

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD IN PERSON AND ONLINE VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025, AT 9:30 A.M.

Present: Chair Destiny Castro, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez

1. **Call to Order.**
2. **Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.**

No member of the public appeared in person. On the public teleconference phone line, attorneys from Slater, Slater, Schulman, LLP including Adam Slater, James Lewis, and Alina Sookasian, were present to hear the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

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

- a. **Laura Ann Navarro v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: 22STCV07209**

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff sustained injuries when she tripped and fell due to deteriorated pavement on the sidewalk.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(a) in the amount of \$70,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. **Karen Vargas Pazaran v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: 24STCV12119**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(b) in the amount of \$90,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

c. **Juan Zamora, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV07595

This lawsuit alleges negligence by a Sheriff's Department deputy on an inmate incarcerated at Men's Central Jail.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(c) in the amount of \$190,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

d. **WenHui Chen, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV25304

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued Item 3(d) to a future meeting.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

e. **Non-Litigated Claim of Joanna Mancilla**
EEOC: 480-2023-04491

This claim filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleges that a former intern with the Department of Children and Family Services was subjected to disability discrimination.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(e) in the amount of \$211,076.40.

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

**f. Jane Doe 1, et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV20949 and approximately 6,800 AB
218 Matters Against the County of Los Angeles**

These matters concern allegations of childhood sexual abuse against the Probation Department, Department of Children and Family Services, Parks and Recreation Department, Department of Health Services, Sheriff's Department, and Fire Department.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(f) in the amount of \$4,000,000,000 (plus administrative costs).

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

4. Approval of the Minutes of the March 17, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the March 17, 2025, meeting.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

5. Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

No such matters were discussed.

6. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Laura Ann Navarro v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV07209
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	February 28, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 70,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	STEPHEN E. FRESCH, ESQ. Comley Fresch TRISTAN OROZCO, ESQ. Orozco Law Group, PC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	LATASHA N. CORRY, ESQ. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiff alleges injuries and damages when she tripped and fell due to deteriorated pavement on the sidewalk near 15632 Leffingwell Road, in the City of Whitter. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 90,700
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 37,110

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Karen Vargas Pazaran vs. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	24STCV12119
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	May 14, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 90,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Harvey Goldhammer, Esq. Countrywide Trial Lawyers, APLC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin J. Engelen Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This case occurred from a traffic collision involving Plaintiff, Karen Vargas Pazaran and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy, Alexander Nolasco. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 5,565
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 2,708

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Juan Zamora, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV07595
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court - Central Judicial District
DATE FILED	March 29, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 190,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	The Law Offices of Humberto Guizar, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MILLICENT L. ROLON Principal Deputy County Counsel Justice and Safety Division LENORE KELLY, ESQ. Collinson, Daehnke, Inlow & Greco
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$190,000 inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a State civil rights lawsuit filed by Juan and Geraldine Zamora, after Mr. Zamora suffered a partial finger amputation while incarcerated at Men's Central Jail. Given the 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 \$190,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 74,174
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 23,877



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:	April 19, 2021
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;">Summary Corrective Action Plan</p> <p>On December 19, 2020, Plaintiff was arrested by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), Palmdale Station, for a violation of California Vehicle Codes (VC) §23152(a) – Driving While Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs (DUI), §14601.2(a) – Driving With a Suspended License From a Prior DUI, §23247(e) – Driving Without An Ignition Interlock Device, and §23222(a) – Driving With an Open Container. Plaintiff was booked at Palmdale Station and subsequently transported to the Inmate Reception Center (IRC) for processing into the jail system.</p> <p>On March 20, 2021, Plaintiff was moved to Men's Central Jail (MCJ), Module 3800, Cell A2. Module 3800 contains four (4) linear cell blocks with a varying number of four (4) person cells in each block.</p> <p>On April 19, 2021, at approximately 1036 hours, Plaintiff was returning to his cell from a movement pass. The module deputy opened cell A2, and Plaintiff entered the cell and waved toward the control booth. Once Plaintiff was fully inside his cell, the module deputy turned the control wheel, closing the cell gate. The module deputy then began to open a different cell gate.</p> <p>While opening the different cell gate, the handle for Plaintiff's cell gate slipped out of the closed position, causing the gate to open. Plaintiff is then seen sticking his head out of the cell.</p> <p>Approximately two (2) seconds later the cell gate began to close. Plaintiff appeared to attempt to hold the gate and then abruptly pulled his hand away. The cell gate is then reopened, and Plaintiff is seen exiting his cell holding his right hand, which appeared to be bleeding.</p> <p>Plaintiff was taken to the MCJ clinic and subsequently transported to Los Angeles County General Hospital (LAGH).</p>

	LAGH treated Plaintiff for injuries he sustained from the gate closing on him. He was subsequently discharged from the hospital and re-housed at MCJ, general population.
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

The following departmental root causes were identified:


- The cell gate malfunctioning, causing it to unexpectedly reopen and then close.
- The public address system, used to warn individuals when the gates are moving, was inoperative, forcing personnel to make loud verbal announcements.

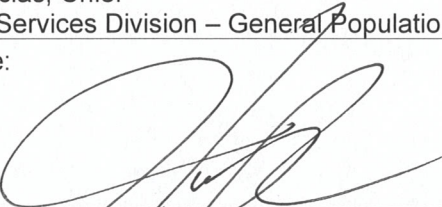
2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

- 1) After this incident Men's Central Jail conducted a review of the incident. Men's Central Jail determined that the involved deputy performed his duties satisfactorily and as expected for a deputy sheriff.
- 2) An emergency repair of the gate system was completed on April 30, 2021, to address operating concerns with the gates.
- 3) Men's Central Jail leadership conducted a re-brief of the cell gate closing policy, including the announcement requirement.
- 4) To address intermittent issues with the public address system in Module 3800, Facilities Services Bureau completed a replacement of the face cover and microphone connector for the public address system.
- 5) Men's Central Jail conducted a briefing with all personnel assigned to Men's Central Jail, reminding them to check gates/cells and to submit a work order immediately upon discovering a maintenance concern with a gate/cell.

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) Christine M. Coles, Commander Custody Services Division – Specialized Programs	
Signature: 	Date: 2-26-25

Name: (Department Head) Hugo Macias, Chief Custody Services Division – General Population	
Signature: 	Date: 3/5/25

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) Betty Karmirlian, Acting Risk Management Inspector General	
Signature: 	Date: 3/11/2025

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	WenHui Chen, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV25304
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	August 5, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 950,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	ROBERT S. GLASSMAN, ESQ. Panish Shea Boyle Ravipudi LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	RICHARD K. KUDO Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On February 14, 2022, a Deputy Sheriff was on-duty in the City of Burbank and driving a Sheriff's Department Chevrolet patrol car in the number one southbound lane of Interstate 5 behind WenHui Chen and Bin Hu's ("Plaintiffs") Honda minivan. Plaintiff Chen was driving, and Plaintiff Hu was seated in the rear-passenger seat with their minor child. When traffic slowed and stopped in front of them, the deputy was unable to stop and collided into the rear of Plaintiffs' minivan. Plaintiffs claim to have suffered injuries and damages from the accident.</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	\$ 56,577
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 67,454



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:	February 14, 2022
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p>Plaintiffs claim they suffered multiple injuries and property damage after being rear ended by a Deputy Sheriff on Interstate 5 in the City of Burbank.</p> <p>On February 14, 2022, a Deputy Sheriff was driving an unmarked Sheriff's Department vehicle on Interstate 5 in the City of Burbank. The Deputy Sheriff was operating the vehicle at approximately 60 miles per hour.</p> <p>Traffic in front of the Deputy Sheriff came to an abrupt stop. The Deputy Sheriff applied their brakes but was unable to stop before hitting Plaintiffs' vehicle. The estimated speed at the time of the collision was 15-20 miles per hour.</p> <p>Both vehicles sustained property damage. Plaintiffs alleged various injuries. The Deputy Sheriff was uninjured.</p> <p>California Highway Patrol (CHP) investigated the accident and determined the Deputy Sheriff was at fault.</p>

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

A Departmental root cause in this incident was the involved Deputy Sheriff travelling in a Department vehicle at a speed that was unsafe for the prevailing traffic conditions.

Case Name: Chen, Wenhui et al v. County of Los Angeles


County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

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

- Traffic Collision Investigation – The incident was thoroughly investigated by CHP. CHP concluded that the involved Deputy Sheriff was at fault for the accident.
- Supervisor’s Report of Incident or Damage to County Vehicle – A thorough administrative investigation was conducted of the incident. Appropriate administrative action was taken.
- Employee Risk Assessment – A comprehensive review of the involved deputy sheriff’s work history was conducted after this incident. This review included uses of force, civil claims, and complaints, as well as traffic collisions.


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) Commander Christine M. Coles	
Signature: 	Date: 3-5-25

Name: (Department Head) Commander Geradette E. Montoya	
Signature: 	Date: 3/4/25

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY
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	
Signature: 	Date: 3/11/2025

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

March 17, 2025

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:48 a.m. The meeting was held virtually with Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro, Claims Board Member Oscar Valdez, 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 Adrienne M. Byers was absent.

All other participants at the Claims Board meeting appeared virtually: Narbeh Bagdasarian, Edward Morrissey, Michael Gordon, Lana Choi, Natalie Luongo, and Anthony Morrone appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Claudia Aguirre, Brad Spellberg, Elizabeth Augusta, and Arun Patel appeared for the Department of Health Services. Jacklin Injijian, Ronald Castaneda, Andrew Ngumba, and Alex Villarama appeared for the Department of Public Works. Lieutenant Dianne Moreno, Captain Richard Ruiz, Sergeant Shanese Winfrey, Deputy Nancy K. Madarasz, Captain Richard J. Cartmill, Commander Mark A. Reyes, Captain Chris M. Kusayanagi, and Commander Rick O. Rector appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Nancy Canosa, Maribel Pulido, and Genie Chough appeared for Child Support Services Department. Robert L. Rosvall appeared for Collins + Collins LLP. Warren M. Williams appeared for Kessel & Megrabyan Law.

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 9:48 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 appeared in person or on the public teleconference phone line to hear the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

At 11:16 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session to report the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Makroohi Nishanian, et al. v. Keck Hospital of USC, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STCV04775

This medical malpractice lawsuit concerns allegations that a patient died at Los Angeles General Medical Center due to inadequate care.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(a) in the amount of \$550,000.

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

**b. Farzaneh Shirloo v. City of Calabasas, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV00177**

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff sustained injuries when she tripped and fell over a sewer manhole.

Action Taken:

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

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

**c. Julio Cesar Mejia v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23NWCV01002**

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department deputy and a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(c) in the amount of \$95,000.

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

**d. Ana Patricia Fernandez v. Los Angeles County, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:20-cv-09876**

This federal civil rights lawsuit arises from Plaintiff's payment of a \$24,354 administrative fee charged by the Sheriff's Department for the return of 451 firearms.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(d) in the amount of \$60,000.

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

**e. Amayel Garfias v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV01738**

This employment lawsuit resulted from Plaintiff's allegations of assault and battery at work by a Sheriff's Department deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(e) in the amount of \$30,000.

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

**f. Non-Litigated Claim of Delinia Leguie
CRD: 20304-2179905 / EEOC: 37A-20223-0211**

This complaint filed with the Civil Rights Department alleges that an employee of Child Support Services Department was subjected to disability discrimination and retaliation.

Action Taken:

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

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

5. Approval of the Minutes of the March 3, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:


The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the March 3, 2025, meeting.

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

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By 

Laura Z. Salazar
Claims Board Secretary