



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
Destiny Castro
Chief Executive Office
Adrienne M. Byers
Office of the County Counsel

NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

The Los Angeles County Claims Board will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, March 18, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.**, at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Sixth Floor, Conference Room C, Los Angeles, California 90012. Members of the public who would like to listen to the open session of the meeting or would like to provide public comment may call (323) 776-6996, then enter ID 958 576 753# at 9:30 a.m. on March 18, 2024.

Reports of actions taken in Closed Session. The Los Angeles County Claims Board will report actions taken on any Closed Session Items on Monday, March 18, 2024, at approximately 12:50 p.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 958 576 753# at 12:50 p.m. on March 18, 2024. Please note that these are approximate start times 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 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012.

Written public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2024. 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.

If you wish to address the Los Angeles County Claims Board in person, you may come to the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012, and enter on the Second Floor. Please advise the security guard station personnel that you would like to attend the public portion of the Claims Board meeting and a security guard will escort you to the Sixth Floor where you will be assisted.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment is limited to the specific items on the agenda and general public comment is limited to subject matters within the jurisdiction of the Claims Board.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: The Agenda and any supporting documents will be posted at <https://lacounty.gov/newsroom/public-information/los-angeles-county-claims-board/> 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 Laura Z. Salazar at lzsalazar@counsel.lacounty.gov or Raina Mey RMey@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 (Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (a)).

a. Non-litigated Claim of Magdalena Moran dba Adams Pack Station, Inc.

This claim seeks compensation for damages resulting from closure of the access road to claimant's business during an ongoing Public Works project; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$36,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

b. Jose Miguel Hernandez, et al. v. Raymond Jesus Olivas, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV31814

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving an employee from the Department of Public Works; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$35,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

c. Amir Rofougaran, et al. v. Dept. of Water and Power of the City of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV28730

This inverse condemnation lawsuit against the Department of Public Works alleged that a storm drain rupture caused flooding and property damage; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$250,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

d. Victor Curiel, et al. v. Christopher William Gussman, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV07927

This lawsuit against the Fire Department arises from alleged injuries sustained in a multiple-automobile collision involving a paramedic vehicle driven by a Fire Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$30,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

e. Logan Shingo Thatcher v. Christopher William Gussman, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV16654

This lawsuit against the Fire Department arises from alleged injuries sustained in a multiple-automobile collision involving a paramedic vehicle driven by a Fire Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$55,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- f. Francisco Perez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV07790

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving a Fire Department vehicle which overturned while transporting inmate fire crew members; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$125,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- g. Juan Reyes Lopez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20AVCV00732

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving a Fire Department vehicle which overturned while transporting inmate fire crew members; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$150,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- h. Non-Litigated Claims of Jose and Ana Chavez; Alicia Carrillo, Modesto Zepeda, and Ovidio Hernandez; Jovani Gomez; Jaime Rodriguez; and Alfredo Terrazas and Marita Florita Ruiz

These five tax claims brought by property owners allegedly impacted by fraudulent behavior of home improvement contractors under the County's PACE Program seek compensation for incomplete construction; settlement for each claim is recommended in the amounts of 1) \$77,239.07, 2) \$52,001.47, 3) \$33,623.78, 4) \$42,051.02, and 5) \$20,505.16.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- i. Luis Enrique Hernandez v. The County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22NWCV00036

This lawsuit concerns allegations related to the County's PACE program and improper release of funds to Plaintiff's home improvement contractor; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$55,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- j. Janet Cabrera, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV00398

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in an automobile accident involving an employee of the District Attorney's Office; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$200,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- k. Non-Litigated Claim of Kenneth A. Adams, Jr.

This claim concerns allegations of personal injuries and property damage caused by an automobile accident involving a patrol vehicle driven by a Sheriff's deputy; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$46,251.39.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- l. Daniel Winners v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV26751

This lawsuit concerns allegations that a deputy from the Sheriff's Department was subjected to sexual harassment and retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$47,500.

- m. Larry Waldie v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV24195

This is a waiver of costs of an appeal against the Sheriff's Department which concerned allegations of retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$37,677.72.

- n. Eric Baruch v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV41980

This lawsuit alleges that a Sheriff's deputy was subjected to harassment, discrimination, and retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$88,500.

- o. Natalie Jackson v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV14829

This lawsuit alleges that a former employee of the Department of Health Services was subjected to discrimination, hostile work environment, and retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$40,000.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the February 26, 2024, special meeting of the Claims Board.

[See Supporting Document](#)

5. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-litigated Claim of Magdalena Moran dba Adams Pack Station, Inc.
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 36,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Edwin A. Lewis Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This matter involves a claim for damages to the claimant's business due to the closure the access road to her business during an ongoing project of Public Works. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final 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	Jose Miguel Hernandez, et al. v. Raymond Jesus Olivas, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV31814
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	August 8, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 35,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	CHRISTOPHER J. LAURIA, ESQ. Law Office of Christopher J. Lauria
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	RICHARD K. KUDO Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This case involves a motor vehicle intersection collision that occurred on August 21, 2018, in the City of Inglewood, when a Department of Public Works ("DPW") Ford truck driven by an on-duty DPW employee driving northbound on Prairie Avenue and approaching 103rd Street, turned left directly into the path of Jose Miguel Hernandez's ("Plaintiff's") BMW sedan, which was traveling in the opposite direction on southbound Prairie Avenue. Plaintiff's wife Amalia Hernandez was not in the car when the collision occurred. Plaintiffs claim to have suffered injuries and damage 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	\$ 1,850
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 165

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Rofougaran, Amir, et al. v. Department of Water and Power of the City of Los Angeles, et al
CASE NUMBER	21STCV28730
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Department 62
DATE FILED	December 2, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$250,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Daniel G. Whalen
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Jonathan W. Brazile Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiffs Amir Rofougaran, Christine Collins, Lauren Lindstrom, and Hooman Baratipour allege a storm drain owned by Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29 located uphill from their property ruptured, causing their residence, backyard, and hillside to flood.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 83,097
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 21,899

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Victor Curiel, et al. vs. Christopher William Gussman, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV07927
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 4, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Fire Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 30,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Arutyan Topchuyan, Esq. A&T Legal Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MELISSA A. McCAVERTY Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	PATRICK E. STOCKALPER, ESQ. Kjar, McKenna & Stockalper, LLP This multiple automobile collision occurred on May 4, 2021, when a Los Angeles County Fire Department truck driven by a County Firefighter made an unsafe lane change on the Interstate 405 freeway, resulting in separate collisions with Plaintiffs and other drivers. Plaintiffs claim 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
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 29,711
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 5,392

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Logan Shingo Thatcher vs. Christopher William Gussman, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV16654
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	May 19, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Fire Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 55,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Arutyan Topchuyan, Esq. A&T Legal Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MELISSA A. McCAVERTY Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	PATRICK E. STOCKALPER, ESQ. Kjar, McKenna & Stockalper, LLP This multiple automobile collision occurred on May 4, 2021, when a Los Angeles County Fire Department truck driven by a County Firefighter made an unsafe lane change on the Interstate 405 freeway, resulting in separate collisions with Plaintiff and other drivers. 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
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 15,147
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 4,105

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Francisco Perez vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV07790
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 3, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Fire Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 125,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Michael Sanchez, ESQ. Mendez & Sanchez, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin Engelen Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from an accident involving a Los Angeles County Fire Department truck which overturned while transporting inmate fire crew truck members on January 24, 2019. Plaintiff was a passenger in the overturned truck and alleges he was injured and filed suit. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 4,865
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 3,943



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:	01/24/2019
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p>On January 24, 2019, Fire Fighter Specialist (FFS), was driving camp crew vehicle (CCV) 14 carrying (10) inmate crew passengers aboard. CCV-14 left Camp 14 on San Francisquito Canyon Road in Santa Clarita and was enroute to Cow Springs Motorway in Neenach to conduct brush clearance. CCV-14 was not responding to an emergency call and was not traveling with lights or sirens. The Plaintiff was one of the 10 inmate crew passengers aboard CCV-14.</p> <p>At approximately 11:45 am, while enroute to a brush clearance assignment, the FFS indicated that after coming out of a left-hand curve, traveling approximately 45-50 miles per hour (MPH), they felt the right rear of the vehicle dip and lose traction. They attempted to regain control of the vehicle after losing traction by letting off the gas pedal and slowly applying the brake and correcting the steering wheel to the left for the vehicle was heading towards the right shoulder which was a descending embankment. It was at this time that the vehicle rolled onto the passenger side and came to a skidding stop.</p> <p>This collision occurred on Pine Canyon Road in the City of Lake Hughes, an incorporated part of Los Angeles County. Pine Canyon Road consist of one lane in the westbound direction and one lane in the eastbound direction and 55 MPH is the posted maximum speed limit at this location. There were no visual obstructions noted or claimed. At the time of the collision, the roadway was dry and the weather was cool and clear.</p>

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

Although CCV-14 was traveling within the speed limit, the Department's root cause in this incident was insufficient traction for the speed that CCV-14 was traveling, causing the vehicle to fishtail and roll-on side.

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

Responsible Person: Deputy Fire Chief Dennis Breshears
Leadership and Professional Standards Bureau

An Internal investigation into this collision was initiated. The investigation determined the FFS would receive four hours of Education Based Discipline (EBD), through the Department's Driver Enrichment Program (DRIVE)..

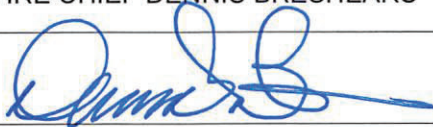
The FFS completed four (4) hours of in person Driver Enrichment Training on November 7, 2019.

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)
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF DENNIS BRESHEARS

Signature:



Date:

1-31-24

Name: (Department Head)
FIRE CHIEF ANTHONY C. MARRONE

Signature:



Date:

2-1-24

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

Daniela Prowizor

Digitally signed by Daniela
Prowizor
Date: 2024.02.21 09:13:53 -08'00'

Date:

2/21/2024

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Juan Reyes Lopez vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20AVCV00732
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 13, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Fire Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 150,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	John Rofael, Esq. DTLA Law Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin Engelen Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from an accident involving a Los Angeles County Fire Department truck which overturned while transporting inmate fire crew truck members on January 24, 2019. Plaintiff was a passenger in the overturned truck and alleges he was injured and filed suit. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 4,865
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 3,943



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:	01/24/2019
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p>On January 24, 2019, a Fire Fighter Specialist was driving camp crew vehicle (CCV) 14 carrying (10) inmate crew passengers aboard. CCV-14 left Camp 14 on San Francisquito Canyon Road in Santa Clarita and was enroute to Cow Springs Motorway in Neenach to conduct brush clearance. CCV-14 was not responding to an emergency call and was not traveling with lights or sirens. Plaintiff was one of the 10 inmate crew passengers aboard CCV-14.</p> <p>At approximately 11:45 am, while enroute to a brush clearance assignment, the FFS indicated that after coming out of a left-hand curve, traveling approximately 45-50 miles per hour (MPH), they felt the right rear of the vehicle dip and lose traction. They attempted to regain control of the vehicle after losing traction by letting off the gas pedal and slowly applying the brake and correcting the steering wheel to the left for the vehicle was heading towards the right shoulder which was a descending embankment. It was at this time that the vehicle rolled onto the passenger side and came to a skidding stop.</p> <p>This collision occurred on Pine Canyon Road in the City of Lake Hughes, an incorporated part of Los Angeles County. Pine Canyon Road consist of one lane in the westbound direction and one lane in the eastbound direction and 55 MPH is the posted maximum speed limit at this location. There were no visual obstructions noted or claimed. At the time of the collision, the roadway was dry and the weather was cool and clear.</p>

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

Although CCV-14 was traveling within the speed limit, the Department's root cause in this incident was insufficient traction for the speed that CCV-14 was traveling, causing the vehicle to fishtail and roll-on side.

The seatbelt for the seat that the Plaintiff was sitting in was inoperable.

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

Responsible Person: Deputy Fire Chief Dennis Breshears
Leadership and Professional Standards Bureau

An Internal investigation into this collision was initiated. The investigation determined the FFS would receive four hours of Education Based Discipline (EBD), through the Department's Driver Enrichment Program (DRIVE).

The FFS completed four (4) hours of in person Driver Enrichment Training on November 7, 2019.

Responsible person: Acting Deputy Fire Chief Brian Martin
North Regional Operations Bureau

Local Policy 12 was implemented on May 25, 2020, so that all camps were following a standardized policy as opposed to individual camp protocols. All new inmates must attend orientation and training on Local Policy #12 and sign documentation referencing the camps rules and regulations which includes information pertaining to the seatbelt regulations.

The policy states in part "...Inmates are required to have their seatbelts fastened all the times while the CCV is in motion or being operated. If it is determined that an inmate is not using his or her seatbelt, they will receive disciplinary action. Any broken or malfunctioning seatbelt shall be reported to the Fire Department staff immediately..."

Local Policy 13 was implemented on June 8, 2022 and defines CCV Operations Specific to California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Camps and Crews. "...The front cab and crew carrier areas of the CCV shall, at minimum, visually inspected for equipment or unauthorized item"...Vehicle operator conducts a daily Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) inspection to ensure the seatbelt is operable and securely mounted. During the weekly gear and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) inspection, the crew carrier area is inspected to include, but not limited to: "...Seatbelts, Gear nets, and Emergency exits Fasten Seat Belt signs and Seating chart posted in highly visible areas.

Inmate crew passengers are now issued assigned seating in the CCV carrier and are instructed every time they enter the CCV vehicle that they are to take their assigned seating and buckle their seatbelt.

If a vehicle does not have enough working seatbelts, the vehicle is taken out of service until repaired.

Apparatus Operations 1A Training was implemented on January 25, 2023, as a result of changes the Department made regarding the requirements for the operation of firefighting equipment. The requirement allows for the fire series employees to legally operate firefighting equipment with a Class C license with Firefighter endorsement. This training includes DMV trip inspections which contains information pertaining to seatbelts.

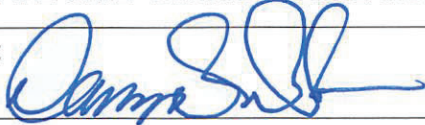
All new Foreman and Fire Suppression Aids (FSA) must take a three (3) day Apparatus Operation 1A training that consist of two (2) days in the classroom and one (1) day of practical operations. During this training, they are shown how to conduct Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) pre-trip inspections (which contains information pertaining to seatbelts). Only Personnel with an endorsement through DMV do not have to go through this program.

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)
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF DENNIS BRESHEARS

Signature:

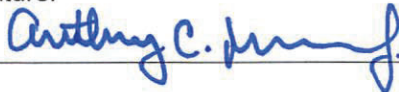


Date:

1-31-24

Name: (Department Head)
FIRE CHIEF ANTHONY C. MARRONE

Signature:



Date:

2.1.24

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: 2024.02.21 09:14:55
-08'00'

Date:

2/21/2024

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Five Tax Claims: Jose and Ana Chavez; Alicia Carrillo, Modesto Zepeda, and Ovidio Hernandez; Jovani Gomez; Jaime Rodriguez; and Alfredo Terrazas & Marita Florita Ruiz
CASE NUMBER	None
COURT	None
DATE FILED	None.
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Internal Services Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	Jose and Ana Chavez - \$77,239.07 Alicia Carrillo, et al - \$52,001.47 Jovani Gomez - \$33,623.78 Jaime Rodriguez - \$ 42,051.02 Alfredo Terrazas & Marita Florita Ruiz- \$20,505.16
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	None
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael Owens
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to pay five tax claims brought by property owners impacted by fraudulent behavior of home improvement contractors under the County's PACE Program. Each Claimant alleges their home improvement contractors did not complete construction on Claimant's residential property.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Luis Enrique Hernandez v. The County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22NWCV00036
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	January 18, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Internal Services Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 55,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Steven Marenberg, Esq. Margaret Chou, Esq. Philip Hwang, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael Owens, Government Services Division
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle a civil lawsuit brought by Plaintiff Luis Hernandez against County of Los Angeles ("County") for the total amount of \$55,000. The settlement is inclusive of all attorneys' fees and costs. Plaintiff alleges that County improperly released funds for payment to Plaintiff's home improvement contractor prior to the completion of the construction on his residential property and seeks to nullify the PACE Assessment Contract with County.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 58,935.50
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 6,153.65

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Janet Cabrera, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV00398
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 25, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	District Attorney's Office
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 200,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Alex and Diana Zeesman, Accident Fighters, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon, Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On March 25, 2021, a vehicle carrying Plaintiffs Janet Cabrera, Julia Aleman, Eduviges Aleman, and Melanie Sandoval and a District Attorney's Office vehicle collided on Golden Valley Road at its intersection with Centre Point Way in Santa Clarita. Plaintiffs allege the collision caused injuries for which they seek compensation.</p> <p>Given the risk and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$200,000 is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 52,268
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 11,820



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:	March 25, 2021
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	At approximately 6:50 p.m., while stopped at a red light at the intersection of Golden Valley Road and Centre Point Parkway, in Santa Clarita, a Los Angeles County District Attorney (LADA) employee, driving a County vehicle rear-ended the claimants, resulting in their personal injuries and property damages.

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

A. Inattention and failure to provide enough space between the LADA employee's vehicle and the claimant's vehicle.
B. The LADA employee failed to adhere to the Department's Vehicle Policy.
C. The accident/incident was not investigated by the Department as violations were discovered post-accident.
D. The Department failed to have adequate measures in place to monitor for employees' expired driver's licenses.

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

A. Completion of Defensive Driver Training - The LADA employee completed a one-hour County Talent Works online training entitled "Defensive Driver Training (Captioned)", on October 23, 2023. In addition, the Department will draft and implement a Mileage Permittee Policy that will include initial and ongoing Defensive Driver Training for all Mileage Permittees. Also, the Department will revise its current Vehicle Policy to include the required Defensive Driver Training for all County vehicle drivers.
<p>B. 1. The LADA Vehicle Policy was redistributed to all LADA employees on June 9, 2023. Employees were required to acknowledge receipt of the policy via signature and were advised that failure to comply with the policy could result in disciplinary action. Furthermore, for all future distribution of the Vehicle Policy, all LADA employees will be required to sign, acknowledging that they have received the policy on an annual basis. This will be completed by June 30, 2024.</p> <p>2. The LADA employee is no longer in an assignment requiring them to roll out to scenes as part of their duties and, therefore, the employee is no longer driving for the Department. However, the Department will draft and implement a Mileage Permittee Policy that will include initial and ongoing "Defensive Driver Training" for all mileage permittees. In addition, the Department will revise its current Vehicle Policy to include required "Defensive Driver Training" for all County vehicle drivers. This will be completed by June 30, 2024.</p>

C. The Department will expand its current DMV Pull Notice Program to include non-investigative accidents/incidents and ensure that internal reviews and reports are completed. The Department will also revise the Vehicle Policy to add processes ensuring that all non-investigative employees driving County vehicles, are in compliance with the Vehicle Policy, including having a valid Driver's license before using a County Vehicle. This will be completed by June 30, 2024.

D. As noted above, the Department will expand its current DMV Pull Notice Program to include non-investigative accidents/incidents and ensure that internal reviews and reports are completed. Also, as noted above, the Department will implement a Mileage Permittee Policy that will require a yearly recertification to ensure that all Mileage Permittees have a valid driver's license. This will be completed by June 30, 2024.

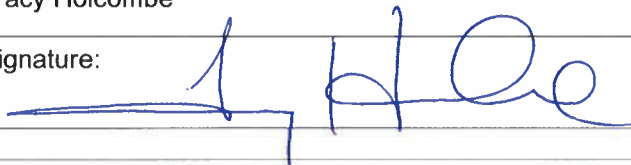
3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?

☒ Yes – The corrective actions address department-wide system issues.

☐ No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)
Tracy Holcombe

Signature:



Date:

1/23/24

Name: (Department Head)
George Gascón

Signature:



Date:

1-30-24

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: 2024.01.31 11:00:57 -08'00'

Date:

1/31/2024

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-Litigated Claim of Kenneth A. Adams, Jr.
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 46,251.39
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Mark W. Lomax, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This claim involves personal injuries and property damages sustained when a Sheriff's patrol vehicle collided with the claimant's vehicle. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the matter is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ -0-
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ -0-

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

February 26, 2024

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:42 a.m. The meeting was held virtually with Claims Board Members participating in person and online. Claims Board Members Chair Steve Robles, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez appeared in person and via video conference. Destiny Castro was also in attendance.

All other persons present at the virtual Claims Board meeting: Kent Sommer appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Christina Lee appeared for the Department of Children and Family Services. Geoffrey Sheldon appeared for Leibert, Cassidy, and Whitmore, 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 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)).

At 9:42 a.m., Chair Steve Robles convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the item listed below as 4(a).

4. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session.

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

At 10:18 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session via video conference and reported the actions taken in closed session as follows:

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

This lawsuit concerns allegations that two applicants for intern positions with the Department of Children and Family Services were subjected to disability discrimination and failure to accommodate.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.a. in the amount of \$2,764,000.

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

5. Approval of the Minutes for the February 5, 2024, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the February 5, 2024, meeting.

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

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By *Derek Stane*
Derek Stane
Claims Board Secretary