

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD VIA ONLINE CONFERENCE CALL
ON MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023, AT 9:30 A.M.

Present: Chair Steve Robles, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez

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 phone line to address 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 William and Pamela Chen**

This claim seeks 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 \$257,830.40.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

b. **Nancy Gomez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 18STCV09052

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in a trip and fall accident on a sidewalk maintained by the Department of Public Works.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.b. in the amount of \$30,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

c. **Brendolyn Grady, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV17457

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.c. in the amount of \$60,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

d. **Yvette Santiago, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 19STCV14213

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained when a branch fell from a tree at a park maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.d. in the amount of \$55,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

e. **Nicolas Villegas v. County of Los Angeles**
United States District Court Case No. 2:22-CV-01132

This federal civil rights lawsuit alleges plaintiff was unlawfully arrested and subjected to excessive force by the Sheriff's Department.

Action Taken:

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

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

f. **Phillip Righter v. County of Los Angeles**
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-cv-05669

This federal civil rights lawsuit alleges failure to protect by Sheriff's Department jail staff and misdiagnosis by the Department of Health Services.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.f. in the amount of \$65,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**g. Artise Martin v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC722205**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that a Department of Health Services employee was subjected to failure to reasonably accommodate and failure to engage in the interactive process.

Action Taken:

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

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

**h. Yaa Sefa-Boakye v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19PSCV00464**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that a Public Library employee was subjected to discrimination and harassment based on national origin, race, and age.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.h. in the amount of \$95,000.

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

**i. Robert Kalonian v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV10805**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Assessor's office was subjected to disability discrimination and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.i. in the amount of \$270,000.

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

**j. Kim Elizabeth Pavek v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No: BC696218**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Medical Examiner-Coroner's office was subjected to retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.j. in the amount of \$1,250,000.

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

**k. Rita Boghos v. Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 21CHCV00047**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.k. in the amount of \$42,500.

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

4. Approval of the Minutes of the March 6, 2023, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the regular meeting.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

5. 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.

6. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-litigated Claim of William & Pamela Chen
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 257,830.40
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Joseph A. Langton Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This claim arises from a sewer mainline rupture that flowed onto the Claimants' property and damaged real and personal property. 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	Nancy Gomez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	18STCV09052
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	December 19, 2018
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 30,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Roger A. Colvin Alvarez-Glasmann & Colvin
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon Senior Deputy County Counsel Allen L. Thomas Thomas Law Firm, Inc.
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On October 5, 2017, Plaintiff tripped and fell on Hacienda Boulevard near its intersection with Colima Road in Hacienda Heights. Plaintiff contends that the sidewalk was a dangerous condition of public property which caused her to sustain injuries for which she seeks damages.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$30,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 65,002
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 28,165

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Brendolyn Grady, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV17457
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	May 7, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 60,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Barbara K. Ratliff, Esq. Attorney at Law
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On April 29, 2019, Plaintiffs Brendolyn Grady, William Powell, III, and Michael Grady Walker's sedan and a Department of Public Works truck were involved in a motor vehicle versus motor vehicle incident on Normandie Avenue just south of its intersection with 106th Street in Los Angeles. Plaintiffs contends the collision caused injuries for which they seek damages.</p> <p>Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$60,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 52,118
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 45,101

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Yvette Santiago, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	19STCV14213
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	04/24/2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Parks and Recreation
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 55,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Michael P. O'Sullivan, Esq. Law Offices of William W. Green & Associates
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin Engelen Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	On June 30, 2018, Mrs. Santiago was attending a family reunion at San Dimas Canyon Park when a tree branch fell on her, causing her to fall to the ground. Mrs. Sanitago sustained injuries and filed suit. Her husband, Mr. Santiago, witnessed the incident, and is alleging emotional distress and loss of consortium. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 49,239
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 9,110

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Nicolas Villegas v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	2:22-CV-01132
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	January 4, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 75,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Vincent Miller, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Minas Samuelian, Esq. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$75,000 inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a state and federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Nicolas Villegas ("Plaintiff"), against the County alleging excessive force and unlawful arrest arising out of the detention of the Plaintiff.</p> <p>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.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 56,879
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 1,848

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Righter, Philip v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	2:21-cv-05669
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	May 9, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department and Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ \$65,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	In Pro Per
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Tyson Nelson Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$65,000 (\$32,500 from LASD and \$32,500 from DHS) and waiver of his LAC+USC medical bills in the amount of \$209,210, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a civil rights lawsuit with both federal and State-law claims brought by Philip Righter. Plaintiff claims that he was raped by another inmate, and he was misdiagnosed with mental illness when he was actually suffering from a systematic infection that impaired his mental health.</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 \$65,000 and waiver of his LAC+USC medical bills in the amount of \$209,210 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 32,468
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 3,448

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 6, 2023

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County 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, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers.

All other persons also appeared telephonically. Those attending the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: LaTasha Corry, Melissa McCaverty, Adrian Gragas, Minas Samuelian, Caroline Craddock, Kevin Engeliem, Narbeh Bagdasarian, Lauren Lyman, Kent Sommer, Stacey Lee, Lynette Wilson, Edward Morrissey, Eduardo Montelongo, and Thomas Faughnan; Department of Public Works: Jeff Howard, and Michael Hays; Sheriff's Department: Shanese Winfrey, Shawnee Hinchman, Shawn Kehoe, Thomas Kim, Johann Thrall, Jennifer Seetoo, Benjamin Torres, Edward Ramirez, Roman Foss, Dustin Carr, John Hayes, Tenaya Brown, and Tania Plunkett; Department of Health Services: Arun Patel, Sean Henderson, Dawn Abarca, Luis Pena, Roberto Avitia, Brad Spellberg, Claudia Aguirre, and Robert Myrtle; Department of Mental Health: Taneisha Franklin; Probation Department: Crystal Hurtado; Outside Counsel: Lisa Grigg, Margaret Ikeda, David Weiss, Avi Burkwitz, Jon Monroy, Thomas Hurrell, Scott Carpenter, and Faryar Barzin.

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(n).

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 1:31 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. Yen Lai v. County of Los Angeles, et al. **Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 19STCV34163**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.a. in the amount of \$99,000.

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

**b. Isabel Cortez Xochipiltecatl vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 20STCV48379**

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

Action Taken:

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

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

**c. Xavier Ruiz vs. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 19STCV21834**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.c. in the amount of \$90,000.

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

**d. Sarah Jafari v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:22-CV-00305**

This lawsuit alleges federal civil rights violations, excessive force, and unlawful arrest by a Sheriff's Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.d. in the amount of \$1,750,000.

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

**e. Saharra M. White, as guardian ad litem for A.T., et al. v. County of Los Angeles
United States District Court Case No. 2:19-cv-04669**

This lawsuit alleges federal civil rights violations and failure to summon medical care by Sheriff's Department jail staff for the death of an inmate at Twin Towers Correctional Facility.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.e. in the amount of \$675,000.

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

f. **Rocio Sabbah, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number BC720891

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.f. in the amount of \$850,000.

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

g. **Larry Trujillo v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case Number 2:14-cv-05431

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained while in custody of the Sheriff's Department.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.g. in the amount of \$199,999.99.

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

h. **Estate of Joseph Gama v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number BC628822

This lawsuit alleges failure to provide appropriate standard of care by Sheriff's Department jail staff resulting in the death of an inmate at Men's Central Jail.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.h. in the amount of \$200,000.

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

i. **Non-Litigated Claim of Natividad and Wilfredo Jornacion**

This claim concerns allegations that medical malpractice by Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center contributed to delay in care for plaintiffs' daughter.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.i. in the amount of \$260,000.

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

**j. Iris Ponce v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 19STCV42076**

This medical malpractice lawsuit against the Department of Health Services alleges that Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center provided inadequate care to plaintiff.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.j. in the amount of \$200,000.

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

**k. Rita Boghos v. Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 21CHCV00047**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued item 4.k. to a future meeting.

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

**l. Sharon Benjamin v. Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 21STCV07549**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.l. in the amount of \$57,500.

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

**m. Albert McCray & Jewel Carr v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court / Case No. 19STCV08195**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Department of Public Works was subjected to race discrimination, failure to prevent discrimination, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.m. in the amount of \$450,000.

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

n. **Lee Rossum v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV20820

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.n. in the amount of \$79,000.

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

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the February 6, 2023, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the February 6, 2023, regular meeting.

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

6. **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By *Derek Stane*
Derek Stane
Claims Board Secretary