

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD IN PERSON AND ONLINE VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026, 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. **In the Matter of Los Angeles County Fire Department Fair Political Practices Commission Case No. 2021-00292**

This is an administrative complaint alleging that the Los Angeles County Fire Department violated the Political Reform Act.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(a) in the amount of \$85,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. **Margarita Lopez v. Jenna Toki Nakagawa, M.D., et al. Los Angeles Superior Court 23CMCV01768**

This medical malpractice lawsuit alleges a doctor at Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center was negligent.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(b) in the amount of \$317,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

c. **Mario Aleman v. Jonathan Kin Neng Loo, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STCV08071

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(c) in the amount of \$60,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

d. **Magnelia Camacho v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV39236

This wrongful death lawsuit stems from an alleged dangerous condition of public property in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County near the City of Lancaster.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(d) in the amount of \$750,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

e. **Fiber First Los Angeles, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCP00750

This writ action alleges that the Department of Public Works and Regional Planning failed to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(e) in the amount of \$400,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]

f. **Joshua Huber v. State of California, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV02739

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff sustained injuries in a traffic collision on a road maintained by the Department of Public Works in the City of Santa Clarita.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(f) in the amount of \$2,300,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

g. **Estrella Gomez, et al. v. City of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24CMCV01212

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(g) in the amount of \$50,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

h. **Eli Matthews vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No.: 2:24-CV-01483

This federal lawsuit arises from the alleged excessive force by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputies.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(h) in the amount of \$600,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]

- i. **Estate of Samuel Herrera, Jr., etc., et al. v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: 21STCV36013
Samuel Herrera, Jr., et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: 21STCV38673

This is a dispute with Contract Cities regarding liability obligations.

Action Taken:

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

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- j. **Daniel Rivera v. County of Los Angeles**
Superior Court Case No. 22STCV23049

This lawsuit alleges that an employee of the Probation Department was subjected to retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(j) in the amount of \$280,000.

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

- k. **Victoria Adams v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV37350

This lawsuit alleges that an employee of the District Attorney's Office was subjected to retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(k) in the amount of \$1,950,000.

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

4. Approval of the Minutes of the March 2, 2026, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the March 2, 2026, 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	In the Matter of Los Angeles County Fire Department
CASE NUMBER	Fair Political Practices Commission Case No. 2021-00292
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	May 6, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Fire Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ \$85,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	THOMAS J. FAUGHNAN Chief Deputy GARY S. WINUK, ESQ. Kaufman Legal Group, APC
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$85,000, a Fair Political Practices Commission administrative complaint against the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD), alleging LACFD engaged in campaign-related mailings and advertisements in advance of the March 3, 2020, election in support of Measure FD, a parcel tax measure, in violation of the Political Reform Act.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 2,867
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Margarita Lopez v. Jenna Toki Nakagawa, M.D., et al.
CASE NUMBER	23CMCV01768
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	November 2, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 317,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	JOHN E. TIEDT Tiedt & Hurd, LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	NARBEH BAGDASARIAN Principal Deputy County Counsel Health Services Division
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiff alleges medical malpractice by Martin Luther King Jr. Outpatient Center staff while undergoing a surgical procedure. Considering the uncertainties of trial, the County decided to settle the case.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 35,949
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 8,159

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Mario Aleman v. Jonathan Kin Neng Loo, et al.
CASE NUMBER	24STCV08071
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 29, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 60,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	ALFRED ANYIA, ESQ. Law Offices of Alfred O. Anyia
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	KEVIN ENGELIEN Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is an auto-liability lawsuit which arises from a traffic collision that occurred on March 24, 2023. Plaintiff claims he suffered injuries and damages as a result of the collision. Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 16,077
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 2,060

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Magnelia Camacho v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	19STCV39236
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 30, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 750,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	CHRISTOPHER B. DOLAN, ESQ. The Dolan Law Firm
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	RICHARD K. KUDO Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On March 29, 2018, Jesus Camacho ("Decedent") was driving to work in his Toyota sedan eastbound on East Avenue J just east of 100th Street East, in an unincorporated area of the County near the City of Lancaster. The speed limit there is 55 mph. Decedent lost control of his car when his passenger-side tires drove off the roadway pavement into the dirt shoulder. When Decedent attempted to maneuver his car back onto the roadway pavement, he lost control of his car, it crossed over the center line, and his car collided head-on with a Freightliner tractor-trailer driven by third-party, Jimmie Lee Click. Decedent died later that day at Antelope Valley Medical Center. His mother, Magnelia Camacho ("Plaintiff") filed suit against the County and alleges a dangerous condition of public property caused her son's death. The County disputes the allegation. Plaintiff claims to have suffered damages as a result of Decedent's death.</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	\$ 264,180
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 77,144



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:	March 29, 2018
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p>On March 29, 2018, Decedent was traveling eastbound on East Avenue J in the unincorporated Antelope Valley area, when the passenger side tires veered right from the asphalt onto the dirt shoulder while Decedent was on his cellphone and traveling at a speed between 68 and 70 mph in a stretch of the road with a posted speed limit of 55 mph. The decedent attempted to maneuver his vehicle back onto the roadway, crossed over the center line, and collided with a Freightliner tractor trailer.</p> <p>The Traffic Collision Report found the Decedent to be the cause of the collision in violation of CVC 22107 (unsafe turning movement).</p>

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

The collision occurred due to the Decedent's negligence in the operation of his vehicle by making an unsafe turning movement in front of oncoming traffic.

It is alleged that the collision occurred due to the deteriorated condition of the roadway and an approximate 3-inch drop off on the outer edge of the roadway between the asphalt and dirt shoulder constituting a trap.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:

(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

Continued adherence to existing departmental guidelines, policies, standards, and operating procedures such as inspection of unpaved shoulders during regular inspections of roadways; treat shoulders as soon as reasonable when maintenance is required or implement temporary protective measures; perform unpaved shoulder maintenance when needed to restore functionality that has been significantly diminished by erosion, debris accumulation.

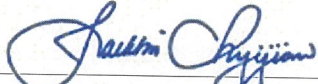
On August 28, 2017, removal of vegetation was performed at the incident location followed by shoulder grading on September 26, 2017. Avenue J, including the incident location, was inspected by the Road Superintendent on March 21, 2018, prior to the incident, and no issues with the roadway or the unpaved shoulder were identified.


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

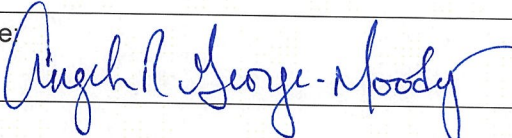
Yes - The corrective actions address department-wide system issues.

County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan


No - The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Name: (Risk Manager) Jacklin Injjian	
Signature: 	Date: 01/20/2026

Name: (Deputy Director) Steve Burger	
Signature: 	Date: 2/11/2026

Name: (Department Head) 8 Mark Pestrella	
Signature: 	Date: 2/18/26

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY
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 Karmirian	
Signature: 	Date: 2/18/26

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Fiber First Los Angeles et al. v. County of Los Angeles et al.
CASE NUMBER	23STCP00750; B339557 (Court of Appeal)
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court; Court of Appeal - Second District
DATE FILED	March 7, 2023; Notice of Appeal filed July 5, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Regional Planning and Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 400,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Mitchell M. Tsai Mitchell M. Tsai Law Firm W. Scott McCollough McCollough Law Firm PC (Texas) Julian Gresser Law Office of Julian Gresser
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Roland Trinh, Acting Assistant County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	Writ of mandate seeking to invalidate the County's adoption of a wireless communications facilities ordinance (Titles 16 and 22 adopted January 10, 2023) on various grounds, primarily on the basis of inadequate environmental review in violation of the California Environmental Quality Act.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 658,023
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 1,633

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Joshua Huber v. State of California, et al.
CASE NUMBER	21STCV02739
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	January 22, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 2,300,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	GREGORY G. RIZIO, ESQ. Rizio Lipinski Law Firm, PC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	NENA VUONG Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On January 19, 2020, Plaintiff Joshua Huber was involved in a motorcycle versus automobile collision on Soledad Canyon Road at its intersection with the on-ramp to Northbound State Route 14 in the city of Santa Clarita allegedly due to a dangerous condition. Plaintiff alleges the incident caused injuries for which he seeks compensation.</p> <p>Given the risked and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$2,300,000 is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 263,744
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 251,600



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:	January 19, 2020
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On January 19, 2020, at 5:55 p.m., Plaintiff was riding his motorcycle westbound on Soledad Canyon Road when he was struck by a vehicle turning left from eastbound Soledad Canyon Road onto northbound SR-14 freeway on-ramp. The Plaintiff allegedly suffered traumatic brain injury and other injuries from the accident. The Plaintiff claimed the painted traffic markers on Soledad Canyon Road were faded and did not clearly extend to the intersection and as a result, vehicles making left-turn onto SR-14 on-ramp typically crossed into opposing traffic prior to the intersection.

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

Root Cause A – Unsafe Driving

The driver turning left did not adhere to safe driving standards. According to the Traffic Collision Report, the driver turning left failed to yield the right-of-way to the approaching vehicle (motorcycle) driven by the Plaintiff in accordance with California Vehicle Code section 21081 (a).

Root Cause B - Double Yellow Center Line

It was alleged the driver turning left cut through the center line early because the painted double yellow center line had faded. This may have been a contributing factor in the driver mishandling the turn as alleged.

Root Cause C - Traffic Asset Inventory

There was a lack of records in relations to 2018 Caltrans and LA County Maintenance Agreement for Public Works to maintain Soledad Canyon Road from SR-14 SB Ramps to NB Ramps which was where the double yellow center line in question is located at. The traffic assets, including the double yellow center line, were not inputted into the county inventory for routine inspection and maintenance.

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

Root Cause A – Unsafe Driving

The traffic collision report stated that other driver was at fault. We cannot offer corrective action for drivers not adhering to safe driving standards.

Root Cause B - Double Yellow Center Line


The double yellow center line was re-painted on September 21, 2020. It was added to the maintenance runbook and has a routine maintenance schedule of 5 years for thermal plastic striping and 30 months for traffic paint striping.


Root Cause C - Traffic Asset Inventory


Operational Services Division completed the inventories of all traffic assets including all traffic signs and lane striping within the 2018 Caltrans and LA County Maintenance Agreement are inputted in county inventory (Maintenance Management System) and Routine Maintenance Runbook for inspection and maintenance.

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 Manager) Jacklin E. Injijian	
Signature: 	Date: January 9, 2025


Name: (Deputy Director) Steve Burger, PE	
Signature: 	Date: January 29, 2026

Name: (Department Head) Mark Pestrella, PE	
Signature: 	Date: February 2, 2026

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	
Signature: 	Date: 2/3/26

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Estrella Gomez, et al. v. City of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	24CMCV01212
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	August 9, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Public Health
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 50,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	KRIKOR MESROBIAN, ESQ. Beverly Hills Attorney Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MELISSA A. McCAVERTY, ESQ. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This lawsuit arises from a vehicle collision that occurred on October 24, 2023, when Plaintiffs' vehicle was rear-ended due to a chain reaction collision caused by a Department of Public Health employee on Long Beach Boulevard near North Cedar Avenue in Lynwood, California.</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	\$ 6,537
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 1,286

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Eli Matthews vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:24-CV-01483
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	February 22, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 600,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	MIKE ARIAS Arias Sanguinetti Wang & Team, LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	DENISSE O. GASTELUM Gastellum Law, A Professional Corporation THOMAS C. HURRELL Hurrell and Cantrall LLP
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$600,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, an excessive force civil rights lawsuit filed by Eli Matthews (Plaintiff) after he was arrested by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Deputies.</p> <p>Given the 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 \$600,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 150,551
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 30,350



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:	January 17, 2023
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;">Summary Corrective Action Plan 2024-219</p> <p>Details provided in this document summarize the incident. The information provided is a culmination of various sources to provide an abstract of the incident.</p> <p>Based on multiple investigative reports, on January 16, 2023, East Los Angeles Station Dispatch received a 9-1-1 call from the Plaintiff's sister who stated the Plaintiff and their mother were involved in an argument due to their mother would not give him her vehicle keys. The Plaintiff's sister also advised that the Plaintiff stole their mother's vehicle.</p> <p>Los Angeles County Deputies responded to the location and authored a criminal report regarding the stolen vehicle.</p> <p>On January 17, 2023, East Los Angeles Sheriff Station received a call from the Plaintiff's mother who stated her son who stolen her vehicle the night before had returned to the location.</p> <p>Deputies Three and Four contacted Plaintiff's mother who stated that the Plaintiff returned her vehicle and he was somewhere within the apartment complex. Upon locating the Plaintiff, the Plaintiff fled, ran through a parking garage and barricaded himself inside of the apartment complex office closet.</p> <p>Deputies gave verbal commands for the Plaintiff to exit the closet, but the Plaintiff refused to comply. While inside of the closet, the Plaintiff began to speak incoherently and threatened to use a broom he located inside of the closet to fight with the deputies. Sergeant One requested a Mental Evaluation Team (MET) to respond to the location for a psychological evaluation.</p>

	<p>MET arrived and attempted to build a report with the Plaintiff. MET spoke with the Plaintiff for approximately thirty minutes, to de-escalate the situation and convince the Plaintiff to exit the closet safely.</p> <p>After several failed attempts to gain compliance from the Plaintiff, Sergeant One ordered deputies to use force to remove the Plaintiff from the closet. Once the Plaintiff was removed from the closet, the deputies utilized two sets of handcuffs to handcuff the Plaintiff.</p> <p>The Plaintiff was searched and placed in a seated position. Deputy personnel requested LACoFD personnel to respond and provide medical treatment to the Plaintiff.</p> <p>The Plaintiff was transported via ambulance to the hospital for additional medical treatment.</p> <p>The incident was investigated by the East Los Angeles Detective Bureau. The results of the investigation were submitted to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.</p> <p>On January 19, 2023, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office filed two counts of Penal Code Section 69, Obstructing/Resisting a Peace Officer; and one count of California Vehicle Code Section 10851(a), Taking a Vehicle without Owner's Consent.</p> <p>On August 8, 2023, the Plaintiff plead Nolo Contendere to Penal Code Section 69 PC.</p> <p>On August 8, 2024, he was sentenced to sixteen (16) days in jail and was placed on (12) months of summary probation.</p>
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the attempt by deputy personnel to detain the Plaintiff, who was the named suspect of a stolen vehicle investigation.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the inability of deputy personnel and the Mental Evaluation Team (MET) to gain the Plaintiff's cooperation.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was deputy personnel were involved in a use-of-force incident when they took the Plaintiff into custody.

A **Department** root cause in this incident were the numerous punches to the Plaintiff's face by Deputy Five, which were found to be in violation of policy.

A **non-associated Department** root cause in this incident was Deputy Five not being placed in the Department's Performance Mentoring Program as recommended by the Executive Force Review Committee.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the Plaintiff's failure to comply with lawful orders by deputy sheriff personnel.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the Plaintiff's mental health condition.

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

Administrative Investigation

The incident was investigated by representatives of the Sheriff's Department Internal Affairs Bureau to determine if any administrative misconduct occurred before, during, or after the incident. The results of the investigation were presented to the Executive Force Review Committee (EFRC) for adjudication. Appropriate administrative action was taken.

Employee Training

Deputy Sheriff personnel involved in this incident received additional training pertaining to the circumstance surrounding this incident.


Station Tactical Debriefing

In the days following the incident, East Los Angeles Station supervisors briefed the incident to station personnel, regarding calls for service involving mentally ill persons, and use of force incidents. Additional focus was placed on officer safety, tactical preparedness, and situations involving the response of the Mental Evaluation Team. Briefings have continued on an on-going basis by station field sergeants and watch commanders to reiterate the Department's expectations and policies.

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)	
Tri T. Hoang, Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 2.8.26

Name: (Department Head)	
Yolanda R. Figueroa, Chief Central Patrol Division	
Signature: 	Date: 2/18/2026

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: 	Date: 2/18/26

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Estate of Samuel Herrera, Jr., etc., et al. v. County of Los Angeles, and Samuel Herrera, Jr., et al. v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	21STCV36013, and 21STCV38673
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	September 30, 2021, and October 20, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 1,250,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	CARL E. DOUGLAS JAMON R. HICKS TIFFANY A. MCLEAN Douglas / Hicks Law, APC, and MATTHEW J. LOMBARD Law Offices of Matthew J. Lombard
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	LANA CHOI Senior Deputy County Counsel GEORGE CHUANG GC Law
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$1.25 million, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a dispute with California Contract Cities Association and Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund regarding coverage of a \$9.6 million settlement of two separate but consolidated State court civil rights lawsuits (Estate of Samuel Herrera, Jr., etc., et al. v. County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Superior Court (LASC) Case No. 21STCV36013, and Samuel Herrera, Jr., et al. v. County of Los Angeles, LASC Case No. 21STCV38673). The \$9.6 million settlement is pending approval by the Contract Cities Claims Board and Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board). The \$1.25 million settlement was negotiated at the direction of the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and is contingent on approval of the \$9.6 million settlement of the above consolidated cases. Given the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 28,472
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0



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:	September 10, 2020
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;">Summary Corrective Action Plan 2024-188</p> <p>Details in this document summarize the incident. The information provided is a culmination of various sources to provide an abstract of the incident.</p> <p>Multiple investigative reports indicate prior to September of 2020, Norwalk Operations Safe Streets (OSS) Bureau received information that the Decedent was involved in the sales of methamphetamine and being in possession of weapons. A Norwalk OSS Detective One began investigating the information he was provided.</p> <p>During the course of the investigation, it was learned the Decedent was an active member of the "Compton Vario Tokers" criminal street gang; the Decedent was selling narcotics inside a detached garage in the city Compton. The Decedent's criminal history revealed he had two prior convictions selling narcotics. It was also learned the Decedent concealed a black handgun on his person when he sold narcotics at the location.</p> <p>Detective One surveilled the residence and gathered information regarding both the residence and its occupants to obtain a search warrant. A search warrant for the Decedent's residence and garage was requested by Detective One and granted by the judge.</p> <p>On September 10, 2020, at approximately 5:00 a.m., Norwalk OSS team, including the Detective and the Norwalk Enforcement Team (NET) met at a location near the Decedent's residence to brief the search warrant operation. They developed a tactical plan to approach the residence.</p> <p>At approximately 5:30 a.m., the search team went to the Decedent's residence to execute the warrant which authorized them to search the residence, including the garage, for the Decedent, firearms, narcotics, and any evidence of criminal street gang membership.</p> <p>Upon arrival at the front door of the residence, Detective One and additional OSS detectives announced themselves and their</p>

	<p>purpose pursuant to Penal Code Section 844. Forced entry was used to make entry into the home. Upon entering the residence, they contacted the Decedent's mother and two of his brothers and removed them from the home.</p> <p>As detectives entered the residence, NET deputies walked to the rear of the location along the driveway. The driveway and backyard were riddled with debris.</p> <p>As the deputies in the backyard rounded the northwest corner of the garage, they saw the Decedent. They gave him commands, in an attempt to detain him, as he ran into the garage holding a dark object in his hand.</p> <p>Simultaneously, deputies spotted one of the Decedent's brothers walking from the rear of the garage towards them. He was detained without incident and told the deputies that no one else was in the rear of the garage. The Decedent's girlfriend appeared from the rear of the residence; she was detained and escorted to the front of location.</p> <p>Lieutenant One positioned himself at the rear of the exterior of the garage and noticed there were two doors at the rear of the garage. He believed those doors were connected to the main garage compartment, where the Decedent had barricaded himself. He took cover in a detached bathroom in the corner of the backyard.</p> <p>The team outside continued to give the Decedent commands to exit the garage. The Decedent refused to comply. The deputies could hear items being stacked against the door and the sound of "metal on metal." The deputies believed the Decedent was "racking" a gun. Deputy One heard the Decedent say, "I'm not coming out, I'm going to shoot it out."</p> <p>The deputies heard a loud pop sound that they believed was a gunshot or fireworks. The Decedent's nephew and nephew's girlfriend, who were asleep in the northeast room of the garage, woke to this sound. Less than 20 seconds later, there was another loud pop. The deputies believed the Decedent was shooting through the walls of the structure in their direction.</p> <p>Although the deputies had not fired their weapons, a deputy involved shooting was broadcast over Norwalk Station's dispatch channel; numerous assisting units responded to the location.</p> <p>Lieutenant One heard the gunshots but did not know where they were coming from. He observed one of the two rear pedestrian doors of the garage open and saw the barrel of a gun sticking out. He believed the Decedent was the person who opened the door and was trying to shoot him. Lieutenant One fired his firearm in the direction of the barrel of the gun. Approximately 45 seconds</p>
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	<p>later, he saw the other rear door to the garage open. Lieutenant One did not see a person or any part of a gun; however, he believed the Decedent was the only person in the garage and was opening the door to shoot him. Lieutenant One fired additional rounds at the door where he believed the Decedent was positioned.</p> <p>As this occurred Deputy One heard the initial two gunshots from inside the garage and believed the Decedent was firing at him and his partners. From his position, he could see someone pushing against the main roll-up garage door as if trying to open it. He heard what sounded like someone “racking” a gun.</p> <p>Deputy One observed video surveillance cameras around the garage and believed the Decedent was actively monitoring their movement. Deputy One believed the Decedent was trying to open the door to shoot at him. He fired towards the area of the garage door where he could see the pushing, simultaneous to Lieutenant One’s first volley of rounds fired. Deputy Six broadcast an assistance request over his hand-held radio.</p> <p>Lieutenant One moved from the rear of the detached bathroom back towards the residence and regrouped with additional personnel. The deputies heard two male voices inside the garage. Another one of the Decedent’s brothers crawled out of the garage with his hands up and was taken into custody without incident. Deputies realized he was not the Decedent and continued to give the Decedent commands to exit the garage. Minutes later, the Decedent’s nephew exited the garage and was taken into custody without incident.</p> <p>The deputies noticed smoke from the garage and believed the Decedent set fire to the garage. The Decedent’s nephew told the deputies that his girlfriend and her child were still inside the garage. Deputies began calling her by name to exit the garage and started making a plan to enter the garage to rescue her. Prior to a rescue attempt, she and her minor daughter exited the garage and were taken into custody without incident.</p> <p>Assisting units from Compton Station and Norwalk Station arrived on scene. The responding deputies were quickly briefed, positioned in different locations, and assigned different tasks.</p> <p>Several deputies proceeded to the rear of the neighboring property towards the Decedent’s garage and positioned themselves behind a gate separating the driveway from a pool.</p> <p>The fire in the garage grew and deputies heard a loud banging sound near the garage wall that separated the Decedent’s and the neighbor’s property. The deputies on the neighboring property saw the Decedent pound a hole through the wall.</p>
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	<p>The Decedent crawled through the hole, headfirst, and stood up. Smoke billowed out of the hole behind him. After the Decedent stood up, his body was partially blocked by shrubbery and clothes on a clothesline. The Decedent looked around, as if for an escape route.</p> <p>For approximately one minute, deputies gave the Decedent commands to show his hands and he did not comply. The Decedent paced back and forth, then turned to the left and made a sudden movement, as if to shoot at the deputies. Another deputy involved shooting occurred and was broadcast over the radio.</p> <p>After hearing the gunshots, additional deputy personnel ran to the backyard of the neighboring property. They saw the Decedent lying face down on the ground being held at gunpoint.</p> <p>The deputies gave the Decedent commands to show his hands and he did not comply. Deputies saw the Decedent reach for his waistband and continue to move. Deputies observed the magazine of a firearm in the Decedent's hands, heard "metal clicking" and believed the Decedent was armed with a firearm. The Decedent "punch out his arms" as if in a pistol grip position. Believing the Decedent was going to shoot at them, there was another volley of gunfire. Another deputy involved shooting was broadcast over the radio.</p> <p>By this time, the garage was fully engulfed in fire. Lieutenant One formulated a tactical plan to approach the Decedent. The deputies safely approached the Decedent. An AR-15 magazine and .45 Glock handgun magazine were found directly next to him. Deputies carried him to the driveway of the neighboring property so paramedics could render medical aid. The Decedent was pronounced deceased at the scene at 6:29 a.m. by a Compton Fire Station Paramedic.</p> <p>The Compton Fire Department entered the scene to extinguish the fully engulfed garage fire.</p> <p>Two expended .22 caliber casings were found west of the garage that matched the caliber of a gun that was in the garage where the Decedent had been; however, due to the damage caused by the fire, there was insufficient evidence to establish they were fired by the Decedent during the incident.</p>
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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' use of deadly force against the Decedent.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the use of force and tactical actions employed by some deputies were inconsistent with established policy, practice and training. Contributing factors included deficiencies in coordination, use of cover, communication, and target acquisition.

A **non-contributing Department** root cause in this incident was the Deputies had not yet been issued Body Worn Cameras.

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

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the Decedent's actions which led the Deputies to believe he was firing a weapon at deputy personnel.

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

Criminal Investigation

This incident was thoroughly investigated by the Sheriff's Department's Homicide Bureau. The results of the investigation were submitted to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Justice System Integrity Division (JSID).

The JSID issued their findings on August 9, 2022, concluding that "There is insufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that these deputies did not act in lawful self-defense at the time they fired their weapons."

Administrative Investigation

The Department's Internal Affairs Bureau conducted a thorough investigation to determine if any administrative misconduct occurred before, during, or after this incident. The results of the investigation were presented to the Executive Force Review Committee (EFRC) for adjudication.

The EFRC Panel found the use of force and tactics for some of the involved personnel were out of policy. Appropriate administrative action was taken. Additionally, involved personnel attended training as a result of this incident.

Issuance of Body Worn Cameras

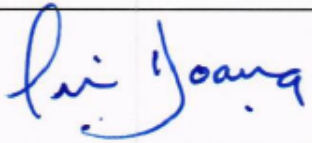
As of October 31, 2021, all sworn personnel assigned to Norwalk Station and OSS were issued a Body Worn Camera to ensure all public contacts are transparent.

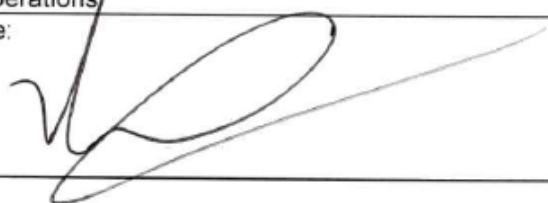
The use of BWCs ensures reliable recording of contact enforcement and investigative contacts with the public.

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)	
Tri T. Hoang, Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 1.20.26


Name: (Department Head)	
Myron Johnson, Assistant Sheriff Patrol Operations	
Signature: 	Date: 1/21/26

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:


Date:
1/23/26

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

March 2, 2026

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, Claims Board Member Adrienne M. Byers, and Claims Board Administrator Thomas Finley 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, Edward Morrissey, Mark Lomax, Lauren Dods, Michael Simon, Melissa McCaverty, Liliana Campos, Armita Radjabian, Katherine Bowser, Anna Reitano, Michael Owens, Adam Sexton, Tim Kral, Ali Fathi, and Jonathan McCaverty appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Claudia Aguirre, Brad Spellberg, Arun Patel, and Elizabeth Augusta appeared for the Department of Health Services. Alex Villarma, Jacklin Injijian, Ronald Castaneda, Genevieve Osmena, and Matthew Frary appeared for the Department of Public Works. Brian Mejia and Robert Rodwell appeared for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Christina Lee appeared for the Department of Children and Family Services. Julia Kim and Derrick Chapman appeared for the Fire Department. Jocelyn Roman and Robert Arcos appeared for the Probation Department. Minh Le and Ritu Sehgal appeared for the Internal Services Department. Julie Dixon Silva appeared for the Office of the District Attorney. Stephanie N. Lara, Commander Christine Coles, Captain Chris M. Kusayanagi, Commander Terrence Bell, Lieutenant Jennifer M. Roth, and Chief Yolanda Figueroa appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Sylvia Schweizer appeared for George Hills. Alisha Winterswyk appeared for Best Best & Krieger, LLP. Jennifer Gysler appeared for Monroy, Averbuck & Gysler. Thomas Barajas and James Sargent appeared for Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan and Shapiro LLP. Calvin House appeared for Gutierrez Preciado & House, LLP. Jason H. Tokoro appeared for Miller & Barondess, 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 9:45 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.

On the public teleconference phone line, a caller who self-identified as "Victor Smith" was present to hear the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

At 12:52 p.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session via video conference and reported the actions taken in closed session as follows:

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]

a. **E. Arcineaga, et al. v. Los Angeles County, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV46931

This medical malpractice lawsuit alleges that Los Angeles General Medical Center failed to adequately treat a minor.

Action Taken:

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

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

b. **Non-Litigated Claim of MYK Properties, LLC**

This inverse condemnation claim against the Department of Public Works contends that Claimants' property was damaged by sewage backflow due to a mainline blockage.

Action Taken:

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

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

c. **Los Angeles Waterkeeper, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCP02608

This writ action alleges that the Department of Public Works failed to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Action Taken:

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

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

d. **Valerie Olvera v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23CHCV01878

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Parks and Recreation employee.

Action Taken:

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

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

**e. Ismael Carbajal v. L.A. County Fire Department, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV02846**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained when two tires detached from a Fire Department truck and struck Plaintiff's vehicle.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued Item 4(e) to a future meeting at the request of the Department.

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

**f. Lila C. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:24-cv-02825**

This lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff's civil rights were violated by the Department of Children and Family Services when Plaintiff was abused in foster care.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(f) in the amount of \$99,000.

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

**g. Marlen Medina v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:24-cv-05277**

This federal wrongful death lawsuit stems from the overdose death of Plaintiff's decedent while in custody at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall.

Action Taken:

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

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

h. PACE Tax Claim of Galavis

This is a tax claim brought by a property owner alleging fraudulent behavior of home improvement contractors of the Los Angeles County's Property Assessed Clean Energy Program.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(h) in the amount of \$52,000.

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

i. **Daniel Saldana v. Martha Donovan, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:24-cv-00895

This federal civil rights lawsuit arises from the alleged wrongful conviction and imprisonment of Plaintiff for 33 years.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(i) in the amount of \$3,700,000.

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

j. **Alison Oley v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV29986

This lawsuit alleges that an employee of the Sheriff's Department was subjected to sexual harassment and emotional distress.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(j) in the amount of \$700,000.

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

k. **Art Hernandez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV33158

This lawsuit alleges that current and former deputies from the Sheriff's Department were harassed and discriminated against by other former deputies who were members of the Banditos gang.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(k) in the amount of \$8,000,000.

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

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the February 2, 2026, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the February 2, 2026, meeting.

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

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By



Thomas Finley
Claims Board Administrator
Office of the County Counsel