at fault driver in the incident. At the time of the incident, the road conditions were light (daylight), clear and dry. Visibility was good and traffic was light. Plaintiff's vehicle was a 2017 Volkswagen Jetta. The County vehicle (#67032) was a 2020 Ford F450 truck. There were no witnesses to the incident. As well, there were no nearby traffic cameras that were able to offer video or still images of the intersection just prior to, during or after the incident. Both parties drove their respective vehicles from the scene of the incident after exchanging their personal information. While at the scene of the accident neither party indicated any injuries. Subsequently, the Plaintiff filed suit against the County and the employee in November 2022, alleging bodily injuries sustained as the result of the incident.

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

The County driver was following too closely and was unable to stop to avoid the collision.

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

The Department's Vehicle Accident Review Committee (VARC) reviewed this incident and deemed it "Preventable," finding that the employee was "following too closely." VARC's "Preventable" finding required that the employee be referred to both the Training and Development and Employee

Relations/Performance Management Sections. Respectively, the employee was required to attend a mandatory 8-Hour Preventable Motor Accident Driver Training; appropriate administrative actions were taken.

1. Training Completed – March 15, 2023
Responsible Party – Training and Development Section Manager
2. Administrative Corrective Action – Dated April 27, 2023
Responsible Party – Employee's Supervisor

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)

Vanessa Esparza

Signature:


Vanessa Esparza (May 13, 2025 16:11 PDT)

Date:

05/13/2025

Name: (Department Head)

Michael Owh

Signature:



Date:

5/29/2025

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:

6/3/2025

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Hernandez, Evangelina, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV24771
COURT	Los Angeles County Superior Court
DATE FILED	July 1, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 20,000,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	DAVID RING, ESQ. Taylor and Ring, LLP BRIAN CLAYPOOL, ESQ. Law Office of Brian Claypool ROBERT REESE, ESQ. Law Office of Robert Reese
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	THOMAS FAGAN Principal Deputy County Counsel Social Services Division DAVID J. WEISS David Weiss Law
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiffs allege the Department of Children and Family Services and its employees are liable for the death of a child and the abuse of the child's surviving siblings. Due to the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 291,406
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 15,872



Summary Corrective Action Plan

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Date of incident/event:	April 17, 2019 to July 6, 2019
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	In May 2019, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) sought a removal order from the Juvenile Dependency Court authorizing the detention of N.C. from his mother and father. Although the order was authorized, the Department did not execute the order and chose to continue its investigation concerning allegations of abuse/neglect that were reported to the DCFS Child Protection Hotline. On July 6, 2019, N.C. died of abuse at the hands of his parents.

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

A. At the Continuing Services (CS) Supervising Children's Social Worker's (SCSW's) instruction, the CS Children's Social Worker (CSW) submitted a removal order request to the Juvenile Dependency Court without first consulting the Emergency Response (ER) CSW or SCSW investigating an open, active ER referral involving child N.C. B. A removal order request was submitted and authorized by the Juvenile Dependency Court on May 15, 2019, but was never served or executed. C. The medical and/or sexual abuse examination the Court ordered pursuant to WIC §324.5 and/or Penal Code §13823.11 via the same removal order was not pursued or completed. D. The notes and entries concerning child/family contacts and visits were not always clear or detailed.

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

1. Internal Case/Referral Review DCFS management conducted an internal review of how the cases and referrals involving the family were handled and determined there were no proximal policy violations or practice concerns. Notwithstanding, DCFS management conducted a briefing with the servicing regional office, presented a summary of its review, provided refreshers on pertinent best practice areas (including case documentation), and facilitated a Lessons Learned module on the topic of warrants and removal orders. 2. Documentation Practices County Counsel and Department trainers, managers, and supervisors continue to emphasize
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the importance of case documentation during consultations and other meetings. DCFS management and supervisors will continue to emphasize how critical it is to keep clear, accurate, and comprehensive case notes and files.

3. Obtaining Warrants and/or Removal Orders Policy Revisions

The Department revised its Obtaining Warrants and/or Removal Orders policy (0070-570.10) on July 19, 2019; January 3, 2020; and June 11, 2020, to provide clarification and proffer further guidance/instruction. The revisions included language on how to address unserved/unexecuted removal orders; who must be notified if/when a child or youth will not be taken for a court-authorized medical/sexual examination; what documents SCSWs need to review prior to the submission of a removal order package; and what actions are necessary if/when more than one service component or program is servicing a family.

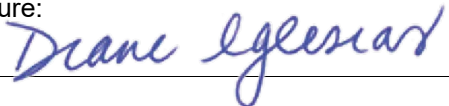
4. Warrants/Removal Order Trainings and Refreshers

The Office of the County Counsel updated the Warrant/Removal Order and Warrant/Removal Order Refresher trainings to ensure that their training content and other materials were congruent with the Department's revised Obtaining Warrants and/or Removal Orders policy (0070-570.10).

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)	
Diane Iglesias, Senior Deputy Director	
Signature: 	Date: 8/7/25

Name: (Department Head)	
Brandon T. Nichols, Director	
Signature: 	Date: 08/07/25

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: (Risk Management Inspector General)	
Betty Karmirlian	
Signature: 	Date: 8/8/2025

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

August 4, 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, Edward Morrissey, Melissa McCaverty, Richard T. Hsueh, and Kent M. Sommer appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Nickolay Teophilov, Roberto Avitia, and Arun Patel appeared for the Department of Health Services. Ronald Castaneda, Fady Khalil, and Carol Chaparro appeared for the Department of Public Works. Marian Bellard appeared for the Internal Services Department. Deputy Nancy K. Madarasz, Lieutenant Jennifer M. Roth, Lieutenant Santiago Cabrera, and Commander Oscar O. Barragan appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Vilma Lopez appeared for the Department of Children and Family Services. 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 9:43 a.m., Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(e).

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 11:45 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session to report the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Edith Rodrigueznava v. Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23CMCV00881

This medical malpractice lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained by Plaintiff while being treated at Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(a) in the amount of \$140,000.

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

**b. Judy Regan v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AHCV00340**

This personal injury lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff was injured due to a dangerous condition when she fell into a drainage ditch.

Action Taken:

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

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

**c. Maria Villalvazo v. City of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23CHCV00356**

This personal injury lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff was injured due to a dangerous condition when she tripped and fell on an uneven sidewalk.

Action Taken:

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

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

**d. Juan Marquez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:22-cv-07246**

This federal civil rights lawsuit arises from a deputy-involved shooting of Plaintiff during an arrest/search warrant at Plaintiff's residence.

Action Taken:

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

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

**e. Dalila Gomez v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STCV10303**

This lawsuit alleges that an employee with the Department of Children and Family Services was subjected to discrimination based on disability.

Action Taken:

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

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

5. Approval of the Minutes of the July 21, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the July 21, 2025, meeting.

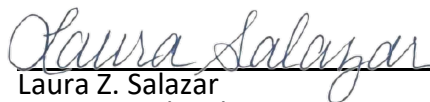
Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Salazar". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Laura Z. Salazar
Senior Paralegal
Office of the County Counsel