

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD IN ROOM 648 OF THE KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION,
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019, AT 9:30 A.M.

Present: Chair Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera and Adrienne Byers.

- 1. Call to Order.**
- 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 members of the public addressed the Claims Board.

- 3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code section 54956.9).**

- a. Ezequiel Garcia v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: MC 027 810**

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Department of Children and Family Services employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$90,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. Jeffrey Wilkes v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 617 608**

This dangerous condition lawsuit against the Department of Public Works arises from injuries allegedly sustained in a motorcycle accident.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$75,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

[See Supporting Document](#)

c. **Salvador Perez v. City of Whittier, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 599 283

This dangerous condition lawsuit against the Department of Public Works arises from injuries allegedly sustained in a skateboard accident.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$66,667.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

[See Supporting Document](#)

d. **Jacob Soto, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: MC 027 678

This multiple fatality dangerous condition lawsuit against the Department of Public Works arises from injuries allegedly sustained in a solo vehicle accident.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$91,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

[See Supporting Document](#)

e. **Janell Alexander v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 677 508

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$39,999.
(Continued from the Claims Board Meeting of September 16, 2019.)

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

[See Supporting Document](#)

f. **Los Angeles County Hall of Justice Dewatering – Administrative Notice of Violation**
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Claim No. 7014-2870-0001-4613-2372

This is a Notice of Violation from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board against the Sheriff's Department relating to the utility plant at the Hall of Justice.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$27,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

[See Supporting Document](#)

4. **Report of actions taken in Closed Session.**

The Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in Closed Session as indicated under Agenda Item No. 3 above.

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the September 16, 2019, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

[See Supporting Document](#)

6. **Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.**

No such matters were discussed.

7. **Adjournment.**

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Ezequiel Garcia v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	MC027810
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 7, 2018
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 90,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Stephen L. Rishoff, Accident Attorneys
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon, County Counsel Allen L. Thomas, Thomas Law Firm, Inc.
NATURE OF CASE	On October 2, 2017, Plaintiff Ezequiel Garca was rear-ended by an employee of the Department of Children and Family Servies as they came upon traffic congestion at the intersection of Avenue R and 17th Street East in Palmdale. Mr. Garcia sustained injuries as a result of the incident.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 18,957
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 10,401

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jeffrey Wilkes v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC617608
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	April 19, 2016
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 75,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Mary Caruso, Alder Law, PC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon, County Counsel John M. Coleman, Coleman and Associates
NATURE OF CASE	On December 20, 2015, Plaintiff Jeffrey Wilkes was driving a motorcycle westbound on Valley Boulevard in an unincorporated area of the County near La Puente when he encountered a pothole in the roadway which caused him to lose control of his motorcycle and crash. Mr. Wilkes sustained injuries as a result of the incident.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 66,052
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 25,568

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Salvador Perez v. City of Whittier, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC599283
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 28, 2015
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 66,667
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Christopher E. Russell Russell & Lazarus APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Richard K. Kudo Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	On October 20, 2014, plaintiff Salvador Perez, then 14 years old, was injured when he inadvertently rode his skateboard over an exposed metal signpost footer embedded in the sidewalk protruding above the sidewalk by approximately two to four inches. The footer caused him to fall off his skateboard and strike the ground. The incident occurred on the west sidewalk of northbound Carmenita Road near the intersection of Trumbull Street, in an unincorporated area of South Whittier. Plaintiff claims to have suffered injuries as a result of 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	\$ 142,314
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 13,528

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jacob Soto, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	MC027678
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	January 23, 2018
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 91,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Eric C. Bonholtzer Ball & Bonholtzer
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Richard K. Kudo Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This case involves a multiple fatality, dangerous condition of public property, solo vehicle accident that occurred on February 4, 2017, when Samantha Lozano lost control of her Infiniti G20 sedan while driving westbound on Palmdale Boulevard, just west of 130th Street East, in the unincorporated area of the County, near the City of Palmdale. Ms. Lozano was driving five passengers. Her boyfriend Sodel Wissar was seated in the front passenger seat while Jacob Soto, Brandon Banos, Talia Novak, and Steven Wissar were all seated, unbelted, in the back seat. Ms. Novak and Steven Wissar died as a result of the accident. Their minor children, plaintiffs A.R.W. and I.W., filed suit for the wrongful death of Ms. Novak and Steven Wissar. Plaintiffs Sodel Wissar, Mr. Soto, and Mr. Banos claim to have suffered injuries and damages from the accident. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 52,667
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 18,469

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Janell Alexander v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC677508
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	September 27, 2017
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 39,999
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Mindy Bish, Bish Law
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kelsey Nau, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	The lawsuit arises from a motor vehicle collision that occurred on September 15, 2016, in which Plaintiff Janell Alexander was injured when LASD volunteer on patrol, Benito Licon made a left turn in front of her vehicle. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 16,084
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 977

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Los Angeles County Hall of Justice Dewatering Administrative Notice of Violation
CASE NUMBER	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Claim No. 7014-2870-0001-4613-2372
COURT	Not Applicable
DATE FILED	Not Applicable
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 27,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Laura T. Jacobson, Deputy County Counsel Tracey J. Egoscue, Egoscue Law Group
NATURE OF CASE	The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System issued a permit violation of effluent limitations to be enforced by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to the Los Angeles County Hall of Justice Utility Plant.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 29,071
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 51,930

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

1. Call to Order.

This meeting of the County of Los Angeles Claims Board was called to order at 9:33 a.m. The meeting was held in the Executive Conference Room, 648 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Los Angeles, California.

Claims Board Members present at the meeting were: Chair Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera and Adrienne Byers.

Other persons in attendance at the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: Amie Park, Richard Kudo, LaTasha Corry, Jonathan McCaverty, Kelsey Nau, Richard Hsueh, Rick Brouwer, Stacey Lee, Rosanne Wong, and Adrian Gragas; Sheriff's Department: Chris Reed, John Lecravain, Kerry Carter, April Tardy, Duane Allen, Chris Marks, Martin Rodriguez, and Kevin Percy; Department of Parks and Recreation: Donald Limbrick and Malou Rubio; Department of Public Works: Jim Sporks and Jeffrey Howard; Public Library: Susan Fowler, Stacey Simpson, and Crystal Dovalina; Outside Counsel: Paul Beach.

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 members of the public addressed the Claims Board.

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

At 9:35 a.m., the Chairperson adjourned the meeting into Closed Session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(i).

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

At 11:08 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in Closed Session as follows:

**a. Claudia Herrera, et al. v. Los Angeles Unified School District, et al.
United States District Court Case No.: CV 17-0069**

This wrongful death lawsuit arises from an incident that occurred at a County Department of Parks and Recreation swimming pool.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$2,125,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

b. **Mariluna Mostacero v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 674 521

This lawsuit arises from a slip and fall at a County Park; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$80,000.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$80,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

c. **Janell Alexander v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 677 508

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued this item to a future meeting date.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

d. **Adrian Barrera Villa v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 695 593

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$40,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

e. **Jolie Dansby, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No.: 2:18-CV-05866

This lawsuit alleges federal civil rights violations, false arrest, and the initiation of court proceedings seeking to remove Plaintiff's children from her care.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$135,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

- f. **Alicia C. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 694 991

This lawsuit alleges negligence and civil rights violations against a Sheriff's Deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$70,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

- g. **Michelle Martin v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Orange County Superior Court Case No.: 30-2017-00950546

Joanna Vitela v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Orange County Superior Court Case No.: 30-2017-00950546

These consolidated lawsuits involve a multiple vehicle accident involving Plaintiffs and a Sheriff's Deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$23,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

- h. **Maria Nguyen v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 594 604

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee from the Department of Public Works was subjected to employment discrimination.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$100,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

- i. **Maydelines Romero Conde v. County of Los Angeles Public Library**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 713 659

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee from the Los Angeles County Public Library was subjected to employment discrimination.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$57,500.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the August 19, 2019, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera and Adrienne Byers

6. **Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.**

No such matters were discussed.

7. **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

By 
Derek Stane