

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD IN PERSON AND ONLINE VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON MONDAY, JULY 21, 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 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)).**

- a. **Cindy Kraus v. David Arthur Gomez, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AHCV02044

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained by Plaintiff when a vehicle driven by a Parks and Recreation employee collided with her wheelchair while crossing the street within a crosswalk.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(a) in the amount of \$30,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. **Andy Burkhart v. Estevan Robles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22GDCV00905

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Public Works employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(b) in the amount of \$75,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

c. **Kimberly Lamb, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:23-cv-03479

This lawsuit alleges wrongful death and civil rights violations arising out of the death of Plaintiffs' son while in custody at the Pico Rivera Sheriff's station.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(c) in the amount of \$850,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

d. **Chad Sauter v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV12692

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Sheriff's Department was subjected to retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(d) in the amount of \$75,000.

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

e. **Peter Brosnan v. Los Angeles County**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV16279

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee with the Department of Children and Family Services was subjected to age and race discrimination, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(e) in the amount of \$99,000.

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

f. **Francisco Hernandez v. County of Los Angeles**
United States District Court No. 2:25-cv-01501

This lawsuit alleges that the Fire Department violated the Fair Labor Standards Act by not compensating for overtime.

Action Taken:

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

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

**g. Mercury Insurance Company v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STLC08558**

This subrogation lawsuit seeks reimbursement for property damage allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Fire Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(g) in the amount of \$36,500.

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

4. Approval of the Minutes of the July 7, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the July 7, 2025, meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and 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	Cindy Kraus vs David Arthur Gomez, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23AHCV02044
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	09/06/2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Parks and Recreation
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 30,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	JASON G. EISENBERG, ESQ. Eisenberg Law Group, PC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MICHAEL J. GORDON, ESQ. Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	On February 27, 2023, a County of Los Angeles vehicle driven by an on-duty employee of the Department of Parks and Recreation collided with Plaintiff, a pedestrian in a wheel chair, in a crosswalk at the intersection of Fair Oaks Avenue and West Woodbury Road in Altadena. Plaintiff alleges the collision caused injuries for which she seeks compensation. Given the risk and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$30,000 is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 101,996
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 62,858

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Andy Burkhart vs. Robles, Estevan, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22GDCV00905
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	November 21, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 75,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	JAMES L. MEIER, ESQ. Law Offices of James L. Meier
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	LATASHA N. CORRY Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	On January 5, 2022, Plaintiff was driving his employer's cargo van at or near 134 East freeway, in slowing traffic when his van was rear-ended by a Department employee. Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 44,509
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 40,820

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Kimberly Lamb, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:23-CV-03479
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	April 4, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 850,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Michael S. Carrillo
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Minas Samuelian Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$850,000 inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a lawsuit filed by the parents of decedent Leland William Barnett against the County alleging civil rights violations and wrongful death following the in-custody death of Mr. Barnett. 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 \$850,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 65,187
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 9,954



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:	July 5, 2022, approximately 5:00 p.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Summary Corrective Action Plan 2024-191 Details in this document summarize the incident. The information provided is a culmination of various sources to provide an abstract of the incident. Multiple investigative reports indicate, on July 5, 2022, at approximately 5:00 p.m., two on-duty Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy Sheriffs, assigned to Pico Rivera Sheriff Station, responded to a "McDonalds" parking lot regarding a physical altercation between the Decedent and his boyfriend (Victim). The Deputies detained the Decedent pending their investigation. Upon the conclusion of their investigation, they placed the Decedent under arrest in violation of California Penal Code Section 273.5(a) - Corporal Injury to a Cohabitant. Deputy One placed the Decedent in the backseat of his patrol vehicle. As the Decedent sat down in the backseat of the patrol vehicle, he kicked over a plastic baggie which was located on the rear floorboard on the driver's side. The Decedent stated to Deputy One, "that's not mine." Deputy One retrieved the baggie and placed it on the front passenger seat of the patrol vehicle. Deputy One later evaluated the plastic baggie; there was nothing inside the baggie and Deputy One determined it was trash. Deputy Two did not pursue further investigation into the Decedent's claim of drugs in the back seat of the patrol vehicle because Deputy One had already informed and physically showed him he had removed a plastic baggie from the back seat of the vehicle. The Decedent was transported to a local hospital for a medical clearance, in preparation of the booking process. The Decedent was cleared for booking. The Decedent indicated his head hurt, but head trauma was not noted in the medical documents. The Decedent was transported and booked by Deputy One at the Pico Rivera Station jail at 7:01 p.m. and placed alone in Cell #6 due to his classification.

	Custody Assistant One was responsible for the Decedent's supervision in the station jail and to manually log inmate safety checks after the Decedent was booked and housed. On July 6, 2022, Custody Assistant One performed a safety check at 4:27 a.m. At 5:01 a.m., while distributing breakfast to inmates, Custody Assistant One discovered the Decedent was lying on his right side (facing the wall) on a lower bunk in the cell unresponsive, and appeared to not be breathing. Custody Assistant One entered the cell and tapped the Decedent on the shoulder to wake him; he observed blood on the Decedent's mattress and blanket which prompted him to activate the jail's panic alarm for assistance. Deputies One and Five responded to the station jail. The Decedent was placed on his back, and foam was observed coming from his mouth. Deputies started Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Custody Assistant One retrieved the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) device; the AED instructed the cadence for the CPR. Deputies One and Five performed CPR until medical personnel arrived and took over. Medical personnel pronounced the Decedent deceased at 5:35 a.m. Nearby inmates at the station jail were interviewed, but no one reported seeing or hearing anything. LASD Homicide Bureau Detectives responded and investigated the death of the Decedent. The coroner's report later indicated the autopsy report did not list any evidence of acute trauma and concluded the manner of death was accidental and identified the cause of death as drug use.
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Custody Assistant One's overdue safety checks, in violation of Department policy.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the lack of jail cameras in the cell corridors, which may have allowed personnel to notice the Decedent in distress and administer prompt life-saving measures.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the failure to deploy Narcan during the emergency response for the Decedent.

A **non-Department** root cause was the Decedent's ingestion of illegal narcotics, leading to an accidental overdose of fentanyl and methamphetamine.

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

Administrative Investigation

An Administrative Investigation was conducted regarding the poor quality of the inmate safety checks. Appropriate administrative action was taken.

Station Training – NARCAN

All station personnel have been re-briefed on Emergency Medical Procedures. NARCAN has been issued to each station jailer with a holster in addition to the NARCAN located near the "Livescan Machine" inside the jail.

Jail Cameras - Upgrade

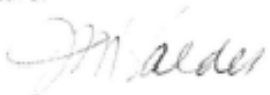
The station is currently awaiting funding approval to complete this project.

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 M. Valdes, Acting Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 06/24/2025

Name: (Department Head)	
Myron Johnson, Assistant Sheriff Patrol Operations	
Signature: 	Date: 7/3/25

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: Betty Karmirlian (Risk Management Inspector General)

Signature:

Betty Karmirlian

Date:

7/7/2025

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

July 7, 2025

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 Chair Destiny Castro, Claims Board Member Oscar Valdez, Claims Board Member Adrienne M. Byers, and Claims Board administrator 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: Narbeh Bagdasarian, Jennifer Lehman, Melissa McCaverty, Mark W. Lomax, Michael J. Gordon, Latasha N. Corry, Kevin Engelen, Richard Hsueh, and Raina Mey appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Ly Ngo appeared for the Department of Mental Health. Jacklin Injijian, Michele Chimienti, Ronald Castaneda, and Alex Villarama appeared for the Department of Public Works. Anush Gambaryan, Brian Mejia, and Mika Yamamoto appeared for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Rachel Lara appeared for the Fire Department. Lieutenant Jennifer M. Roth, Lieutenant Tina L. Arevalo, Captain Jose L. Hernandez, and Commander Damon A. Jones appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Mitzie Dobson appeared for Bonne Bridges Mueller O'Keefe & Nichols. Sylvia Schweizer appeared for George Hills. Tom Guterres appeared for Collins & Collins LLP. Jill Williams appeared for Carpenter, Rothans & Dumont 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 9:41 a.m., Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(g).

4. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session.

No member of the public appeared in person or on the public teleconference phone line to address the Claims Board.

At 12:29 p.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session to report the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Sharon L. Anderson v. County of Los Angeles, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV34038

This lawsuit concerns allegations of sexual assault and battery by a Department of Mental Health employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(a) in the amount of \$1,500,000.

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

**b. Matthew Reppa v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AVCV00552**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Public Works' employee driving a snowplow.

Action Taken:

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

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

c. Non-Litigated Claims of Steven B. Lam and Hisae K. Utsunomiya

These inverse condemnation claims seek compensation from the Department of Public Works for property damage allegedly caused by a sewage spill from a sewer mainline blockage.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(c) in the amount of \$161,089.

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

**d. Ann Grigoryan v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23GDCV00441**

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained when she tripped and fell at Crescenta Valley Community Regional Park.

Action Taken:

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

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

**e. Mercury Insurance Company v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STLC08558**

This subrogation lawsuit seeks reimbursement for property damage allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Fire Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued Item 4(e) to a future meeting.

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

**f. Diego Guarchaj v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV27961**

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained when a Sheriff's Department's vehicle struck Plaintiff's bicycle.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(f) in the amount of \$100,000.

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

**g. Marco Antonio Vazquez, Sr., et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:20-cv-01527**

This federal civil rights and wrongful death lawsuit arises from a fatal deputy-involved shooting of Decedent.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(g) in the amount of \$2,250,000.

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

5. Approval of the Minutes of the June 16, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the June 16, 2025, meeting.

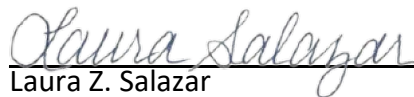
Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By



Laura Z. Salazar
Senior Paralegal
Office of the County Counsel