



# 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, November 4, 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 993 382 216# at 9:30 a.m. on November 4, 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, November 4, 2024, at approximately 12:25 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 993 382 216# at 12:25 p.m. on November 4, 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](mailto: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, November 1, 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](mailto:claimsboard@counsel.lacounty.gov).

If you would like more information, please contact Claims Board Secretary Laura Z. Salazar at [lzalazar@counsel.lacounty.gov](mailto:lzalazar@counsel.lacounty.gov) or Raina Mey at [rmey@counsel.lacounty.gov](mailto: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. Armine Sahakyan v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23CHCV03289  
  
This medical malpractice lawsuit concerns allegations that Olive View Medical Center staff were negligent resulting in injuries to Plaintiff; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$250,000.  
  
[See Supporting Documents](#)
  - b. Trinity Kennard v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV18944  
  
This medical malpractice lawsuit alleges that Olive View Medical Center staff caused injury to Plaintiff during a Cesarean section; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$600,000.  
  
[See Supporting Documents](#)
  - c. Gladwin Cedeno v. High Desert Regional Health Center, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AVCV00001  
  
This medical malpractice lawsuit concerns allegations that High Desert Regional Health Center staff were negligent and caused injury to Plaintiff; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$325,000.  
  
[See Supporting Document](#)
  - d. Francisca A. Guzman v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23NWCV00529  
  
This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Fire Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$48,500.  
  
[See Supporting Document](#)
  - e. Maria Isabel Clark, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV11177  
  
This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained when Plaintiff Clark was struck by a vehicle driven by an employee of the Office of the Public Defender; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$1,900,000.  
  
[See Supporting Documents](#)

- f. Luis Villanueva, et al. v. County of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23TRCV00046

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit arises from an alleged trip and fall that occurred at Lennox Park; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$28,500.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- g. Grigor Sinanyan v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23BBCV00476

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Children and Family Services employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$45,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- h. Linda Harding, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV39512

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiffs allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department detective; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$99,999.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- i. Lucius Taylor v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States District Court Case No. 2:23-cv-01046

This civil rights lawsuit concerns allegations pertaining to use of force by Sheriff's deputies against a restrained inmate; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$60,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- j. Millie Fitchett v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV01799

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department sergeant; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$150,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- k. Allyn Hawes v. Devin Goodman, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV34569

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Public Works employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$70,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

4. Approval of the Minutes of the October 21, 2024, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

[See Supporting Document](#)

5. Adjournment.

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Armine Sahakyan v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	23CHCV03289
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	10/30/2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 250,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Levik Yarian Matadores Accident & Injury Lawyers
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On May 26, 2023, Ms. Sahakyan presented to Olive View Medical Center ("OVMC") Emergency Department complaining of an infection in her lower extremity. On May 27, 2023, Ms. Sahakyan fell shortly after getting out of her bed at OVMC and suffered injuries to her face.</p> <p>Ms. Sahakyan filed a malpractice lawsuit against the County alleging OVMC staff failed to protect her from the fall.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 10,975
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 2,574



## Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for 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:	May 27, 2023
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On May 26, 2023, A.S. presented to Olive View Medical Center ("OVMC") Emergency Department complaining of a recurrent infection. On May 27, 2023, A.S. fell shortly after getting out of her bed at OVMC. She suffered injuries to her face. Her injuries were fully treated. A.S. filed a malpractice lawsuit against the County of Los Angeles alleging that the OVMC staff failed to prevent her from falling.

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

Facial injuries resulting from a fall while being treated in the emergency room at OVMC.

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


- Education provided to nursing staff working the emergency room at OVMC related to:
  - Reassessment of pain
  - Reassessment of vital signs according to the Emergency Severity Index score
  - Completion of a post-fall risk assessment
- DHS has convened a system-wide falls committee to evaluate mechanisms for reducing the risk of falls


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.


County of Los Angeles  
Summary Corrective Action Plan

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Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Arun Patel, MD, JD	
Signature: 	Date: 10/09/2024

Name: (Department Head) Christina Ghaly, MD	
Signature: 	Date: 10/16/2024

<b>Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY</b>
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General) Betty Karmirlian, Acting Risk Management Inspector General	
Signature: 	Date: 10/17/2024

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Trinity Kennard vs. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	22STCV18944
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	June 9, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 600,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Barry Novack Law Offices of Barry Novack
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On September 8, 2021, Trinity Kennard, a 30-year-old female, underwent a Cesarean section at Olive View Medical Center ("OVMC"). Due to a communication error, during the procedure, the staff erroneously transected Ms. Kennard's right fallopian tube. OVMC staff informed Ms. Kennard about the error and offered an apology.</p> <p>Ms. Kennard filed a civil action against the County alleging OVMC staff removed one of her fallopian tubes without her consent. The County agreed to settle the case for the proposed amount.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 100,367
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 35,067



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Date of incident/event:	September 8, 2021
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	This case involves the care and treatment of a patient at Olive View Medical Center. The patient alleges that during a procedure on September 8, 2021, the staff improperly transected her right fallopian tube. Due to the uncertainties of litigation, a settlement was reached.

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

Accidental transection of the right fallopian tube.


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


- All appropriate personnel corrective actions were taken.
- Staff were trained regarding the State requirements related to consent for sterilization.
- DHS created a guidance document for staff related to counseling patients about sterilization.
- The DHS policy related to 'time-outs' before surgery was updated.
- The standardized discharge instructions for tubal ligation were reviewed.


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) Arun Patel, MD, JD	
Signature: 	Date: 10/09/2024

Name: (Department Head) Christina Ghaly, MD	
Signature: 	Date: 10/16/24

<b>Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY</b>	
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.	
Name: (Risk Management Inspector General) Betty Karmirlian, Acting Risk Management Inspector General	
Signature: 	Date: 10/17/2024

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Gladwin Cedeno vs. High Desert Regional Health Center, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23AVCV00001
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	January 3, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 325,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Bradley Kramer, Esq The Trial Offices of Bradley I. Kramer
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Edward A. Morrissey Assistant County Counsel  Kjar, McKenna & Stockalper, LLP
NATURE OF CASE	Gladwin Cedeno claims staff negligently performed a laparoscopic cholecystectomy at High Desert Regional Health Center resulting in her needing a second procedure.  Due to the uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 31,100
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 7,385

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Francisca Guzman vs County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23NWCV00529
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	02/21/2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Fire Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 48,500
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Gary Berkovich, Esq. Law Offices of Gary Berkovich, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On September 7, 2021, a vehicle driven by Plaintiff Francisca Guzman and a Fire Department pickup truck collided at the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Sorenson Avenue in the City of Santa Fe Springs. Plaintiff alleges the collision caused injuries for which she seeks compensation.</p> <p>Given the risked and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$48,500 is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 17,310
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 5,310

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Maria Clark, et al. vs County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV11177
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	3/18/2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Office of the Public Defender
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 1,900,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	John Girardi John Girardi Law, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On April 5, 2019, a vehicle driven by an Office of the Public Defender employee struck Plaintiff Maria Clark as she walked with his son, Plaintiff Jose Rey, in the parking structure of the West Covina Courthouse. Plaintiffs allege the collision caused injuries for which they seek compensation.</p> <p>Given the risked and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$1,900,000 is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 155,474
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 72,442



## Summary Corrective Action Plan

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Date of incident/event:	April 5, 2019
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	At approximately 8:30 a.m., plaintiffs parked their vehicle on the top level of a Los Angeles Superior Court parking structure and were walking near each other in a crosswalk, towards a staircase near the parking lot entrance ramp, when plaintiff was struck by a vehicle driven by a County employee, who was driving during the course and scope of their employment. Plaintiff sustained injuries and was transported to the hospital. The driver indicated she did not see plaintiff because she was driving from a shaded area into bright sun, which caused a visibility issue due to the glare.

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

The County driver did not see the pedestrian walking in front of her vehicle as she was driving up the parking lot ramp due to poor visibility from the glare of the sun. The location of the pedestrian walkway crossing the top of the ramp that led to the upper level of the parking lot created a safety hazard.

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

Corrective Action 1: Ensure all mileage permittees and other staff driving to conduct County business have safe driver training every two years.

Corrective Action 2: Form a safety review committee to evaluate all traffic collisions within the Department to determine the root causes and corrective action as necessary.

Due Date: April 1, 2025
Corrective Action 3: Explore the feasibility of re-striping the pedestrian walkway further away from the vehicle ramp.
Due Date: June 15, 2025

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) <i>Jon Truchez</i>	
Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <i>10-22-24</i>

Name: (Department Head) <i>Ricardo D. Garcia</i>	
Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <i>10-22-24</i>

<b>Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY</b>		
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.		
<input type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.		
Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)		
Betty Karmirlian, Acting Risk Management Inspector General	<i>Betty Karmirlian</i>	10/22/2024

Signature:	Date:
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## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Luis Villanueva by Aki, Selmi vs. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	23TRCV00046
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 29, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Parks and Recreation
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 28,500
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Stephan Airapetian, Esq. Stephan Filip, PC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Tomas Guterres, Esq. Collins+Collins, LLP  Kevin Engelién Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a dangerous condition of public property lawsuit that arose from an incident that occurred on May 16, 2022, at Lennox Park in the County of Los Angeles. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$28,500 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 17,779
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 159



## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Grigor Sinanyan v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23BBCV00476
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 1, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 45,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	ALLEN THOMAS, ESQ. Thomas Law Firm
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	KEVIN ENGEIEN Senior County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiff Grigor Sinanyan filed this car accident lawsuit for injuries and damages sustained when the vehicle driven by Department of Children and Family Services employee Kenneth Ellison rear-ended his vehicle.  Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 12,362
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 6,581

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Linda Harding, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles, a public entity, et al.
CASE NUMBER	21STCV39512
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 27, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 99,999
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Ardy Pirinia, Esq. Pirinia Law Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin J. Engelen Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This case occurred from a traffic collision involving Plaintiffs, Linda Harding and Mario Robinson and Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Detective, Jennifer Strollo  Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 38,642
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 4,310

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Lucius Taylor v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:23-CV-01046-GW- JDE
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	February 10, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 60,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Jovan J. Blackwell LAW OFFICE OF J. BLACKWELL
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	TYSON B. NELSON Senior Deputy County Counsel Justice and Safety Division  LENORE KELLY Collinson, Daehnke, Inlow & Greco
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$60,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a civil rights lawsuit with both federal and State-law claims brought by Lucius Taylor ("Plaintiff") alleging violations of 42 U.S.C. Section 1983, battery, assault, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and Bane Act claims.</p> <p>Due to 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 \$60,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 21,198.79
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 1,395.80

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Millie Fitchett vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV01799
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	January 18, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 150,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Jasmine Baldawi, Esq. Lipeles Law Group, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Thomas C. Hurrell, Esq. Hurrell Cantrall, LLP  LaTasha N. Corry Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This incident occurred on August 10, 2021, when an unmarked vehicle driven by Sgt. Kelly Huffman collided with Ms. Fitchett's vehicle. Ms. Fitchett alleges injuries as a result of the accident.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$150,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 86,147
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 21,117



## Summary Corrective Action Plan

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Date of incident/event:	August 10, 2021
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;">Summary Corrective Action Plan 2023-150</p> <p><b>Details provided in this document summarize the incident. The information provided is a culmination of various sources to provide an abstract of the incident.</b></p> <p>Based on the initial traffic collision report, on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at approximately 2:25 p.m., an on-duty Los Angeles County Sheriff's Sergeant assigned to Detective Division, was driving her assigned unmarked undercover vehicle. Sergeant One was stopped at the east driveway waiting to make a left-hand turn. As Sergeant One inched out of the driveway to make a left turn, she was involved in a traffic collision.</p> <p>Sergeant One observed a vehicle traveling northbound on Colima Road from Telegraph Road. Sergeant One made a left-hand turn and attempted to enter the center left-hand turn lane, and wait until the vehicle passed. However, Sergeant One entered the center turn lane and collided with the Plaintiff's vehicle, which was traveling south in the center lane.</p> <p>Sergeant One notified her supervisor and advised she was involved in a traffic collision. Sergeant Two responded to the collision location and authored a Supervisor's Report of Incident or Damage to County Vehicle investigation.</p> <p>Sergeant Two interviewed the Plaintiff. She indicated she was traveling 25 mph and conducted a left-hand turn but did not see Sergeant One's vehicle until they collided. The Plaintiff advised she was not injured from the traffic collision. The Plaintiff refused a precautionary assessment by paramedics. The Plaintiff's vehicle sustained major front end passenger side damage and was towed from the location.</p> <p>Sergeant Two searched for witnesses to the traffic collision but was unsuccessful.</p> <p>Sergeant One's vehicle sustained major front-end damage in addition to deployment of the vehicle's airbag.</p> <p>Once Sergeant Two received and reviewed the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officer's report, she noticed CHP interviewed a witness from the traffic collision.</p>

	<p>Sergeant Two attempted to contact the witness at his residence and via telephone but was unable to speak with him to obtain his statement.</p> <p><b>Sergeant One's statement is based on the collision report:</b></p> <p>Sergeant One stated she was stopped at the east driveway exiting the parking lot at STARS Center, waiting to turn northbound on Colima Road. The traffic traveling southbound on Colima Road stopped, which allowed her to exit the driveway. Sergeant One indicated she observed a vehicle traveling northbound on Colima Road and proceeded to enter the left-hand turn lane. A vehicle traveling southbound in the center left turn lane struck the front end of her county vehicle.</p> <p>A CHP Officer responded to the collision and conducted a traffic collision investigation. The CHP Officer determined Sergeant One was the primary cause of the traffic collision, in violation of California Vehicle Code Section 21804(a) – The driver of any vehicle about to enter or cross a highway from any public or private property, or from an alley, shall yield the right-of-way to all traffic.</p>
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

A **Department** root cause in this was Sergeant One's failure to yield the right-of-way to all traffic in violation of California Vehicle Code Section 21804(a).

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

<p><b>Traffic Collision Investigation</b></p> <p>This incident was investigated by an officer from the California Highway Patrol.</p> <p>The collision investigation concluded Sergeant One was the primary cause of the collision by failing to yield the right-of-way to all traffic in violation of California Vehicle Code Section 21804(a).</p> <p><b>Administrative Investigation</b></p> <p>This incident was investigated by representatives at Narcotics Bureau to determine if any administrative misconduct occurred before, during, or after this incident. The results of the investigation were presented for Department executive adjudication.</p> <p>Sergeant One received additional training surrounding the circumstance in this incident.</p> <p>Appropriate administrative actions were taken.</p> <p><b>Traffic Collision Assessment and Review</b></p> <p>As a result of this collision, an assessment of employee involved traffic collisions from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2022, was conducted. The audit revealed the following:</p> <p>The number of preventable traffic collisions over the past five years was not excessive based on the amount of driving conducted by personnel assigned to Narcotics Bureau.</p>
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However, in an attempt to improve employee safety and reduce the Department's liability exposure, Narcotics Bureau continues to schedule personnel for the four and eight-hour driver training course put on by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Emergency Vehicle Operations Center.

Additionally, the Narcotics Bureau has created a POST- approved driving class specifically for personnel who drive undercover-type vehicles.

**Sheriff Department Announcement – Department-Wide Re-brief**

The purpose of this re-brief is to remind Department personnel that the safety of Department members and the public is paramount when engaged in routine driving and Code-3 responses.

It is essential to maintain heightened officer safety, common sense, and sound tactics to reduce collision-related injuries, deaths, and financial liability to the Department.

**Emergency Vehicle Operation Course – Department Expanded Briefing**

In hopes of further mitigating financial liability to the Department as a result of traffic collisions, representatives from Risk Management Bureau briefed the participants of Emergency Vehicle Operation Courses (EVOC) on current trends as it pertains to Department driving practices.

Members of the Risk Management Bureau educated course participants about the ramifications of engaging in poor driving practices. Department and individual liability were discussed, as well as the increasingly rigorous Department discipline imposed for violations of Department driving policy.

Future briefings with EVOC participants will be scheduled.

**Department Wide Broadcast Announcements–Sheriff's Communication Center (SCC)**

In hopes to mitigate the Department traffic collisions, Risk Management has partnered with SCC to create Department-Wide announcements.

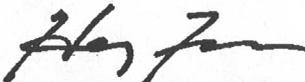


3. Are the corrective actions addressing Department-wide system issues?


- Yes – The corrective actions address Department-wide system issues.  
 No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)	
Julia Valdes, A/Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 10/5/2024

Name: (Department Head)	
Holly Francisco, Assistant Sheriff Countywide Operations	
Signature: 	Date: 10/10/24

<b>Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY</b>
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability. <input type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this Department.

Name: Betty Karmirlian (Acting Risk Management Inspector General)	
Signature:  Betty Karmirlian	Date: 10/22/24
Digitally signed by Betty Karmirlian Date: 2024.10.22 12:56:03 -07'00'	



## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Allyn Hawes v. Devin Goodman, et al.
CASE NUMBER	21STCV34569
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	September 20, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 70,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Toufic A. Nehme, Esq. Nehme Law Firm
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	LaTasha N. Corry, Esq. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This lawsuit arises from an automobile accident on February 12, 2020, where Defendant Devin Goodman ran a red light and hit the front driver's side of Plaintiff Allyn Hawes' vehicle.</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	\$ \$23,580
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ \$17,107

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

October 21, 2024

### 1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:33 a.m. The meeting was held virtually, with Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro, Claims Board Member Adrienne M. Byers, and Claims Board Secretary Laura Z. Salazar participating in person at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Sixth Floor, Conference Room C, Los Angeles, California 90012. Claims Board Member Oscar Valdez was absent.

All other participants at the Claims Board meeting appeared virtually: Roderick Sasis, Christopher Keosian, Kent Sommer, Pouya Bavafa, and Stacey Lee appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Deputy Johanna Cunningham, Lieutenant Thomas V. Kim, Commander Rodney Moore, Lieutenant Jose Aguirre Jr., Deputy Nancy K. Madarasz, Lieutenant Julia M. Valdes, Lieutenant Laura Avelar, Sergeant Juleen R. Smith, Lieutenant Jennifer M. Roth, and Katherine Vance (Leiva) appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Christina Lee appeared for the Department of Children and Family Services. Vincent Yu and Kathy Salama appeared for the Department of Public Works. Evon Coburn appeared for the Department of Public Health. James C. Jardin appeared for Collins + Collins LLP. Paul D. Knothe appeared for Liebert Cassidy Whitmore. Warren M. Williams appeared for Kessel & Megrabyan. Avi Burkwitz appeared for Peterson Bradford Burkwitz Gregorio Burkwitz & Su, 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 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 9:33 a.m., Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(f).

### 4. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session.

No member of the public was present on the teleconference phone line to hear the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

At 11:41 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session to report the actions taken in closed session as follows:

#### a. Knock LA v. County of Los Angeles Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCP04060

This petition for writ of mandate against the Sheriff's Department involves the resolution of a California Public Records Act request.

#### Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(a) in the amount of \$21,500.

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

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

This petition for writ of mandate against the Sheriff's Department involves the resolution of a California Public Records Act request.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(b) in the amount of \$500,000.

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

**c. Mark Palomar v. County of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV08284**

This lawsuit alleges that a former deputy trainee of the Sheriff's Department was subjected to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation based on disability.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(c) in the amount of \$65,000.

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

**d. Elizabeth Harris v. County of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV00135**

This lawsuit alleges that an employee of the Department of Children and Family Services was subjected to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation based on race and disability.

Action Taken:

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

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

**e. Francis Pierce v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV18103**

This lawsuit alleges that a former hygienist of the Department of Public Health was subjected to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation based on age and disability.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(e) in the amount of \$90,000.

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

**f. Hoda Hassan v. County of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV02032**

This lawsuit alleges that an employee of the Department of Public Works was subjected to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation based on age, gender, and national origin.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(f) in the amount of \$200,000.

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

**5. Approval of the Minutes of the October 7, 2024, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the October 7, 2024, meeting.

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

**6. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By

  
Laura Z. Salazar

Claims Board Secretary