

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

Present: Chair Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. 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 appeared in person or telephonically.

3. **Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (a)).**

- a. **Non-Litigated Claim of American Family Connect Property & Casualty Insurance ASO Joanne G. Capitano**

This claim seeks compensation for property damage caused by an automobile accident involving an employee from the Department of Public Works.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.a. in the amount of \$29,618.59.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. **Non-Litigated Claims of Paul Franco and Max Franco**

These claims against the Department of Public Works seek compensation for property damage caused by a backflow of sewage from a sewer mainline blockage.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.b. in the amount of \$191,231.08.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

c. Non-Litigated Claims of Sun Hee Kim and Mercury Insurance ASO Anthony Lozano

These claims arise from an automobile accident involving a Department of Public Health employee that resulted in property damage.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.c. in the amount of \$29,809.29.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**d. County of Los Angeles v. State of California Department of Health Services Director
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCP02217**

This lawsuit concerns 16 claims of reimbursement for health-care services provided to Medi-Cal patients.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.d. in the amount of \$45,921.08.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**e. Michael Thomas Fike v. Los Angeles County, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV39111**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board referred Item 4.e. back to County Counsel.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

- f. **Melissa Del Real vs. Enrique Guerrero, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV28109
This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in an automobile accident with a Sheriff's Department deputy.
Action Taken:
The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.f. in the amount of \$35,000. Vote:
Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
[See Supporting Document](#)
- g. **Antonio Penaloza v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-cv-07407
This lawsuit alleges deprivation of civil rights in connection with plaintiff's arrest during a traffic stop.
Action Taken:
The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.g. in the amount of \$42,000. Vote:
Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
[See Supporting Document](#)
- h. **Sennett Devermont v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 2:21-cv-07028
This civil rights lawsuit arises from an arrest that occurred during a protest in unincorporated West Athens.
Action Taken:
The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.h. in the amount of \$100,000.
Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
[See Supporting Document](#)
- i. **Christopher Bailey v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-cv-05017
This civil rights lawsuit against the Sheriff's Department alleges excessive use of force.
Action Taken:
The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.i. in the amount of \$4,750,000.
Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers

**j. A.M. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:19-cv-02100**

This civil rights lawsuit concerns allegations that the Department of Children and Family Services failed to provide proper supervision resulting in plaintiff's sexual assault.

Action Taken:

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

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**k. Oscar Ventura, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV17730**

This wrongful death and civil rights lawsuit alleges that the Department of Children and Family Services failed to properly investigate the abuse of decedent minor.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.k. in the amount of \$3,500,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

**l. Hector Valentin Garcia vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV32287**

This lawsuit seeks compensation for injuries plaintiff sustained when struck by a vehicle operated by a Parks and Recreation employee.

Action Taken:

Item 4.l. was taken off-calendar.

**m. Jane Doe v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV24083**

This lawsuit against the Sheriff's Department alleges harassment, discrimination, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.m. in the amount of \$25,000.

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

n. **Miriam Pakshyan v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV06454

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Office of the Assessor was discriminated against based on age and disability.

Action Taken:

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

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

o. **Nora Escobedo v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC703736

This lawsuit against the Probation Department alleges harassment, discrimination, and retaliation based on gender and sexual orientation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.o. in the amount of \$148,000.

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

4. **Approval of the Minutes of the June 5, 2023, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the June 5, 2023, meeting.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the July 3, 2023, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

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

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

[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	Non-litigated Claim of American Family Connect Property & Casualty Insurance ASO Joanne G. Capitano
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 29,618.59
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Joseph A. Langton Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This claim arises from a vehicle accident that damaged 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	Non-Litigated Claims of Paul Franco and Max Franco
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ \$191,231.08
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Michelle J. Smythe, Esq. Smythe Law Group, Inc.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Yuan Chang Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This claim arises from a sewer mainline blockage that caused a sewer backflow onto the Claimants' property and damaged their 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	Non-Litigated Claims of Sun Hee Kim and Mercury Insurance ASO Anthony Lozano
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Public Health
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 29,809.29
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kelsey Nau, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	These property damage claims arise from a vehicle accident that occurred on May 25, 2022, involving a Department of Public Health employee. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full settlement of the claims is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	County of Los Angeles v. State of California Department of Health Services Director
CASE NUMBER	22STCP02217
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	June 10, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 45,921.08
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	JON F. MONROY JENNIFER E. GYSLER Monroy, Averbuck & Gysler
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	KELLY AUERBACH HASSEL Deputy County Counsel Health Services Division
NATURE OF CASE	<p>The Department of Health Services ("DHS") provided medically necessary inpatient medical services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries at DHS facilities between 2017 and 2019 and claims that the State Department of Health Care Services ("DHCS") erroneously disallowed reimbursement on 16 claims in the amount of \$102,319.12 for services provided to Medi-Cal patients at DHS facilities based on DHCS' assessment that the services provided were not medically necessary.</p> <p>DHS filed a writ to retain the payments for the inpatient medical care provided. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the matter is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 7,525
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Michael Thomas Fike v. Los Angeles County, et al.
CASE NUMBER	21STCV39111
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 22, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 15,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	MARK R. SCHWARTZ, ESQ.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	RICHARD K. KUDO Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is the settlement of one of two lawsuits arising out of a three-car collision that occurred on May 20, 2020, when a Sheriff's Department Ford Explorer driven by Deputy Sheriff on southbound Hacienda Boulevard collided with a Toyota Avalon driven by co-defendant Thelma Souquette at the intersection of Colima Road in the unincorporated area of the County near Hacienda Heights. The Deputy Sheriff was responding to a call for assistance and was "rolling" Code 3 with his car's emergency lights flashing and siren activated. After the collision with the Toyota Avalon, the Sheriff's Department Ford Explorer spun out-of-control in a southeasterly direction and struck plaintiff Michael Thomas Fike's Toyota Prius that was stopped in the first position in the left-turn lane of northbound Hacienda Boulevard. Plaintiff claims to have suffered injuries and damages from the collision. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 6,593 (billed)
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Melissa Del Real v. Enrique Guerrero, et al.
CASE NUMBER	21STCV28109
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	July 29, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 35,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	CHRISTOPHER A. GULDJIAN Guldjian Fasel
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	RICHARD K. KUDO Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This case involves a vehicle collision that occurred on December 2, 2020, at the intersection of Alameda Street and 108th Street in the City of Lynwood. As Melissa Del Real ("Plaintiff") made a left turn onto westbound 108th Street from northbound Alameda Street, her Toyota sedan was struck by a Sheriff's Department Ford Crown Victoria radio car driven by a Deputy Sheriff who was traveling northbound in the southbound lanes with emergency lights flashing and siren activated in response to a call for assistance. 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	\$ 7,936
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 10,211

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Panalozza, Antonio v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:21-CV-07407
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	September 27, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 42,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Brian T. Dunn, Esq. The Cochran Frim
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Richard Hsueh Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$42,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Antonio Penalozza ("Mr. Penalozza") in connection with his arrest during a traffic stop.</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 \$42,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 32,362
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 10,495

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Sennett Devermont v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:21-CV-07028
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	August 31, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 100,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Eduardo M. Madrid, Esq. Madrid Law Firm, APLC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Richared Hsueh Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$100,000, inclusive of attorney's fees and costs, a federal and State-law civil rights lawsuit filed by Plaintiff Sennett Devermont arising out of his 2020 arrest during a protest.</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 \$100,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 40,804
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 744

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	A.M., a minor by and through her Guardian Ad Litem, Candice Wadley v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:19-CV-02100-FWS (PLAx)
COURT	United States District
DATE FILED	March 22, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 60,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Jennifer A. Bandlow, Esq. SoCal Justice Law Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Armita Radjabian Senior Deputy County Counsel Nicholas Weiss and David Weiss David Weiss Law
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiff claims DCFS failed to provide proper supervision and custodial services for Plaintiff while she was a foster child and as a result, she was sexually assaulted while in foster care. 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 is in the amount of \$60,000.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 96,602
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 19,879

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Oscar Ventura, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV17730
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	May 8, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 3,500,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Brian Claypool Claypool Law Firm
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Thomas Fagan Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiff allege DCFS failed to properly investigate allegations that decedent was being abused, and that a failure to take the child into protective custody contributed to his abuse and death. 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 is in the amount of \$3,500,000.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 71,745
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 7,250



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 3, 2018
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Plaintiff filed a Complaint against the County's Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) alleging that it failed to properly investigate, report, and stop the abuse of his two-year-old son. The Department previously investigated an ER referral and did not substantiate allegations reported to the DCFS Child Protection Hotline. Shortly thereafter, Plaintiff's son died while under the care of his mother.

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

- A. The investigating Children's Social Worker did not adhere to Department policies or practices while conducting the Emergency Response referral investigation.**
- B. The assigned Supervising Children's Social Worker did not provide adequate supervision/direction to the investigating Children's Social Worker.**

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

- A. The investigating Children's Social Worker did not adhere to Department policies or practices while conducting the Emergency Response referral investigation.**

The Department pursued disciplinary action following an evaluation of the Children's Social Worker's investigation involving Plaintiff's son.

Additionally, the Department's senior management team issued a memorandum on ER Investigations and outlined an Escalation Plan to address the timely closure of ER referrals. The Department also implemented a review system for regional office managers to meet regularly with their staff to address any barriers to closing or promoting a referral in a timely manner.

B. The assigned Supervising Children's Social Worker did not provide adequate supervision/direction to the investigating Children's Social Worker.

The Department pursued disciplinary action following an evaluation of the Supervising Children's Social Worker's oversight of the investigation involving Plaintiff's son.

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

- The corrective actions address department-wide system issues
- The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)	
Diane Iglesias, Senior Deputy Director	
Signature: <i>Lisa E. Mandel</i>	Date: 5/25/23

Name: (Department Head)	
Brandon T. Nichols, Director	
Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: 06/12/2013

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)

Daniela Prowizor

Signature: **Daniela
Prowizor**

Digitally signed by Daniela
Prowizor
Date: 2023.06.13 10:15:48
-07'00'

Date:
6/13/2023

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 5, 2023

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 virtually with Claims Board Members participating in person and online. Claims Board Members Adrienne M. Byers and Oscar Valdez appeared in person and via video conference. Claims Board Chair Steve Robles was absent.

All other persons present at the virtual Claims Board meeting: Joseph A. Langton, Melissa McCaverty, Ann Aguilar, Richard K. Kudo, Narbeh Bagdasarian, Edward Morrissey, Kevin Engelen, Timothy J. Kral, Millicent L. Rolon, Dušan Pavlović, Laura Mendenhall, Tyler Battles, and Jake Abrams appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Ronald Castaneda appeared for Public Works. Cestre Balderamos and Christina Lee appeared for Department of Children and Family Services. Crystal Kibby, Vanessa Dinsay Jenkins, and Ly Ngo appeared for Department of Mental Health. Elizabeth Ratinoff and William Frayeh appeared for the District Attorney. Tania Plunkett, Shanese Winfrey, Shawnee Hinchman, Christopher Johnson, Christopher Mouat, Renata Phillip, Thomas Kim, Michael Gomez, Geradette Montoya appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Amy Bodek appeared for Regional Planning. Attorney Aamir Raza appeared for Lawrence, Beach, Allen & Choi, PC. Attorney Thomas C. Hurrell appeared for Hurrell Cantrall, LLP.

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 appeared in person or telephonically.

3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (a)).

At 9:40 a.m., Adrienne M. Byers convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(k).

4. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session.

No members of the public were present to hear the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

At 12:01 p.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session via video conference and reported the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Non-Litigated Claims of Jose A. Munquia, et al.

These non-litigated claims seek compensation for property damage caused by an automobile accident involving an employee from the Department of Public Works.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.a. in the amount of \$26,097.96.

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

**b. Sergey Afanasyev v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 20STCV03086**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.b. in the amount of \$45,000.

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

c. Non-Litigated Claims of Arturo B. Vasquez and Subro Claims Inc.

This claim arises from alleged injuries sustained in an automobile accident with an employee from the Department of Children and Family Services.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.c. in the amount of \$59,989.91.

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

**d. Michael Elio Fusco v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV39037**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving a Department of Children and Family Services employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.d. in the amount of \$29,000.

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

**e. Raquel Tamayo v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 21STCV12912**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that Plaintiff suffered injuries while receiving care at a Department of Mental Health facility.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.e. in the amount of \$400,000.

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

f. **Melva Viola Carter v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 21STCV22830

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in an automobile accident with a District Attorney's Office employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.f. in the amount of \$31,500.

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

g. **Miao Chang Zheng v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV01836

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department deputy; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$750,000.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board voted to continue Item 4.g. to a future Claims Board meeting.

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

h. **Maria Arias, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court No. 2:21-cv-06865-MWF-KES

This lawsuit involves the death of an inmate in the custody of the Sheriff's Department.

Action Taken:

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

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

i. **Alex Gutierrez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV14492

This lawsuit against the Sheriff's Department alleges violations of civil rights.

Action Taken:

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

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

**j. Jacqueline Kroll v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-CV-00832**

This federal civil rights lawsuit concerns allegations of sexual assault by a Sheriff's Department employee at a detention facility.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.j. in the amount of \$575,000.

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

**k. Save Our Rural Town v. Department of Auditor-Controller, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCP03696**

This lawsuit relates to a California Environmental Quality Act matter against the County of Los Angeles.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.k. in the amount of \$79,153.58.

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

5. Approval of the Minutes of the May 15, 2023, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the May 15, 2023, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

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

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By Laura Salazar for _____
Derek Stane
Claims Board Secretary

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

JULY 3, 2023

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:37 a.m. The meeting was held virtually with Claims Board Members participating in person and online. Claims Board Members Adrienne M. Byers and Chair Steve Robles appeared in person and via video conference. Oscar Valdez was absent.

All other persons present at the virtual Claims Board meeting: Michael Owens, Michael Buennagel, Peter Bollinger, Kevin Engeliem, Melissa McCaverty, Caroline Craddock, Brandi Moore, Latasha Corry, Jonathan McCaverty, Kathy Park, Rosemarie Belda, Richard Brouwer, Stacey Lee, Sydney Mathis, and Jake Abrams appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Minh Le appeared for Internal Services. Timothy Belavich, Sean Henderson, Dawn Abarca, Joan Hubbell, and Arun Patel appeared for Department of Health Services. Sharon Woo, Chandra Parker, and Edward Mendoza appeared for the District Attorney. Tania Plunkett, Shanese Winfrey, Shawnee Hinchman, Joe Glen, Clint Yates, Renata Phillip, Thomas Kim, and Alex Kim appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Devyne Dawson, and Brian Mejia appeared for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Amy Bodek, and James Horvath appeared for Regional Planning. Lizette Garcia, Simone Duong, and Ivan Masayon appeared for the Assessor. Attorney Aamir Raza appeared for Lawrence, Beach, Allen & Choi, PC. Attorney George Mallory appeared for George Mallory and Associates. Jon Monroy appeared for Monroy, Averbuck and Gysler. Tom Guterres appeared for Collins + Collins. Andrew Baum appeared for Glaser Weil Fink Howard Avchen and Shapiro, LLP. Elizabeth Arce appeared for Liebert Cassidy Whitmore. Raymond Nhan appeared for Sheppard, Mullin, Richter and Hampton, LLP.

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.

Lili Tamaki, Public Counsel, for Teresa Saldana Rodriguez appeared telephonically and addressed the Claims Board.

3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (a)).

At 9:44 a.m., Board Chair Steve Robles convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(n).

4. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session.

No members of the public were present to hear the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

At 12:24 p.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session via video conference and reported the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Arcadio Marin v. County of Los Angeles Tax Claim

This claim against the County of Los Angeles alleges breach of contract.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.a. in the amount of \$34,968.35.

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

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

This claim against the County of Los Angeles alleges breach of contract.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.b. in the amount of \$37,196.67.

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

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

This claim against the County of Los Angeles alleges breach of contract.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.c. in the amount of \$51,464.54.

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

**d. Miao Chang Zheng v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV01836**

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

Action Taken:

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

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

**e. Alejandro Saul Vargas v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV25187**

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

Action Taken:

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

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

f. **Khuyen Kim Nguyen v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV09700

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

Action Taken:

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

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

g. **Dana Tompkins Barnett v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:20-cv-02530

This federal civil rights lawsuit involves the death by suicide of an inmate at Twin Towers Correctional Facility.

Action Taken:

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

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

h. **Rita Williams vs. 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 lieutenant.

Action Taken:

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

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

i. **Hector Galvan v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVSB2100782

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained in an automobile accident with a District Attorney's Office employee.

Action Taken:

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

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

**j. Samuel Bonner v. City of Long Beach, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:22-cv-02819**

This federal civil rights lawsuit concerns allegations of wrongful conviction that resulted in plaintiff's imprisonment for approximately 37 years.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.j. in the amount of \$3,000,000.

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

**k. Triple B Clays, Inc. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV00739**

This lawsuit against the County of Los Angeles alleges breach of contract.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.k. in the amount of \$40,000.

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

**l. Kelly G. Emling v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:23-cv-00601**

This lawsuit against the County Counsel's office alleges discrimination, retaliation, and breach of contract.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.l. in the amount of \$70,000.

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

**m. Clayton Larson v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV33759**

This lawsuit against the Department of Regional Planning alleges retaliation and violation of whistleblower protection laws.

Action Taken:

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

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

n. **Miriam Pakshyan v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV06454

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Office of the Assessor was discriminated against based on age and disability.

Action Taken:

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

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

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued the approval of the Minutes of the June 5, 2023, to the July 17, 2023, meeting.

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

6. **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By *Derek Stane*
Derek Stane
Claims Board Secretary