

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD VIA ONLINE CONFERENCE CALL
ON MONDAY, JULY 19, 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. **Robert Steinman v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV35091**

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from fatal injuries sustained when plaintiff's mother was struck and killed by a vehicle driven by an employee of the Department of Public Works.

Action Taken:

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

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. **Lucas Sanchez Rodriguez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STLC09380**

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving an employee of the Department of Public Works.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$29,500.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

c. **Dessalegn Alemu v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS173198

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving an Internal Services Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$99,995.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

d. **Leilani Ortiz, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV07358

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff and her family allegedly sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Fire Department service truck.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$16,000,000.

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

e. **Lucia C. Montes v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 18STCV04579

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's sergeant.

Action Taken:

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

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

f. **Romanah Holmes-Bey v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 15-CV-04822

This lawsuit concerns allegations of civil rights violations, false arrest, and excessive force by Sheriff's deputies during a traffic stop.

Action Taken:

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

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**g. Demetrius Jose Vernon v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 20-CV-07037 (MRW)**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that the Sheriff's Department failed to protect an inmate who was assaulted while he was incarcerated at Men's Central Jail.

Action Taken:

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

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

See Supporting Document

**h. Joseph Charles Evans, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:19-CV-00793-MWF**

This lawsuit alleges wrongful death and federal civil rights violations arising out of the death of an inmate while in custody of the Sheriff's Department at the Inmate Reception Center.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$1,500,000.

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

**i. Pearl Steinberg v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV22717**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Department of Children and Family Services was subjected to discrimination, failure to provide reasonable accommodation, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$38,500.

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

j. Claim of Sheila Mitchell

This claim concerns allegations that an employee of the Probation Department was subjected to discrimination and retaliation based on sexual orientation and disability.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$350,000.

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 June 21, 2021, 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 an 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	Robert Steinman v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	19STCV35091
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 1, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 45,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	V. James Desimone, Esq. V. James Desimone Law
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon Deputy County Counsel Thomas C. Hurrell Hurrell Cantrall, LLP
NATURE OF CASE	On July 27, 2018, Plaintiff's decedent was struck by an automobile and killed while crossing Admiralty Way in Marina Del Rey. Plaintiff contends that the roadway was a dangerous condition of public property which caused him to sustain injuries for which he seeks damages. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$45,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 81,946
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 15,092

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Lucas Sanchez Rodriguez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	19STLC09380
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 9, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 29,500
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	William Paulsen, Esq. Law Offices of William Paulsen
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	Gilbert M. Nishimura Seki, Nishimura & Watase, LLP On May 29, 2019, Plaintiff Lucas Sanchez Rodriguez was allegedly injured as a result of a motor vehicle versus motor vehicle collision involving a Department of Public Works employee. The incident took place on eastbound I-210 Freeway near its interchange with State Route 57 in Glendora. Plaintiff filed a lawsuit seeking damages for injuries he allegedly sustained as a result of the incident. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$29,500 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 9,074
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 136

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Dessalegn Alemu v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BS173198
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	December 24, 2018
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Internal Services Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 99,995
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Girma H. Gebriel, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Yuan Chang Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from an automobile accident that occurred on October 12, 2016, when a vehicle operated by an employee of the Los Angeles County Internal Services Department rear ended Plaintiff's vehicle. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 87,335
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 17,810

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Lucia C. Montes v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	18STCV04579
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	November 8, 2018
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 25,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	The Dominguez Firm
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Richard K. Kudo Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This case involves a vehicle collision that occurred on December 18, 2017, in the City of Lakewood, when a Sheriff's Department vehicle driven by a Department Sergeant rear-ended the vehicle driven by Plaintiff Lucia Montes. 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.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 29,523
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 3,812

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Romanah Holmes-Bey v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:15-CV-04822
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	May 9, 2016
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 75,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Matthew Hoesly, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Richard Hsueh Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle in the amount of \$75,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, this federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Plaintiff Romanah Holmes-Bey against the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and several Sheriff's Deputies arising from the arrest of Holmes-Bey during a traffic stop.</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 \$75,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 57,145
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 9,824

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Demetrius Jose Vernon v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20-cv-07037 (MRW)
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	06/15/2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 50,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	John Blanchard, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Melodie Larsen, Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$50,000 a lawsuit filed by Demetrius Jose Vernon ("Plaintiff"), who was attacked by another inmate who escaped from his cell, entered Plaintiff's cell, and stabbed him while he was sleeping. Plaintiff alleges civil rights and State law claims based on an alleged failure to protect him from the other inmate. Plaintiff contends that Custody staff facilitated the attack or that the lock on his cell was broken.</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 \$50,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 15,627
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 1,658

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 21, 2021

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the County of Los Angeles Claims Board was called to order at 9:40 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: Brian Chu, Katherine Bowser, Kevin Engelen, Richard Hsueh, and Kent Sommer; Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner: Akiko Tagawa, and Wendy Myring; Sheriff's Department: Robert Lewis, Juan Briseno, Yvonne O'Brien, Holly Francisco, Loy McBride, Melynie Rivers, and Shanese Winfrey; Department of Children and Family Services: Armand Montiel; District Attorney's Office: Dorrine Jordan, and Julie Dixon-Silva; and Outside Counsel: Patrick Stockalper, Danielle Foster, and Karen Joynt.

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 9:41 a.m., the Chair convened the meeting into closed session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(e).

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 11:09 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session via the public teleconference phone line and reported the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Yolanda E. Barajas Luna, et al. v. County of Los Angeles Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV07525

This lawsuit arises from alleged mishandling of a decedent's remains by the Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner employees.

Action Taken:

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

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

**b. Jessica Dadisman v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:18-CV-10119**

This lawsuit alleges the wrongful detention of minor children and civil rights violations by the Department of Children and Family Services

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$165,000.

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

**c. Michelle Mendoza, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV44924**

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

Action Taken:

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

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

**d. Karina Simon Schneidman, et al. v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 20-CV-4009 (JWH)**

This lawsuit alleges federal civil rights violations, excessive force, and unlawful detention during the execution of a search warrant by the Sheriff's Department.

Action Taken:

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

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

**e. Thomas Krag v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV32229**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the District Attorney's office was subjected to discrimination, failure to provide reasonable accommodation, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$150,000.

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

5. Approval of the Minutes of the June 7, 2021, 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 an 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 11:11 a.m.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

By



Derek Starie