

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD IN PERSON AND ONLINE VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024, AT 9:30 A.M.

Present: Chair Destiny Castro, 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 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. **Miguel Angel Godinez vs. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23CHCV00372**

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3.a. in the amount of \$34,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. **Lesly Devany Prieto, et al. vs. Monica Lynn Grana, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV05088**

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Sheriff's Department deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3.b. in the amount of \$99,999.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

[See Supporting Document](#)

c. **Maria Guadalupe Alvarez vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV12042

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Los Angeles County Fire Department's firefighter.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3.c. in the amount of \$50,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

Noes: 1 – Oscar Valdez

[See Supporting Documents](#)

4. **Approval of the Minutes for the May 6, 2024, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the May 6, 2024, meeting.

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

Abstention: 1 – Destiny Castro

[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	Miguel Angel Godinez vs. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	23CHCV00372
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	February 23, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 34,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Adam Rapaport, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin J. Engelen Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This lawsuit arises from an automobile collision that occurred on August 9, 2022, when a utility truck operated by a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department employee collided with Plaintiff's vehicle on the off-ramp of northbound I-5 Freeway at the exit of Hasley Canyon Road.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 17,932
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 545

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Lesly Devany Prieto, et al. vs. Monica Lynn Grana, et al.
CASE NUMBER	21STCV05088
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	February 8, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 99,999
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Alan C. Brown, Esq. Day Day & Brown
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Tom Guterres, Esq. Collins + Collins, LLP Melissa A. McCaverty Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This incident occurred on June 21, 2020, when Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy Grana's County 2009 Ford Crown Victoria collided with a 2017 Toyota Rav 4, driven by Plaintiff Prieto on Workman Mill Road, just south of Fontenoy Avenue in the unincorporated area of the County known as Avocado Heights. Plaintiff and the three passengers in the vehicle alleges they sustained injuries and damages.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final global settlement of the case in the amount of \$99,999 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 80,080
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 42,658

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Maria Guadalupe Alvarez vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV12042
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	April 8, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Fire
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 50,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Suzanne Leslie, Esq Allen, Flatt, Balladis & Leslie, Inc.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Melissa A. McCaverty Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This incident occurred on August 25, 2021, when the Plaintiff's vehicle was involved in an automobile accident with a Los Angeles County Fire Department's vehicle on Pacific Coast Highway at the intersection of Las Flores Canyon Road. Plaintiff claims she sustained severe injuries as a result of the accident.</p> <p>Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$50,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 21,551
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 18,658

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

May 6, 2024

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 Oscar Valdez and Adrienne M. Byers participating in person, and Claims Board Secretary Laura Z. Salazar, at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Sixth Floor, Conference Room C, Los Angeles, California 90012. Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro was absent.

All other persons appeared virtually at the Claims Board meeting: Melissa McCaverty, Edwin Lewis, Michael Gordon, LaTasha Corry, Sanjay Athalye, Kevin Engeliem, Joseph Langton, Richard Hsueh, Blaine McPhillips, Edward Morrissey, Narbeh Bagdasarian, and Victoria Jalili appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Stefan Popescu appeared for Beaches and Harbors. Julia Kim and Tito Rodriguez appeared for the Fire Department. Lorianne Plesset appeared for Carl Warren & Company LLC. Ronald Castaneda, Jacklin Injijian, Jolene Guerrero, and Michele Chimienti appeared for Public Works. Robert Ragland appeared for the Department of Public Health. Dr. Arun Patel, Elizabeth Augusta, and Catherine Mathers appeared for Health Services. Dr. Brad Spellberg and Claudia Aguirre appeared for Los Angeles General Medical Center. Sergeant Shanese Winfrey, Lieutenant Joseph V. Rodriguez, Lieutenant Michael R. Moen, Commander Alfred Reyes, Sergeant Brian E. Anderson, Commander Thomas A. Giandomenico, Sergeant Jason D. Van Genderen, Sergeant Robert Lloyd, and Lieutenant Thomas V. Kim appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Tomas Guterres appeared for Collins + Collins, LLP. Harold G. Becks appeared for Harold G. Becks & Associates. Michele Goldsmith appeared for BDG Law Group.

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 member of the public appeared in person or 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 9:37 a.m., Adrienne M. Byers convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(m).

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 12:31 p.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Ruth Campbell v. City of Los Angeles, et al. **Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV27418**

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained from a slip and fall incident on a ramp to a portable restroom facility supplied by the County of Los Angeles.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Destiny Castro

b. Non-litigated Claims of American Family Connect ASO Ismael Carbajal and Tesla Insurance Company ASO Earl Anthony Hibbert

These claims arise from property damage allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving a Fire Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.b. in the amount of \$46,655.88.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Destiny Castro

**c. Jairo Diaz v. Jaime Le Clercq, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV10920**

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained by a pedestrian struck by a fire truck while crossing an intersection.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.c. in the amount of \$225,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Destiny Castro

**d. Shahrokh Lavasani v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV06262**

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained when Plaintiff's vehicle collided with a dump truck driven by a Department of Public Works employee.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Destiny Castro

**e. Kimberly Arnold, et al. v. Ford Motor Company, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV45317**

This wrongful death lawsuit alleges that the decedent suffered fatal injuries in a single-vehicle accident due to a dangerous condition of public property.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Destiny Castro

f. **Bern J. Galvin v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV37153

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in a rollerblading accident on the Los Angeles River Bikeway.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Destiny Castro

g. **Carlos Puga v. City of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV34436

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained when Plaintiff fell off his bicycle riding down La Tuna Canyon Road.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Destiny Castro

h. **Joshua Henry v. Anitria Michelle Tomlin, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22NWCV01773

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident when a Sheriff's lieutenant rear-ended Plaintiff.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Destiny Castro

i. **Non-Litigated Claims of Yue Jin & Jing Meng**

These claims arise from personal injury and property damage allegedly sustained in an automobile accident with a Sheriff's deputy's patrol vehicle.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.i. in the amount of \$97,360.80.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Destiny Castro

**j. Mari Drake v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-CV-05532**

This federal civil rights lawsuit arises from Plaintiff's participation in and arrest during a protest in downtown Los Angeles.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Destiny Castro

**k. Alliance of Los Angeles County Parents v. County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCP02772**

This appeal against the Department of Public Health concerns a waiver of costs awarded to the County relating to a lawsuit challenging mask mandates during COVID-19.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.k. in the amount of \$24,667.74.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Destiny Castro

l. Non-Litigated Claim of Mamie Ware

This medical malpractice claim contends that Los Angeles General Medical Center was negligent, resulting in the death of a patient.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.l. in the amount of \$700,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Destiny Castro

**m. Sandy Correa v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV18956**

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

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Destiny Castro

5. Approval of the Minutes for the April 15, 2024, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:


The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the April 15, 2024, meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Destiny Castro

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By 
Laura Z. Salazar
Claims Board Secretary