

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD IN PERSON AND ONLINE VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 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. **Edith Rodrigueznavas v. Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23CMCV00881**

This medical malpractice lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained by Plaintiff while being treated at Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(a) in the amount of \$140,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. **Judy Regan v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AHCV00340**

This personal injury lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff was injured due to a dangerous condition when she fell into a drainage ditch.

Action Taken:

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

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**c. Maria Villalvazo v. City of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23CHCV00356**

This personal injury lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff was injured due to a dangerous condition when she tripped and fell on an uneven sidewalk.

Action Taken:

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

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**d. Juan Marquez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:22-cv-07246**

This federal civil rights lawsuit arises from a deputy-involved shooting of Plaintiff during an arrest/search warrant at Plaintiff's residence.

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. Dalila Gomez v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STCV10303**

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

Action Taken:

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

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

4. Approval of the Minutes of the July 21, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the July 21, 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	Edith Rodrigueznava v. Martin Luther King Outpatient Center, et. al.
CASE NUMBER	23CMCV00881
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court Case
DATE FILED	June 13, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 140,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Jon M. Steiner Thomas J. Miletic LEVITT, LEICHENGER & ABERLE LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian Principal Deputy County Counsel Health Services Division George L. Mallory George L. Mallory Jr. & Associates
NATURE OF CASE	This is a lawsuit alleging medical negligence arising out of the injury of Edith Rodrigueznava at Martin Luther King Jr. Outpatient Center ("MLK"). Plaintiff Edith Rodrigueznava alleges that on July 27, 2022, staff at MLK were negligent during the removal of her wisdom teeth. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of this matter is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 19,584
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 8,287

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Judy Regan v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23AHCV00340
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	February 15, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 85,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	MICHAEL P. O'CONNOR, ESQ. Law Offices of of Thom Beck Vanni Callahan & Powell
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MELISSA A. MCCAVERTY, ESQ. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	On July 24, 2022, Plaintiff was walking in the street at the southeast corner of Porter Avenue and East Altadena Drive in the City of Altadena. Plaintiff stopped to rest and leaned against a flexible reflective marker, which gave way, causing her to fall backwards into a drainage ditch. Plaintiff claims to have suffered injuries and damages from the incident. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 42,684
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 21,238

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Maria Villalvazo v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23CHCV00356
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	February 7, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Internal Services Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 75,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	STEVEN IBARRA, ESQ. Law Offices of Steven Ibarra
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MELISSA A. MCCAVERY, ESQ. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	On May 22, 2022, Plaintiff was walking on a sidewalk in front of an Internal Services Division Building located at 13188 Del Sur Street in the City of San Fernando, when she tripped on a vertical displacement on the sidewalk. Plaintiff claims to have suffered injuries and damages from the incident. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 58,681
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 15,184

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Juan Marquez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:22-CV-07246
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	October 4, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 4,500,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	GREG L. KIRAKOSIAN Kirakosian Law, APC DALE K. GALIPO Law Offices of Dale K. Galipo
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	RICHARD HSUEH Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle the federal lawsuit for disputed liability, filed by Juan Marquez arising out of the service of an arrest warrant on October 30, 2021, for a sum of \$4,500,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs. Due to 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 \$4,500,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 183,505
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 222,755



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:	December 15, 2021, approximately 4:37 a.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Summary Corrective Action Plan 2023-160 Multiple investigative reports indicate on December 9, 2021, a detective at Norwalk Sheriff's Station sought and obtained a search and arrest warrant for the Plaintiff and his residence located in the city of Whittier. The arrest warrant was for the commission of an assault with a deadly weapon with a firearm. The search warrant was for the confiscation of all handguns located in the residence and associated with the Plaintiff. The warrant was classified as "high-risk" due to the number of automatic firearms and handguns anticipated to be in the residence, coupled with the nature of the crime the Plaintiff was suspected of having committed. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Special Enforcement Bureau's (SEB) Special Weapons Team was assigned to serve the arrest warrant and search warrant. On Monday, December 13, 2021, members of the SEB, were briefed by the detective about the Plaintiff's crime. They were provided basic information about the Plaintiff, shown his DMV photograph, and informed approximately 10 firearms, two of which were assault rifles, were registered to him. The SEB deputies were informed that Plaintiff's family members also lived in the residence. Deputies prepared an operations plan and briefing plan for the warrant service. On Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at approximately 3:00 a.m., the day the warrant was to be served, Deputies were briefed on the tactical plan, case information, and last-minute logistical needs and assignments. Three SEB paramedics were also assigned to the operation. Following the briefing, Deputies One and Two drove past the residence. They observed that lights were on inside the

	house and believed that someone was awake. The SEB team proceeded to the residence. At approximately 4:30 a.m., the team began to position themselves and surround the residence. Streetlights were on, which illuminated the front of the house, and a dim light illuminated the porch area. Deputy Four, who was positioned next to the large front window, signaled to the entry team that he saw multiple individuals asleep in the living room. The Sergeant verified that every team member was in position and signaled to Deputy Two to begin the “knock and notice” announcements, which were audio recorded. Several commands were heard demanding entry. Through the glass oval window on the door, Deputies saw a woman in the living room. Deputy Seven removed the front security screen door. The doorknob of the interior wooden door was locked. Deputy Four saw that the two male occupants, whom he had seen asleep on the couch, were up and covered in blankets. He announced in English and Spanish, “Police! It’s the police! Show me your hands!” They looked at him through the window, but they did not raise their hands. Deputy One saw a female inside the living room had seen them, and he watched her talk to someone behind her while seemingly holding the door closed with her hands. She then returned to the door, acted like she was going to open it, and then backed up. Deputy Four saw the two male occupants briefly look around and then take off running within the residence. The Sergeant felt the team had been compromised and needed to make a forced entry. Deputy Five breached the door with the ram. A third male emerged from the hallway and into the living room area, followed by the Plaintiff. Deputy Five saw the Plaintiff standing approximately ten to fifteen feet in front of him, holding a black firearm with both hands above his waistline, pointed in his direction. Deputy Five took a step back to allow Deputies One and Two access to the house, and said, “gun.”
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	Deputy One could see one of the male occupants holding his hands up and the female on the ground, also displaying her hands. Deputy Two could see three to four males moving around in the living room. Deputies One and Two yelled, "Let me see your hands!" twice. Deputy One saw the Plaintiff's face and half of his body, standing in a shooting stance, and saw that he was "coming up with a black handgun." Deputy One saw the Plaintiff point the gun at Deputy Two. Deputy Two had also seen the Plaintiff raise a black handgun from his waistband and point it at his face. Deputy Two believed that he and Deputy One were going to be shot. After the first gunshot, Deputy Two saw the Plaintiff duck down behind the couch, poking his head up and down, while maintaining the gun pointing in his direction. The Plaintiff manipulated the gun as though it was jammed, "fidgeting with it" and appeared to be attempting to fire it. Deputy Two fired two rounds at the Plaintiff; one of the rounds struck the Plaintiff. Deputy Two advised the team that the Plaintiff was "down" and behind the couch. The deputies began to command the occupants to vacate the house. They walked out of the house and were escorted off the premises. The SEB entry team entered the residence with two paramedics; Deputies Eight and Nine. The team found the Plaintiff lying on his back on the kitchen floor, bleeding. A Smith and Wesson 9mm semi-automatic pistol, loaded with an 8-round magazine, was near the Plaintiff's feet. Deputy Ten saw the paramedic deputies, Deputies Eight and Nine, rendering aid and called the Fire Department for assistance. The Fire Department responded and transported the Plaintiff to a local hospital. As a result of his injury, the Plaintiff will require future medical care.
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the Deputies were involved in a deputy-involved shooting as they attempted to take the Plaintiff into custody.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the Plaintiff's decision to point a firearm at the Deputy Sheriffs.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the Plaintiff's and his family's failure to comply with the Deputies' lawful orders.

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

Criminal and Administrative Investigation

This incident was thoroughly investigated by the Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau. The results of the investigation were submitted to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Justice System Integrity Division. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office concluded the investigation and found Deputies One and Two acted in lawful self-defense and defense of others when they used deadly force against the Plaintiff; they closed the file and would be taking no further action in this matter.

An administrative review was conducted and it was determined that the force and tactics used by the deputies were within department policy.

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

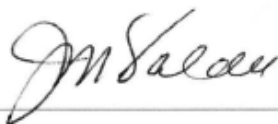
- ☐ Yes – The corrective actions address Department-wide system issues.
☒ No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)

Julia M. Valdes, Acting Captain
Risk Management Bureau

Signature:



Date:

05/27/25

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

July 21, 2025

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:38 a.m. The meeting was held virtually with Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro, Claims Board Member Oscar Valdez, and Claims Board Member Adrienne M. Byers participating in person at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Sixth Floor, Conference Room C, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Alvin Brewer and Rachel Lara appeared in person for the Fire Department. All other participants at the Claims Board meeting appeared virtually: Michael Gordon, LaTasha Corry, Minas Samuelian, Ali Fathi, Victoria Jalili, Jenny Park, and Raina Mey appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Brian Mejia and Trevor Zemp appeared for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Michele Chimienti, Jacklin Injijian, and Ronald Castaneda appeared for the Department of Public Works. Commander Damon Jones, Captain Jose L. Hernandez, Lieutenant Ingrid Jefferys, Lieutenant Jennifer Roth, Deputy Nancy K. Madarasz, Division Chief Jason P. Wolak, Commander Johann W. Thrall, Acting Commander Bille Ernest, and Acting Captain Julia Valdes appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Christina Lee appeared for the Department of Children and Family Services. Julia Kim appeared for the Fire Department. Adam A. Ainslie appeared for Collins + Collins, LLP. Paul Beach appeared for Lawrence Beach, Allen & Choi PC. Valarie Kincaid appeared for Hausman & Sosa, LLP. Kelley M. Fox and Linda C. Miller Savitt appeared for Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Savitt, LLP. Danny Y. Yoo appeared for Liebert Cassidy Whitmore.

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 9:42 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 11:33 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session to report the actions taken in closed session as follows:

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 4(a) in the amount of \$30,000.

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

**b. Andy Burkhardt 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 4(b) in the amount of \$75,000.

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

**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 4(c) in the amount of \$850,000.

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

**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 4(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 4(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 4(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 4(g) in the amount of \$36,500.

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

5. 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

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD



By

Raina Mey
Management Specialist
Office of the County Counsel