

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD IN PERSON AND VIA ONLINE CONFERENCE CALL
ON MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023, AT 9:30 A.M.

Present: Chair Steve Robles, and Adrienne M. Byers

Absent: 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 Hailey K. Sholty

This claim alleges property damages caused by the release of storm water by the Department of Public Works.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.a. in the amount of \$29,376.30.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**b. Jacqueline Cothran, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-cv-02882**

This lawsuit alleges federal civil rights violations and deliberate indifference by Sheriff's Department jail staff for 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.b. in the amount of \$400,000.

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

**c. Paul Chirico v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV00149**

This federal civil rights lawsuit alleges excessive force against Sheriff's Department staff at Men's Central Jail.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.c. in the amount of \$35,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**d. Jane Doe V.L. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV47892**

This lawsuit alleges negligence against the Department of Children and Family Services for injuries plaintiff suffered while in foster care.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.d. in the amount of \$600,000.

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

**e. Pamela Mejia v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV088**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.e. in the amount of \$130,000.

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

**f. Yvonne Santos v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV03494**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that a Sheriff's Department employee was subjected to sexual harassment and retaliation.

Action Taken:

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

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

4. Approval of the Minutes of the April 3, 2023, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the April 3, 2023, regular meeting.

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

[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 Hailey K. Sholty
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 29,376.30
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Mark W. Lomax, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This claim involves property damage sustained when storm water discharged from the Oxford Retention Basin flooded the claimant's garage.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Paul Chrico v. County of Los Angeles, et. al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV00149
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court t
DATE FILED	January 1, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 35,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Sebastian M. Medvei, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Timothy J. Kral, Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$35,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a federal civil rights lawsuit brought by Paul Chirico against the County and five deputies. Given the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time to avoid further litigation costs. The full and final settlement amount of \$35,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 71,867.30
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 4,300.27

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 3, 2023

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:50 a.m. The meeting was held via teleconference with all Claims Board Members participating telephonically. Claims Board Members appearing in person and 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: Narbeh Bagdasarian, Edward Morrissey, Richard Kudo, Adrian Gragas, Roderick Sasis, Rosanne Wong, Lynette Wilson, Wendy Shaw, Pouya Bavafa, and Lauren Lyman; Department of Beaches and Harbors: Stefan Popescu; Sheriff's Department: Shanese Winfrey, Shawnee Hinchman, Thomas Kim, Robert Jones, Tenaya Brown, and Jose Aguirre; Department of Health Services: Arun Patel, Roberto Avitia, Charles Coffey, Claudia Aguirre, Haya Nemtov, Lan Soeur, Griselda Gutierrez, and Robert Myrtle; Probation Department: Chereise Martin, and Deanna Carlisle; Internal Services: Minh Le; Department of Public Social Services: Betty De Alba, and Agnesa Paronyan; Department of Public Health: Johanna Prieto; Outside Counsel: Margaret Ikeda, Michele Goldsmith, and Paul Knothe.

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.

Three members of the public were on the public teleconference phone line to address the Claims Board. Two persons identified themselves as Daniel Lewis and Amy Williams, and that they were attorneys for the persons claiming damages in items 3.f. and 3.g. The third member of the public did not wish to address the Board.

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

At 9:51 a.m., the Chair convened the meeting into closed session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(l).

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 12:36 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. Hermelinda Escobedo v. County of Los Angeles Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 19STCV37304

This medical malpractice lawsuit against the Department of Health Services alleges plaintiff suffered injuries while receiving care at Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.a. in the amount of \$135,000.

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

b. Meshealle Sheffield v. County of Los Angeles Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 21STCV38118

This medical malpractice lawsuit against the Department of Health Services alleges plaintiff suffered injuries while receiving care at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.b. in the amount of \$245,000.

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

c. **Robert Griendling, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 21STCV25378

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in a bicycle accident at a Recreational Vehicle lot maintained by the Department of Beaches and Harbors.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.c. in the amount of \$287,500.

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

d. **Victor Anderson, et al. v. Rafael Rufino, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC665088

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained in automobile accident involving 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 \$125,000.

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

e. **Demetra Johnson, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No: 19STCP04664

This lawsuit involves the production of records by the Sheriff's Department under the California Public Records Act

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.e. in the amount of \$592,000.

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

f. **Arcadio Marin v. County of Los Angeles**
Tax Claim

This claim alleges breach of contract by the Internal Services Department related to disputed home improvements undertaken pursuant to the PACE program.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board deferred Item 4.f. for further discussion.

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

g. **Juan Carlos Garcia v. County of Los Angeles**
Tax Claim

This claim alleges breach of contract by the Internal Services Department related to disputed home improvements undertaken pursuant to the PACE program.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board deferred Item 4.g. for further discussion.

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

h. **Teresa Saldana Rodriguez v. County of Los Angeles**
Tax Claim

This claim alleges breach of contract by the Internal Services Department related to disputed home improvements undertaken pursuant to the PACE program.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board deferred Item 4.h. for further discussion.

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

i. **Ernie Solano v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV24180

This lawsuit concerns allegations that a Probation Department employee was subjected to race and disability discrimination, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.i. in the amount of \$150,000.

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

j. **Ebonie Solin v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV35448

This lawsuit concerns allegations that a Department of Public Social Services employee was subjected to disability discrimination.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.j. in the amount of \$85,000.

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

k. Claim of Carl Kemp

This claim concerns allegations that a Department of Public Health employee was subjected to race discrimination 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. Tigre Meeks v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC689181**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board conditionally approved settlement of Item 4.l. in the amount of \$61,500.

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

5. Approval of the Minutes of the March 20, 2023, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the March 20, 2023, regular meeting.

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

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By *Derek Stane*
Derek Stane
Claims Board Secretary