

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD IN PERSON AND ONLINE VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024, 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 was on the public teleconference phone line to address the Claims Board.

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

- a. **Michael D. Simpson v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-cv-04403**

This federal civil rights lawsuit arises out of the fatal deputy-involved shooting of Plaintiff's son.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(a) in the amount of \$800,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. **Hannah Allison, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-cv-06171**

This federal civil rights lawsuit concerns allegations of false arrest and arises from Plaintiffs' participation in an unlawful assembly that took place on June 3, 2020, on County property.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(b) in the amount of \$100,000.

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

**c. Tomas Leon v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV13893**

This personal injury lawsuit arises from a fall that occurred as Plaintiff attempted to enter a Department of Public Health building in Baldwin Park.

Action Taken:

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

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**d. Haik Shabazian v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22AVCV00239**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(d) in the amount of \$130,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

**e. Maria Felix Garcia v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV23078**

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit arises from an alleged trip and fall that occurred at Veterans Park.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(e) in the amount of \$45,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

4. Approval of the Minutes of the November 4, 2024, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the November 4, 2024, 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	Michael Simpson v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:21-CV-04403
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	May 6, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 800,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Peter L. Carr, Esq. PLC Law Group, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Millicent L. Rolon Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$800,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Michael Simpson ("Plaintiff"), father of decedent Jamaal Michael Simpson, after he was fatally shot by a Los Angeles Sheriff's Department deputy.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 139,257
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 34,472

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Tomas Leon vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV13893
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	April 27, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Health
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 85,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Jeffrey Bloeser, Esq. The Downtown Law Firm
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin J. Engelen, Esq. Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This lawsuit arises from a fall suffered by the Plaintiff in the entrance of a Department building. Plaintiff alleges the doorway to the building constitutes a dangerous condition of public property. Plaintiff alleges he was injured and filed a lawsuit.</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	\$ 15,181
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 14,561

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Haik Shabazian vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22AVCV000239
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	April 7, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Fire Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ \$130,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Oganes J. Sachmanyman, Esq. Sachmanyman Law Firm P.C.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin J. Engalien Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This case occurred from a traffic collision involving Plaintiff, Haik Shabazian and Los Angeles County Fire Department employee, Terry Lee Brown. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 35,390
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 17,836



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:	October 27, 2021
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p>At approximately 2:50 p.m. on October 27, 2021, Plaintiff was stopped at a red light on Avenue L in Lancaster, California. Plaintiff was driving a black 2020 GMC Sierra. Medium Truck Driver (MTD) was stopped behind Plaintiff in a Department vehicle (a red 2014 Dodge Ram). When the light turned green, Plaintiff began to make a U-turn. MTD also made a U-turn, turned on the emergency lights for safety but accidentally activated the siren. Plaintiff abruptly stopped, and MTD was unable to stop in time before rear-ending Plaintiff.</p> <p>MTD did not notify Dispatch or his supervisor of the collision. There was minor damage to Plaintiff's vehicle reported on the Traffic Collision Report, and Plaintiff was able to drive his vehicle from the accident scene.</p>

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

- A. The MTD's failure to observe a safe driving distance.
- B. The MTD's inappropriate use of lights and siren.
- C. A non-associated root cause is the MTD failed to make immediate notifications to Dispatch and his supervisor.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:

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

A/B/C.1 The Department initiated an internal investigation on September 22, 2023 into the accident that occurred on October 27, 2021. The MTD was issued a Notice to Suspend for 3 Days on July 10, 2024.

A/B/C.2 On June 6, 2024, a Training Action Plan was developed for the MTD (which was completed on July 17, 2024). The 11 hour training consists of the following:

- OnQ Safety EVOC Intersection Analysis (2.5 hours);
- OnQ Safety Defensive Driving Course (Sight Speed and Space Management, Search and Scan, Judging Safe Distance, Hazard Recognition, Backing, Attention and Distraction) (3.5 hours);
- In-Person Classroom Instruction with Regional Training Safety Officer (2 hours);

- Driver Simulator (2 hours); and
- Defensive Driver Training (1 hour).

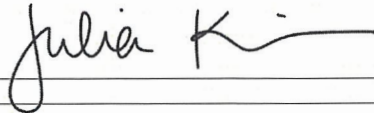
3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?

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

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)

Julia Kim

Signature:



Date:

September 13, 2024

Name: (Department Head)

ANTHONY C. MARONE

Signature:



Date:

9/13/24

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY

Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?

- Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.
- No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)

Betty Karmirlian, Acting Risk Management Inspector General

Signature:



Date:

09/13/2024

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Maria Felix Garcia vs.County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	21STCV23078
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	June 22, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Parks & Recreation
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 45,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Mario M. De La Rosa LAW OFFICES OF MARIO M. DE LA ROSA
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Melissa A. McCaverty, Esq. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On March 29, 2020, Plaintiff tripped and fell on an access roadway in the parking lot of Veterans Park in Sylmar, California. Plaintiff claims to have suffered injuries and damages from the incident.</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	\$ 10,120
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 7,325

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

November 4, 2024

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 Secretary Laura Z. Salazar participating in person at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Sixth Floor, Conference Room C, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Tyson B. Nelson appeared in person for the Office of the County Counsel. Lenore Kelly appeared in person for Collinson, Daehnke, Inlow & Greco. All other participants at the Claims Board meeting appeared virtually. Narbeh Bagdasarian, Edward Morrissey, Michael Gordon, Kevin Engelen, and Latasha N. Corry appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Arun Patel, Elizabeth Augusta, Karen Nunn, Benjamin Waterman, Gordon Sun, Roberto Avitia, and Nickolay Teophilov appeared for the Department of Health Services. Brian Martin and Rachel Lara appeared for the Fire Department. Jacques Cain appeared for the Office of the Public Defender. Anush Gambaryan and Brian Mejia appeared for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Christina Lee appeared for the Department of Children and Family Services. Lieutenant Jennifer M. Roth, Deputy Nancy K. Madarasz, Captain Marco A. Soto, Commander Brandon R. Dean, Sergeant Julian Flores, and Captain Glenn Walsh appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Jacklin Injijian, Robert Scharf, and Ronald Castaneda appeared for the Department of Public Works. Patrick Stockalper appeared for Kjar, McKenna & Stockalper, LLP. Jordan Stern and Roy Garcia appeared for Hurrell Cantrall, LLP. Christopher M. Silva appeared for George L. Mallory, Jr. & Associates.

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 9:37 a.m., Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(k).

4. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session.

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

At 12:25 p.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session to report the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Armine Sahakyan v. County of Los Angeles, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23CHCV03289

This medical malpractice lawsuit alleges that Olive View Medical Center staff negligently caused injuries to Plaintiff.

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. Trinity Kennard v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV18944**

This medical malpractice lawsuit alleges that Olive View Medical Center staff negligently caused injury to Plaintiff in connection with a Cesarean section.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(b) in the amount of \$600,000.

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

**c. Gladwin Cedeno v. High Desert Regional Health Center, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AVCV00001**

This medical malpractice lawsuit alleges that High Desert Regional Health Center staff negligently caused injury to Plaintiff.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(c) in the amount of \$325,000.

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

**d. Francisca A. Guzman v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23NWCV00529**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(d) in the amount of \$48,500.

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

**e. Maria Isabel Clark, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV11177**

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained when Plaintiff Clark was struck by a vehicle driven by an employee of the Office of the Public Defender.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(e) in the amount of \$1,900,000.

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

f. **Luis Villanueva, et al. v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23TRCV00046

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit arises from an alleged trip and fall that occurred at Lennox Park.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(f) in the amount of \$28,500.

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

g. **Grigor Sinanyan v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23BBCV00476

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Children and Family Services employee.

Action Taken:

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

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

h. **Linda Harding, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV39512

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(h) in the amount of \$99,999.

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

i. **Lucius Taylor v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:23-cv-01046

This civil rights lawsuit involves allegations pertaining to use of force by Sheriff's deputies against a restrained inmate.

Action Taken:

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

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

**j. Millie Fitchett v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV01799**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(j) in the amount of \$150,000.

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

**k. Allyn Hawes v. Devin Goodman, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV34569**

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(k) in the amount of \$70,000.

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

5. Approval of the Minutes of the October 21, 2024, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the October 21, 2024, meeting.

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

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By



Laura Z. Salazar
Claims Board Secretary