

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD IN PERSON AND ONLINE VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024, AT 9:30 A.M.

Present: Chair Destiny Castro, and Adrienne M. Byers

Absent: 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 member of the public was 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. **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 3(a) in the amount of \$21,500.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

- 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 3(b) in the amount of \$500,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**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 3(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 3(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 3(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 3(f) in the amount of \$200,000.

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

Absent: Oscar Valdez

4. Approval of the Minutes for 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

[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	Knock LA v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	22STCP04060
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	November 14, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 21,500
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Susan E. Seager, UC Irvine School of Law
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Roderick E. Sasis, Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle the attorneys' fees and costs in a California Public Records Act lawsuit filed by Petitioner Knock LA against the County of Los Angeles for \$21,500.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 33,450
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 625

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Demetra Johnson, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	19STCP04664
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 29, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 500,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Oliver L. Brown, Munger, Tolles & Olson
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Roderick E. Sasis, Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle the attorneys' fees and costs relating to a motion seeking enforcement of the court's judgment in a California Public Records Act lawsuit filed by the ACLU Foundation of Southern California, on behalf of itself and three individuals, Demetra Johnson, Zachary Wade, and Vinly Eng, against the County of Los Angeles for \$500,000.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 353,756
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 32,362

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

October 7, 2024

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:43 a.m. The meeting was held virtually, with Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro, Claims Board Member Oscar Valdez, 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.

All other participants at the Claims Board meeting appeared virtually: Kevin Engelien, Jonathan McCaverty, Roderick Sasis, Richard Hsueh, Melissa McCaverty, Minas Samuelian, Lindsay Yoshiyama, Michael Owens, and Anthony Morrone appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Michele Chimienti, Ronald Castaneda, Jacklin Injijian, and Robert Scharf appeared for the Department of Public Works. Jacques Cain appeared for the Office of the Public Defender. Vanessa Dinsay, Hanumantha Damerla, Ly Ngo, and Karen Streich appeared for the Department of Mental Health. Kimberly Epps and Sheila Williams appeared for the Probation Department. Sergeant Shanese Winfrey, Lieutenant Jose Aguirre Jr., Lieutenant Lewis Lim, Captain David Sun, Deputy Renata Phillip, Captain Calvin Mah, Lieutenant David Hernandez, Commander Alfred Reyes, Commander Damon A. Jones, Lieutenant Juan Sanchez, James Carroll, and Katherine Vance appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Minh Le appeared for the Department of Internal Services. Daniel Ramirez and Jeanine Thomas appeared for the Department of Auditor-Controller. Andrew Baum appeared for Glaser Weil Fink Howard Aachen & Shapiro, LLP. Geoffrey S. Sheldon appeared for Liebert Cassidy Whitmore. Jill Williams appeared for Carpenter, Rothans & Dumont. 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 9:43 a.m., Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro 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.

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

At 12:47 p.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session to report the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Francisco Javier Castellanos v. City of Covina, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22PSCV01235

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit against the Department of Public Works arises from alleged injuries Plaintiff sustained from a trip and fall that occurred in unincorporated Covina Islands.

Action Taken:

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

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

**b. Corey Williams v. Ricardo Garcia, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-cv-08077**

This civil rights lawsuit filed against the Public Defender's Office by a former client alleges that his constitutional rights were violated when he was held in custody without trial for approximately 11 years.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(b) in the amount of \$3,650,000.

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

**c. Agustin Herrera, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:22-cv-01013**

This federal civil rights class action lawsuit contends that the Probation Department and Department of Mental Health failed to ensure safe and habitable conditions for more than 7,000 youth housed at juvenile facilities from 2014 to present.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(c) in the amount of \$30,000,000.

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

**d. Ben Mosco, et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22CHCP00248**

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(d) in the amount of \$41,250.

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

**e. Heidi Sam v. Francisco Aban Ong, Jr., et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV11118**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(e) in the amount of \$162,500.

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

f. **N.B., et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-cv-02165

This federal civil rights and wrongful death lawsuit arises out of a fatal deputy-involved shooting of Decedent while deputies attempted to arrest him pursuant to a felony arrest warrant.

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 Destiny Castro
Noes: 1 – Oscar Valdez

g. **Virginia Olivera Diaz, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV24227

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiffs allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(g) in the amount of \$495,000.

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

h. **Adrian Cruz, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:23-cv-02702

This civil rights lawsuit concerns allegations of excessive force by Sheriff's deputies during the detention of Plaintiff.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(h) in the amount of \$525,000.

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

i. **Non-Litigated Claim of County of San Bernardino**

This claim by San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department seeks reimbursement of expenses associated with the search and rescue operation of a missing Los Angeles County resident.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(i) in the amount of \$26,960.35.

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

j. Non-Litigated Tax Claims of Hernandez and Gallegos

These two 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.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(j) in the amounts of \$49,952.92 and \$76,827.87.

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

**k. Hasmik Yaghobyan v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV11119**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Auditor Controller's Office was subjected to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(k) in the amount of \$87,500.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro
Recusal: 1 – Oscar Valdez

5. Approval of the Minutes of the September 16, 2024, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the September 16, 2024, meeting.

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

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By



Laura Z. Salazar
Claims Board Secretary