

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD IN PERSON AND ONLINE VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 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 appeared in person or were on the public teleconference phone line to address the Claims Board.

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

- a. **Cristina Calderon Rico v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:22-CV-00038**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3.a. in the amount of \$49,999.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. **Non-Litigated Claims of Bristol West ASO Sylvia Rubio**

This claim seeks compensation for property damage caused by an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued Item 3.b. to a future meeting.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

c. Non-Litigated Claim of Tyler Fuller

This claim seeks compensation for property damage caused by an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3.c. in the amount of \$35,000. Vote:

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

d. Erwin Estuardo Gonzalez Rosas v. County of Los Angeles, et al.

Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 21STCV31942

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3.d. in the amount of \$100,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

e. Mary Erichsen v. County of Los Angeles, et al.

Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV14321

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 3.e. in the amount of \$99,000. Vote:

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

f. Sara Hough v. County of Los Angeles

Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 18STCV09247

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3.f. in the amount of \$1,650,000.

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

**g. Jane Doe, et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV27868**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that two employees from the Department of Children and Family Services were subjected to disability discrimination and failure to accommodate.

Action Taken:

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

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

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the December 4, 2023, meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles, and Oscar Valdez
Abstention: 1 – 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	Cristina Calderon Rico, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al
CASE NUMBER	21-CV-00038
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	May 17, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 49,999
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Alan Romero, Esq. Romero Law, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Millicent L. Rolon Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$49,999, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Cristina Calderon Rico ("Plaintiff") alleging she was sexually assaulted by a Los Angeles Sheriff's Department ("LASD") Deputy, while she was incarcerated at the Century Regional Detention Facility ("CRDF").</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 \$49,999 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 113,428
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 5,950

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-litigated Claims of Bristol West ASO Sylvia Rubio
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ \$22,023.65
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Edwin A. Lewis Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle the subrogation claim of Bristol West ASO Sylvia Rubio in the amount of \$ 22,023.65 as the result of an automobile accident which occurred on September 28, 2022, involving Ms. Sylvia Rubio and a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a settlement of the claims is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ N/A
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ N/A

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-litigated Claim of Tyler Fuller
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 35,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Homa Molayem, Esq. Homa Molayem Law Corporation
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Yuan Chang Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This claim arises from a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department automobile accident that occurred on November 21, 2022, at the intersection of Atlantic Place and Atlantic Avenue. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a 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	Erwin Estuardo Gonzalez Rosas v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	21STCV31942
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	January 28, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Fire Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 100,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Vache Thomassian KJT Law Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin Engelen, Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On January 28, 2021, plaintiff Erwin Rosas vehicle and a Fire Department vehicle collided in the intersection of Hawthorne Boulevard and 126th Street in the City of Hawthorne. Mr. Rosas alleges the collision caused injuries for which he seeks compensation.</p> <p>Given the risk and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$100,000 is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 7,563
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 558

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Mary Erichsen vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV14321
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	April 15, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 99,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Alan Carrico, Esq. Belgum, Fry & Van Allen, LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin J. Engeliem Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a dangerous condition of public property lawsuit which arises from a trip and fall accident that occurred on December 10, 2019, when Ms. Rodriguez tripped and fell over a three inch piece of broken concrete on a sidewalk in front of 5410 North Barranca Avenue. The complaint alleges that Ms. Erichsen suffered orthopedic injuries as a result of the fall. She claims the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works is responsible for her injuries as the walkway was in a dangerous condition of public property. Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 50,625
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 11,922

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

December 4, 2023

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 virtually with Claims Board Members participating in person and online. Claims Board Members Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers appeared in person and via video conference. Steve Robles, Chair, appeared via video conference and was present from the commencement of the meeting through item 3E, after which, he exited the meeting. Oscar Valdez chaired the meeting during Mr. Robles' absence.

All other persons present at the virtual Claims Board meeting: Lindsay Yoshiyama, LaTasha Corry, Millicent Rolon, Richard Kudo, Richard Hsueh, Roderick Sasis, Minas Samuelian, Narbeh Bagdasarian, Edward Morrissey, and Victoria Jalili appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Shanese Winfrey, Renata Phillip, Shawnee Hinchman, Tenaya Brown, Brandon Dean, Alex Kim, Edmundo Torres, Socorro Merchain, Chris Kusayanagi, Nicole Palomino, and Rick Rector appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Ronald Castaneda, Andrew Ngumba, and Robert Swartz appeared for the Department of Public Works. Devyne Dawson, and Brian Mejia appeared for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Catherine Mathers, Robert Avitia, and Nikolay Teophilov appeared for the Department of Health Services. Christina Lee appeared for the Department of Children and Family Services. Margaret Ikeda appeared for David Weiss Law. Jason Tokoro appeared for Miller Barondess, LLP. Jill Williams appeared for Carpenter, Rothans & Dumont, LLP. Thomas Hurrell appeared for Hurrell & Cantrall, LLP. Kari Kadamotsu appeared for Seki, Nishimura, & Watase, 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.

An unidentified person appeared on the public teleconference phone line and wanted to hear the reportable action related to item 3K on the agenda.

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

At 9:38 a.m., Chair Steve Robles convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(k).

4. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session.

Constance Coats, who was the unidentified person on the line prior to the meeting, identified herself and was informed that item 3K passed.

At 12:21 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 Claim of Spartan Recoveries

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.a. in the amount of \$27,717.76.

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

**b. Jesus Palacio v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 21STCV41804**

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving a Department of Parks and Recreation employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.b. in the amount of \$80,000.

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

**c. Cristina Calderon Rico v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:22-CV-00038**

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 approved settlement of Item 4.c. in the amount of \$49,000. This amount was incorrect and the item will appear on the next Claims Board agenda with the correct settlement amount.

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

**d. Julio C. Blandon Alvarado v. Los Angeles County, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number: 21STCV18550**

This lawsuit arises from injuries 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.d. in the amount of \$175,000.

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

**e. Devin Sejas v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-CV-07553**

This civil rights lawsuit against the Sheriff's Department alleges excessive use of force.

Action Taken:

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

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

f. **Niani Shabazz, et al., v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-CV-06111

This wrongful death and civil rights lawsuit against the Sheriff's Department arises from the fatal deputy-involved shooting.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.f. in the amount of \$275,000.

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

g. **Los Angeles Times Communications, LLC v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCP02106

This lawsuit involves a dispute over 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.g. in the amount of \$160,000.

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

h. **Ignacio Escalante v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court No. 19STCV29783

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.h. in the amount of \$250,000.

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

i. **Non-Litigated Claim of Keenan I. Stott**

This claim against the Department of Health Services alleges medical malpractice for injuries suffered while receiving care at High Desert Regional Health Center.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.i. in the amount of \$350,000.

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

**j. Taren Moody v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV14273**

This lawsuit against the Department of Health Services alleges disability discrimination, and failure to accommodate.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.j. in the amount of \$187,510.88.

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

**k. Constance Coats v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV18037**

This lawsuit against the Department of Children and Family Services alleges disability discrimination, and sexual harassment; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$81,400.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.k. in the amount of \$81,400.

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

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

Action Taken:

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

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

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By *Derek Stane*
Derek Stane
Claims Board Secretary