

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD VIA ONLINE CONFERENCE CALL
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021, 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 were on the public teleconference line to address the Claims Board or to listen to the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

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

- a. **Non-Litigated Claim of USAA**

This is a subrogation claim for reimbursement of the insurance benefits paid for property damages sustained in an automobile accident involving a Department of Social Services employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$30,826..

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. **Non-Litigated Claims of Alfredo Munoz and Ian Flores**

These claims arise from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained when his vehicle was involved in a collision with a Department of Public Works employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$28,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

c. **Edgar Lopez v. Edith Gharibian, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV13091

This lawsuit concerns allegations that a Department of Children and Family Services employee was negligent when opening the door of a County vehicle directly into a bicycle path.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$95,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

d. **Iris Teresa Ramirez, et al. v. Josefa Hernandez, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV10786

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained in a multi-vehicle accident involving a Sheriff's Deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$25,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

e. **Victor Ulloa, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19AVCV00302

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$33,500.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

f. **Daniel Bertino v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV10354

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained when plaintiff's' motorcycle was involved in a collision with a vehicle driven by a Sheriff Department civilian employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$50,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

g. **Tracy Evanson v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:19-CV-05393

This lawsuit concerns allegations of federal civil rights violations against the Sheriff's Department for unreasonable search and seizure arising from the execution of a search warrant.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$200,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

h. **Vermont Entertainment Village, LLC v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS171709

This lawsuit involves a claim for attorneys' fees associated with a mandamus proceeding pertaining to a California Public Records Act involving the Board of Supervisors.

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](#)

i. **Jaime Gomez Beltran v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV41801

This lawsuit involves allegations that an employee with the Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs was subjected to disability discrimination and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$55,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles, and Arlene Barrera
Abstention: 1 – Adrienne Byers

j. **Timothy Smith v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV20211

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee with the Fire Department was subjected to disability discrimination, failure to accommodate and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$200,000.

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

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 December 7, 2020, 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	Non-Litigated claim of USAA
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	February 20, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Social Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 30,826
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Nicole Messamore, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Lindsay Yoshiyama, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This subrogation claim arises from a February 20, 2019, motor vehicle accident between USAA's insured vehicle and a Department of Public Social Services Social Worker's vehicle. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of this claim is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 60

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-Litigated Claims of Alfredo Munoz and Ian Flores
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works - Flood Control District
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 28,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Jacob H. Seropian Seropian Law, A PC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Jessica C. Rivas Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	These claims arise from a vehicle collision that occurred on April 1, 2019, in Inglewood, when a vehicle driven by a Department of Public Works employee collided with Mr. Munoz' vehicle. Ms. Munoz and Mr. Flores claim to have suffered injuries 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	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Edgar Lopez v. Edith Gharibian, et al.
CASE NUMBER	19STCV13091
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	April 16, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 90,000 plus \$5,000 for Plaintiff's mediation costs
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Joshua C. Cohen Cohen Law Partners
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Richard K. Kudo Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiff Edgar Lopez alleges he was injured on September 19, 2018, when a Department of Children and Family Services employee opened her vehicle's driver's side front door directly into the path of plaintiff's bicycle. The incident occurred on North Alexandria Avenue in the City of Los Angeles. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 42,284
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 22,307

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Iris Teresa Ramirez, et al. v. Josefa Medel Hernandez, et al.
CASE NUMBER	19STCV10786
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 28, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 25,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Vladimir Shagramanov, Esq. SP Law Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Jonathan McCaverty Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This case involves a three vehicle collision that occurred on September 18, 2018 on the 110 freeway near El Segundo Boulevard. The three vehicles were travelling in the same lane at approximately 40 miles-per-hour. The first vehicle stopped for traffic, the second vehicle hit the first vehicle and the third vehicle, driven by a Deputy Sheriff, hit the second vehicle which caused another collision between the first and second vehicles.</p> <p>Plaintiff claims 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	\$ 15,307
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 160

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Victor Ulloa, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	19AVCV00302
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	April 17, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 33,500
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Eunice Hahn, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin J. Engalien Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from a vehicle versus vehicle collision that occurred on August 18, 2018, when an employee of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department entered the intersection of the Mall Loop Road and Valley Central Way. Mr. Caro's path of travel was controlled by a stop sign while the Plaintiffs' pathway was uncontrolled. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 4,323
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 160

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Daniel Bertino v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV10354
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 13, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ \$50,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	David M. Blaine Law Offices of Ted B. Wacker
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Adrian G. Gragas Assistant County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from an auto versus motorcycle collision which occurred on April 10, 2020. A Sheriff's Department vehicle abruptly pulled into the Plaintiff's lane of travel causing Plaintiff's motorcycle to go down on its side. As a result, Plaintiff sustained personal injury and property damage. Considering the risks and uncertainties of trial, a full settlement is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 9,612
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 2,067

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Tracy Evanson, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:19-CV-05393
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	June 20, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 200,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Jorge Gonzalez, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Richard Hsueh Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$200,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, this federal lawsuit filed by Plaintiff Tracy Evanson and her three children, Essence Guss, Journey Rojas, and Shilo Rojas (collectively "Plaintiffs"), against the County and Detective Christopher Conley, alleging federal civil rights violations for unreasonable search and seizure arising from the execution of a search warrant at their home.</p> <p>Given the 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.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 67,273
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 1,198

Case Name: Tracy Evanson, et al. 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 confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	June 22, 2017
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Tracy Evanson, et al. v. County of Los Angeles</u> Summary Corrective Action Plan 2020-19</p> <p>On April 14, 2017, patrol deputies assigned to Pico Rivera Sheriff Station arrested a male suspect for driving a vehicle without owner's consent. During the investigation, an inventory search of the stolen vehicle was conducted and a cellular telephone (cell phone) was recovered from the cabin of the vehicle. The suspect denied ownership of the cell phone when questioned after his arrest. The registered owner of the vehicle also denied ownership of the cell phone.</p> <p>Note: The suspect was a known gang member of the "Pico Viejo" with the moniker "Terko." The suspect had a tattoo of the letters "PV" on the right forearm. The tattoo is known to be a tattoo of criminal street gang "Pico Viejo."</p> <p>Based on the suspect's gang affiliation the first detective assigned to investigate the stolen vehicle criminal case was from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's, Operation Safe Street (OSS), Detective Bureau.</p> <p>On April 18, 2017, the first detective examined the cell phone found in the stolen vehicle. The first detective turned the power on, he immediately recognized the man photographed on the screen. The man on the cell phone screen was a member of the "Pico Viejo" gang and was murdered on January 11, 2017. The screen on the cell phone depicted the photograph, the letters "R.I.P." and the male's name." The first detective formed the opinion that the cell phone likely belonged to the suspect.</p> <p>On April 25, 2017, the first detective obtained a search warrant to search the contents of the cell phone for evidence to establish that the cell phone was owned by the suspect. The evidence from the cell phone would link the suspect to the commission of the crime (i.e., vehicle theft), such as photographs and global positioning system (GPS) data. After the warrant was obtained, data was extracted from the cell phone.</p> <p>Note: On May 5, 2017, the suspect was released from custody on bail.</p> <p>On May 31, 2017, the first detective received all the information retrieved from the suspect's cell phone (CD ROM) and began reviewing the cell phone data. Over the course of approximately two weeks, the first detective reviewed thousands of text messages, images, emails, and device locations, which indicated the cell phone was in fact owned by the suspect. The first detective also discovered photographs of the suspect holding a firearm. As a convicted felon, the suspect was prohibited from</p>

possessing firearms. Using GPS data which is imbedded in the photographs taken on the suspect's cell phone, the first detective identified two residences (8625 Haney Street, Pico Rivera, Los Angeles, CA 90660 and 935 Bradford Street, Pomona, CA 91767) associated to the suspect.

On June 14, 2017, the first detective authored a search warrant for both residences to locate the firearms, which was reviewed and endorsed by a magistrate.

The search warrant described the two locations as follow:

- 8625 Haney Street, Pico Rivera, Los Angeles County, California 90660, further described as a single-family residence located on a parcel of land at the above address.
- 935 Bradford Street, Pomona, Los Angeles County, California 91767, further described as a single-family residence located on a parcel of land at the above address. The structure is comprised of tan wood exterior, brown trim, and a brown composite roof.

The east facing front door is made of brown wood with a window in the center. The numbers "935" are affixed to the east face of the house in black numbers. There is a large porch at the front of the location with surveillance camera on the trim. The driveway is located on the west side of the property. The garage is on the same parcel as this location and is converted to an unpermitted illegal residence. It appears that the garage was made to appear as its own address located at 185 East Kingsley, Pomona, Los Angeles County, California 91767. The structure is comprised of tan brick exterior with a stucco face, white trim, and a gray composite roof. The front door faces west with a white security screen covering the door.

The numbers "185" are affixed to a wood support beam to the left of the front door and there are two windows on each side of the front door. The driveway is located on the north side of the property. There is one small lemon tree located in the side yard of the property.

Note: The Building and Safety Department has cited the homeowner for the converted condition of the garage.

The Los Angeles County Assessor does not recognize this to be a legitimate address. The legal address is 935 Bradford Street, Pomona, Los Angeles County, California 91767.

Note: 935 Bradford Street and 185 East Kingsley are both located on the same parcel of land, which is owned by the plaintiff. The plaintiff resides at 935 Bradford Street and is the landlord to the tenants who reside at 185 East Kingsley.

On June 20, 2017, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Operation Safe Street (OSS) Bureau detectives held a tactical plan operational pre-briefing at the Pico Rivera Station in preparation for the service of the search warrant.

	<p>On June 22, 2017, at 5:00 am, the OSS detectives executed the search warrant at "Location 2" (plaintiff's property). Noting that there were two structures on the property with two different addresses (935 Bradford Street and 185 East Kingsley), the OSS detective search team decided to enter the 935 Bradford Street structure first, given that it was the largest and posed the biggest threat.</p> <p>The first detective knocked loudly on the plaintiff's front door approximately six times and yelled, "935 Bradford Street, Sheriff's Department, Search Warrant, Demand Entry", which resulted in no response from the plaintiff or residents inside the location. The first detective knocked loudly again on the plaintiff's front door approximately seven more times and yelled, "Sheriff's Department, Demand Entry, 935 Bradford Street." The first detective heard footsteps running inside the residence, which led him to believe the occupants may be trying to quickly destroy evidence or flee the location.</p> <p>The OSS detective search team entered the residence using a pick and battering ram with their duty weapons drawn and asked all occupants in the home to "come out" into the living room area with their hands up. The occupants in the home began screaming and crying. All the occupants of the residence (the plaintiff and a family friend visiting from out of town) were then detained and escorted outside.</p> <p>The plaintiff was handcuffed for safety purposes. The OSS detective search team then proceeded to clear the house, ensuring there was nobody else inside who could have posed a danger to the search team.</p> <p>The second structure on the property (185 East Kingsley), which was unoccupied and under construction appeared as if it was being remodeled. After both structures were cleared, the plaintiff and their family friend were brought back inside of the 935 Bradford Street residence.</p> <p>The first detective immediately recognized the persons they detained did not appear to be involved in any criminal activity. The plaintiff told the first detective the suspect he was looking for was evicted approximately a month prior. Based upon those facts, the decision was made not to conduct a search of the location.</p> <p>The first detective left his contact information with the plaintiff and left the location. No arrests were made and no evidence was seized from the plaintiff's residence. The plaintiff alleges she and her family were "traumatized" as a result of the incident.</p> <p>On December 27, 2017, the plaintiff lodged a formal complaint with Los Angeles Sheriff's Department against the first detective regarding the incident.</p>
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1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the service of a lawful search warrant at the plaintiff's residence, based on GPS data and text messages retrieved from the suspect's cell phone linking the suspect to the Pomona address.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the detention of the plaintiff and her family during the execution of the search warrant.

A **non-Department** root cause was the Los Angeles County Assessor's office only recognized one residence on the same property, and the converted garage was an unpermitted residence.

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

The plaintiff alleged the first detective illegally detained her and her family and unlawfully searched her residence on June 22, 2017, the judicial search warrant was obtained by means of judicial deception. Each allegation was investigated and addressed as follows:

Investigation into the Plaintiff's Allegations of unlawfully searching her residence

The incident was reviewed by executives from Operation Safe Streets Bureau and Detective Division to assess if any administrative misconduct occurred before, during, and/or after the incident.

Executive review of this incident did not reveal any employee misconduct. The actions taken by the first detective and other involved sheriff's personnel were found to be within the guidelines of what is expected from employees assigned to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department when investigating a criminal case.

A review of the Department's actions in this matter was found to be justified and proper.

Investigation into Plaintiff's Allegations of a search warrant obtained by judicial deception

A thorough investigation was conducted into the plaintiff's allegations regarding obtaining a search warrant by judicial deception.

The warrant obtained by the first detective states that 185 East Kingsley, Pomona, CA 91767 structure is a garage on the property that is an unpermitted illegal residence. According to the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office, they do not recognize this to be a legitimate address. The legal address is 935 Bradford Street, Pomona, CA 91767.

In 2013, Documents obtained from the City of Pomona show the owner of 935 Bradford Street was cited for the unpermitted conversion of the garage into a separate residence.

In 2014, the garage conversion was completely inspected, permitted, and approved by the City of Pomona and the unit was given its own address of 185 East Kingsley.

As of September 2, 2020, records from the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office listed the properties at the location as one single address of 935 Bradford, Pomona, CA 91767, and there was no record of 185 East Kingsley Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767.

It is clear the first detective was given wrong information from the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office.

In an effort to improve the proper address check of a location prior to authoring a search warrant department member will verify the address through the cities to ensure the Los Angeles County Accessors Office records are current and up to date.

A review of the Department's actions in this matter was found to be justified and proper.

County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

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

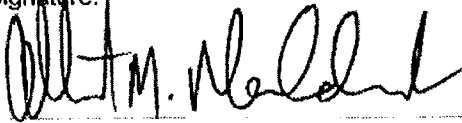
- Yes – The corrective actions address Department-wide system issues.
 No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)

Albert M. Maldonado, Captain
Risk Management Bureau

Signature:



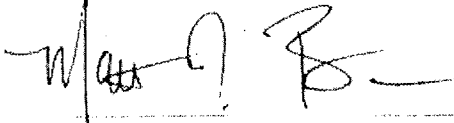
Date:

11/3/20

Name: (Department Head)

Matthew J. Burson, Chief
Professional Standards Division

Signature:



Date:

11/12/20

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)

Destiny Castro

Signature:

Destiny Castro

Date:

11/17/2020

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	<i>Vermont Entertainment Village LLC v. County of Los Angeles, et al.</i>
CASE NUMBER	BS171709
COURT	Los Angeles County Superior Court
DATE FILED	December 1, 2017
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Board of Supervisors
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 75,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Robert P. Silverstein, Esq., Silverstein Law Firm, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Keever R. Muir, Deputy County Counsel
OUTSIDE COUNSEL	Brian Bergman, Esq., Bergman Dacey Goldsmith, APC
NATURE OF CASE	This is a petition for writ of mandate filed by Vermont Entertainment Village, LLC ("Petitioner"), seeking a court order to compel County compliance with its California Public Records Act requests. A settlement will avoid further litigation costs and potential recovery of Petitioner's attorneys' fees.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ In house: \$26,544; Outside Counsel: \$219,821
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ In House: None; Outside Counsel: \$285

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 7, 2020

1. Call to Order.

This meeting of the County of Los Angeles Claims Board was called to order at 9:37 a.m. The meeting was held via teleconference with all Claims Board Members participating telephonically. Claims Board Members online for the teleconference meeting were: Chair Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers.

All other persons also appeared telephonically. Those attending the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: David Lee, Michael Gordon, Leonard Linares, Richard Hsueh, Millicent Rolon, Anthony Morrone, Camille Granville Townsend, and Eduardo Montelongo; Sheriff's Department: Mark Allen, Robert Lewis, Robert Wiard, Charles Norris, Ernest Chavez, Rick Mejia, Melynie Rivers, and Kristine Corrales; Department of Public Works: Ronald Castenada, and Michael Hays; Department of Public Health: Nichole Alcara; Probation Department: Robert Smythe, and Cherise Martin; Department of Health Services: Katie Mathers; and Outside Counsel: Jill Williams, Rodney Diggs, and Matthew Grace.

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 were on the public teleconference phone line to address the Claims Board.

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

At 9:38 a.m., Chair Steve Robles convened the meeting into closed session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(i).

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

No members of the public were on the public teleconference phone line to hear the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

At 11:57 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session via the public teleconference line and reported the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Patricia Felix-Nevins v. County of Los Angeles, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 18STCV04185

This dangerous condition lawsuit alleges Plaintiff suffered injuries sustained from a trip and fall on a sidewalk in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$24,500.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$24,500.

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

**b. Michael Brown v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. MC 027757**

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained when a tree branch fell on Plaintiff at a Department of Public Health facility; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$125,000.

Action Taken:

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

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

**c. Courtney Weis v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 724216**

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in an automobile accident involving an employee of the Sheriff's Department; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$45,000.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$45,000.

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

d. Claim of Desiree Monique Villalobos

This claim alleges Plaintiff was sexually assaulted by a Sheriff's Deputy at the Century Regional Detention Facility; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$50,000.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$50,000.

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

**e. Evangelina P., et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV03826**

This wrongful death lawsuit concerns allegations of excessive force by Sheriff Deputies arising out of the shooting of Plaintiffs' father; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$600,000.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$600,000.

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

f. Claim of Brian Anderson

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Probation Department was subjected to disability discrimination, failure to accommodate, and failure to engage in the interactive process; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$99,999.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$99,999.

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

**g. Marie Russell v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 642848**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Department of Health Services was subjected to age and disability discrimination, retaliation, and failure to accommodate; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$300,000.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$300,000.

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

5. Approval of the Minutes of the November 16, 2020, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Chari 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 11:59 a.m.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

By



Derek Stane