



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
Steve Robles
Chief Executive Office
Adrienne M. Byers
Office of the County Counsel

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Los Angeles County Claims Board will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, October 17, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.**, via online conference call. Members of the public who would like to listen to the open session of the meeting may call (323) 776-6996, then enter ID 974 960 121#, at 9:30 a.m. on October 17, 2022.

Reports of actions taken in Closed Session. The Los Angeles County Claims Board will report actions taken on any Closed Session Items on Monday, October 17, 2022 at 10:45 a.m. Members of the public who would like to hear reportable actions taken on any Closed Session items may call (323) 776-6996, then enter ID 974 960 121#, at 10:40 a.m. on October 17, 2022. Please note that this time 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 W. Temple St., Los Angeles, CA, 90012.

Written public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 12 p.m. on Friday, October 14, 2022. 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.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: Any supporting documents will be posted 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 Secretary Derek Stane at dstane@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 – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision [a] of Government Code Section 54956.9).

- a. Sitha Thatch, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:18-CV-10702

This lawsuit alleges federal civil rights violations and deliberate indifference to safety needs by Sheriff's Department jail staff for the death of an inmate at Men's Central Jail; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$400,000.

- b. Brenda Galkin v. Varoz Aghajanian, et al.
Brenda Galkin v. The Department of Social Services, et al.

These lawsuits allege that the Department of Children and Family Services failed to handle plaintiff's request for CALWORKS and to investigate her claim for child support; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$90,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- c. Clark Lunde v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV21838

This dangerous condition lawsuit against the Department of Beaches and Harbors arises from a trip and fall accident at a park maintained by the County; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$500,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- d. Los Angeles Times Communications, LLC v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS162607

This lawsuit involves a dispute regarding the production of records by the Sheriff's Department under the California Public Records Act; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$426,836.79.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- e. Charles Muse v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV14877

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Sheriff's Department was subjected to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$85,500.

4. Approval of the minutes of the September 19, 2022, regular meeting of the Claims Board.
5. Approval of the minutes of the October 3, 2022, regular meeting of the Claims Board.
6. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Brenda Galkin v. Varoz Aghajanian, et al. Brenda Galkin v. The Department of Public Social Services, et al.
CASE NUMBER	21STCV08695 20STCV37818
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 5, 2021 October 2, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Child Support Services; Public Social Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 90,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	TORIN DORROS, ESQ. Dorros Law
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	SHAWN LUNA Senior Deputy County Counsel Social Services Division ARMITA RADJABIAN Deputy County Counsel Social Services Division ANITA TORRES Torres & Brenner
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$90,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a lawsuit filed by Brenda Galkin, against the County of Los Angeles. Ms. Galkin alleges the County breached its mandatory duties under Family Code section 17415 when the Department of Public Social Services failed to refer her CalWORKS application to the Child Support Services Department in 2013 and/or investigate her claim for child support prior to 2018, resulting in five years of lost monies.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 243,234
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 34,477

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Clark Lunde v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	20STCV21838
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	June 10, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Beaches and Harbors
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 500,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Sark Ohanian, Esq. Carpenter and Zuckerman
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin J. Engelen Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a dangerous condition of public property lawsuit that arises from a trip and fall accident that occurred on July 5, 2019, when Mr. Lunde tripped and fell over an upraised portion of the concrete at Aubrey E. Austin Jr. Memorial Park. Mr. Lunde struck his face and head on the ground and suffered multiple fractures to his jaw, orthopedic injuries to his neck and back, and a mild traumatic brain injury as a result of the fall. He claims the County of Los Angeles Beaches and Harbors Department is responsible for his injuries as the walkway was in a dangerous condition of public property.</p> <p>Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 56,224
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 53,207



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:	July 5, 2019
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On July 5, 2019, at approximately 9:30 a.m., the plaintiff, Mr. Clark Lunde, alleges that he was walking on the sidewalk at the Aubrey Austin Park in Marina del Rey when he tripped over a raised sidewalk and fell sustaining fractures to his face and jaw.

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

- A. The roots of the mature coral trees that are present in the area upraised the sidewalk causing trip hazards. Coral trees are located in a number of areas in the Marina and upraised sidewalks are common around these trees.
- B. The deficiency was noted in previous quarterly inspection reports but was not corrected due to competing priorities and lack of equipment.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:

(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

A.1. The Department is in the process of performing baseline inspections to determine what sidewalks need corrections/repair and recommend trees for removal and replacement. The Department will work with the appropriate stakeholders to remove trees when the need arises. This activity is expected to end by December 2023.

A.2. Perform minor repairs to sidewalks to eliminate trip hazards. In 2019, the Department purchased a sidewalk saw and trained staff to use the saw and a previously purchased scarifier to complete minor sidewalk repairs without the need to engage Internal Services Department (ISD) through work orders. Larger jobs will be referred to ISD. This is an ongoing activity. The raised sidewalk that was the root cause of this accident was repaired in July 2020 by cutting the sidewalk, removing the tree roots and pouring new concrete.

B.1 In 2020, the Department subscribed to and is currently using Maximo (online work order system) to streamline the recording of deficiencies and track work orders to completion. This system replaced the

previous paper-based system that was cumbersome and inefficient. This is an ongoing activity.
The person responsible for these corrective actions is Jose Bedolla, Marina District Manager.

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)
Stefan Popescu, Special Assistant, BH

Signature:



Date:

05/05/2022

Name: (Department Head)
Gary Jones, Director

Signature:



Date:

05/06/2022

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:



Date:

05/09/2022

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Los Angeles Times Communications, LLC v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	BS162607
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	May 20, 2016
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 426,836.79
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Kelly Aviles, Esq. Law Offices of Kelly Aviles
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Roderick Sasis, Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$426,836.79, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a California Public Records Act ("CPRA") lawsuit filed by the Los Angeles Times ("Plaintiff") against the County.</p> <p>Due to 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 \$426,836.79 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 217,666.25
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 37,457.32

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:39 a.m. The meeting was held via teleconference with all Claims Board Members participating telephonically. Claims Board Members online for the teleconference meeting were: Acting Chair Adrienne M. Byers and Oscar Valdez. Steve Robles was absent from the meeting

All other persons also appeared telephonically. Those attending the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: Rosanne Wong, Jennifer Lehman, Ed Morrissey, Narbeh Bagdasarian, David Lee, Richard Kudo, Minas Samuelian, Lana Choi, Millicent Rolon, Jonathan McCaverty, Thomas Fagan, Anthony Morrone, and Stacey Lee; Department of Health Services: Arun Patel, Anish Mahajan, Lan Soeur, Haya Nemtzov, and Roberto Avitia; Probation Department: Deana Carlisle, and Roberty Smythe; Department of Children and Family Services: Christina Lee; Assessor's Office: Brian Zepeda, and Ivan Masayon; Internal Services Department: Gladys Alcaez, and Marian Bellard; Sheriff's Department: Edward Ramirez, Jennifer Seetoo, Jason Bryant, Pilar Chavez, Eric Odenthal, David Vangorder, Richard Mejia, Shawnee Hinchman, Monica Botello, Rick Rector, Craig Walker, Alise Norman, Shanese Winfrey, and Irma Chavez; Outside Counsel: Kelly Kiseskey, Lenore Kelly, Amnon Siegel, David Weiss, George Chuang, William Balderrama, and Avi Burkwitz.

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(k).

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

There was an unidentified member of the public with an recognizable number on the public teleconference line but there was no response after the three announcements requesting public comment.

At 1:18 p.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. **Jullian Cassianis v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 18STCV04340

This medical malpractice lawsuit against the Department of Health Services alleges that Harbor-UCLA Medical Center delayed providing care to plaintiff.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$4,000,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Adrienne M. Byers and Oscar Valdez
Absent: Steve Robles

b. **Stacy Boyce v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV2187

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued this item to a future meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Adrienne M. Byers and Oscar Valdez
Absent: Steve Robles

c. **Rebecca Monges v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV43282

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries plaintiff sustained in an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Adrienne M. Byers and Oscar Valdez
Absent: Steve Robles

d. **Richard Escarcega v. Steven Martinez, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-CV-06155

This federal civil rights lawsuit alleges plaintiff was unlawfully detained and subjected to excessive force while being detained by Sheriff's Department deputies.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Adrienne M. Byers and Oscar Valdez
Absent: Steve Robles

e. **Yolanda Sanchez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:20-CV-01146

This wrongful death lawsuit arises from the death of plaintiff's son, who died while in the custody of the Sheriff's Department.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$850,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Adrienne M. Byers and Oscar Valdez
Absent: Steve Robles

f. **Pablo Unzueta v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 21-CV-8378

This federal civil rights lawsuit alleges plaintiff was wrongfully searched, arrested, and had his property seized by Sheriff's Department deputies.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Adrienne M. Byers and Oscar Valdez
Absent: Steve Robles

g. **Rufino Paredes v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 21-CV-02644

This wrongful death lawsuit alleges federal civil rights violations, denial of medical care, and negligence arising from the death of plaintiff's son while in the custody of the Sheriff's Department.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$1,900,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Adrienne M. Byers and Oscar Valdez
Absent: Steve Robles

h. **Elisa Guardado, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STV33203

This wrongful death lawsuit arises from the death of plaintiff's son, who was fatally shot by a Sheriff's deputy in an unincorporated area near the City of Gardena.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$8,000,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Adrienne M. Byers and Oscar Valdez
Absent: Steve Robles

i. **Victor Avalos, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV27032

This wrongful death lawsuit alleges civil rights violations, fraud, and negligence against the Department of Children and Family Services arising out of the death of a minor.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$32,000,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Adrienne M. Byers and Oscar Valdez
Absent: Steve Robles

j. **Ardath Broderick v. Los Angeles County Probation Department**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case. No. BC708080

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Probation Department was subjected to disability discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued this item to a future meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Adrienne M. Byers and Oscar Valdez
Absent: Steve Robles

k. **Vince Latkins v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court No. 19STCV41486

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Assessor's Office was subjected to disability discrimination, harassment, 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: 2 – Adrienne M. Byers and Oscar Valdez
Absent: Steve Robles

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the August 15, 2022, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued this item to the next meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Adrienne M. Byers and Oscar Valdez
Absent: Steve Robles

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By *Derek Stane*
Derek Stane
Claims Board Secretary

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 3, 2022

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:38 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, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez.

All other persons also appeared telephonically. Those attending the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: Joseph Langton, Lindsay Yoshiyama, Latasha Corry, David Lee, Anthony Morrone, and Rosanne Wong; Department of Public Works: Bill Winter, Ronald Castaneda, and Michael Hays; Probation Department: Deana Carlisle, and Robert Smythe; Internal Services Department: Gladys Alcaez, Bryce Tyler, and Marian Bellard; Sheriff's Department: Richard Mejia, Monica Botello, Alise Norman, Rodney Moore, Julia Valdes, Brenda Parker, Christina Baker, Shanese Winfrey, and Irma Chavez; Outside Counsel: William Balderrama.

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(f).

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 11:08 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. Non-Litigated Claim of LaDrena Dansby

Claimants seek compensation from the Department of Public Works for property damage allegedly caused by a backflow of sewage due to a mainline blockage.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.a. in the amount of \$49,385.18.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers

b. Non-Litigated Claim of Maria and Teresa Rodriguez

Claimants seek compensation from the Sheriff's Department for property damage allegedly caused by a Sheriff's deputy-involved shooting.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers

**c. Alexis Olea v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV03834**

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained while being transported to court in a Sheriff's Department bus.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers

**d. Rita Williams v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV30376**

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

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers

**e. Stacy Boyce v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV2187**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.e. in the amount of \$500,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles and Adrienne M. Byers
Noes: 1 – Oscar Valdez

**f. Ardath Broderick v. Los Angeles County Probation Department
Los Angeles Superior Court Case. No. BC708080**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Probation Department was subjected to disability discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers

5. Approval of the Minutes of the August 15, 2022, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles and Adrienne M. Byers
Abstention: 1 – Oscar Valdez

6. Approval of the Minutes of the September 19, 2022, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued item 5 to the October 17, 2022 meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers

7. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By *Derek Stane*
Derek Stane
Claims Board Secretary