

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD IN PERSON AND ONLINE VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 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. **Non-Litigated Claim of Stephan Zweig**

This claim arises from allegations of legal malpractice by a Department of Health Services employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(a) in the amount of \$25,000.

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

- b. **Andrea Cifuentes, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STCV06950

This medical malpractice lawsuit arises from the death of a patient during surgery at Los Angeles General Hospital.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(b) in the amount of \$1,327,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

c. **Adrian Soto v. Johnny Daniel Perez, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV02386

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a multi-vehicle traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department detective.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(c) in the amount of \$46,500.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

d. **Liang Zhao v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVSB2201037

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a multi-vehicle traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department detective.

Action Taken:

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

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

e. **Armstrong Mgbatu Tabot, Jr. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV07447

This civil rights lawsuit concerns allegations of excessive force by an off-duty Sheriff Department's sergeant.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**f. Eric Gonzalez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:22-cv-08525**

This civil rights lawsuit against the Sheriff's Department alleged unreasonable search and seizure at Plaintiffs' home.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(f) in the amount of \$200,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

**g. Lauren Millstein v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-cv-02623**

This class-action failure to pay overtime lawsuit concerns allegations that the Sheriff's Department failed to compensate 17 custody assistants for hours worked.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(g) in the amount of \$185,000.

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

h. Claim of Luna Lermanda

This disability discrimination claim concerns allegations by a former intern with the Department of Children and Family Services.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(h) in the amount of \$205,000.

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

4. Approval of the Minutes of the December 2, 2024, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the December 2, 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	Andrea Cifuentes vs. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	24STCV06950
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 20, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 1,327,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Sean O'Neill Stalwart Law
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	Claimants/Plaintiffs allege malpractice at Los Angeles General Medical Center resulting in the death of Andrea Cifuentes on May 18, 2023. Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the proposed amount is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 20,900
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 4,991



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for 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:	May 18, 2023
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On May 18, 2023, A.C. a 32-year-old female, was admitted to Los Angeles General Hospital ("LA General") to undergo a hysterectomy and salpingo-oophorectomy. During the procedure, the surgeons noticed extensive bleeding. Additional staff were called to assist the surgical team. Despite several measures to control and stop the bleeding, the patient died as a result of the bleeding. LA General staff disclosed the event to the patient's family, offered an apology, and proposed to compensate the family for their loss.

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

Vascular injury during laparoscopic surgery resulting in death.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:

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

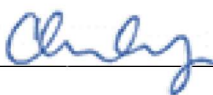
- All appropriate personnel corrective actions were taken.
- The Department of Health Services is assessing the training resident and fellows receive for laparoscopic surgery techniques to ensure that they are optimized and is exploring technological options to improve the safety of this type of surgery.

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.

County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Arun Patel, MD, JD	
Signature: 	Date: 11/27/2024

Name: (Department Head) Christina Ghaly, MD	
Signature: 	Date: 11/27/2024

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 Karmirlian, Acting Risk Management Inspector General	
Signature: 	Date: 11/27/2024

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Adrian Soto v. Johnny Daniel Perez, et al
CASE NUMBER	21STCV02386
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	January 20, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 46,500
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Timothy Vrastil, Esq. Bish & Cutting, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	LaTasha N. Corry, Esq. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This lawsuit arises from an auto accident on March 19, 2020, where Detective Perez was traveling behind Plaintiff northbound on Lakewood Boulevard in the City of Downey. The vehicle in front of Plaintiff began "break checking" him, causing Plaintiff to abruptly stop. Detective Perez immediately applied his breaks, but was unable to stop, striking Plaintiff's car.</p> <p>Due to the risk and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 8,518
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 8,480

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Liang Zhao v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	CIVSB2201037
COURT	San Bernardino Superior Court
DATE FILED	January 18, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 75,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Esteban Sanchez, Esq. Pacific Coast Trial Law Firm, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	LaTasha N. Corry Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This lawsuit arises from a multi-vehicle accident on February 11, 2021, where Defendant Sandra Jimenez impacted a semi-truck that subsequently hit the right side of Plaintiff Liang Zhao's semi-truck.</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	\$ 10,201
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 13,906

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Tabot, Armstrong Mgbatu, Jr., a Minor by Tabot, Armstrong v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23STCV07447
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	April 3, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 75,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Safa V. Hodges, Law Office of Safa V. Hodges
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Minas Samuelian Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$75,000 inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a State civil rights lawsuit filed by Armstrong Tabot, Jr., a minor by and through his guardian ad litem, Armstrong Tabot, ("Plaintiff"), alleging negligence, assault, battery, and violation of the Bane Act arising out of Plaintiff's detention.</p> <p>Given the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs. The full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$75,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 34,675
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 1,207

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Eric Gonzalez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:22-CV-08525
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	November 21, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 200,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Donald W. Cook
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Minas Samuelian Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$200,000 inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Erric Gonzalez and Jacqueline Aguirre, alleging unreasonable search and seizure.</p> <p>Given the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs. The full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$200,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 69,961
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 889



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:	May 19, 2022, approximately 2:00 a.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;">Summary Corrective Action Plan 2023-149</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 on May 18, 2022, an adult male (Suspect) was arrested by Deputies for being in possession of body armor as well as possession of a controlled substance for sales (methamphetamine). During the traffic stop, the Suspect admitted to not having a driver's license and to being on active probation. The Deputies were able to confirm the Suspect's name utilizing Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department resources, confirm his identity, and his active probation status.</p> <p>During the investigation, it appeared to the Deputies the Suspect was living out of his vehicle due to the quantity of personal items inside the vehicle. The Suspect told the Deputies he was homeless and was living out of his car which was registered to his father. The Suspect stated he usually parked at his father's house or stayed with his girlfriend. The Suspect was arrested and transported to and booked at Norwalk Station.</p> <p>Detective One and Detective Two were made aware of the arrest and prepared a search warrant for location they believed was the Suspect's residence. Detective One utilized four sources connecting the Suspect to the target location (known as a "nexus"). At the time, Detective One did not have any information that would lead him to believe that the Suspect was homeless.</p> <p>On May 19, 2022, at 2:00 a.m., Norwalk Station Operation Safe Streets Bureau team (Detectives One through Five and Sergeant One) served the warrant. Detectives knocked on the door to announce their presence, stated they had a search warrant, and demanded entry into the location. The Plaintiff requested the Detectives to provide identification prior to the Detectives making a forced entry into the home. The occupants (Plaintiffs) voluntarily exited the location and were escorted one at a time out of the residence.</p> <p>Plaintiff One was first escorted out of the house. He stated that only his wife (Plaintiff Two) and baby remained inside the residence. Plaintiff One also stated he had moved into the residence in August, six months prior to this search warrant. He told a Detective he thought they had the wrong person. Plaintiff One further said he had heard the previous residents were a "bunch of troublemakers."</p>

	<p>Plaintiff Two, who was pregnant, was escorted outside. Minutes later, a Detective walked out with the baby and handed the baby to Plaintiff Two. Plaintiff Two told Detectives they moved into the house approximately six months earlier.</p> <p>Sergeant One spoke to Plaintiff One who told him that he had received mail for a man (same name as the suspect) at the address and further stated he did not know the Suspect.</p> <p>Sergeant One then spoke to Plaintiff Two, who stated she did not know the man who used to live in the house but had received mail for a man (same name as the Suspect) at the location when they first moved in. Plaintiff Two further stated she had not had any contact with him and only heard about him through neighbors.</p> <p>Sergeant One determined the Plaintiffs were the new homeowners and the Suspect no longer lived there. Sergeant One stated the location was not searched, and both Plaintiffs were released without further incident. Sergeant One left a Claims for Damages to Person or Property form for damage caused when Sheriff's Department members forced entry into the location.</p>
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

A **Department** root cause in this incident is Detectives authored and executed a search warrant at the Plaintiff's residence based on the information provided during the time the Suspect was booked.

A **Department** root cause in this incident is Detectives did not communicate with the arresting Deputies about statements made by the Suspect regarding living in his vehicle.

A **non-Department** root cause in the incident is the Suspect did not provide accurate residential information to the arresting Deputies.

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

The incident was thoroughly reviewed by representatives from Operation Safe Streets Bureau. The review concluded the Detectives were working within the guidelines of what is expected from personnel assigned to Operation Safe Streets Bureau and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.


In the days following the incident, all teams at Operation Safe Streets Bureau were briefed on the importance of finding a solid nexus to a location for a search warrant using at least three current sources.


As a result of this incident, briefings occurred at each unit and continued for several months thereafter.


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. Valdés, A/Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 11/26/2024

Name: (Department Head)	
Holly A. Francisco, Assistant Sheriff Countywide Operations	
Signature: 	Date: 12/4/24

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: Betty Karmirlian (A/Risk Management Inspector General)	
Signature: 	Date: 12/4/2024

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

December 2, 2024

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:35 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.

All other participants at the Claims Board meeting appeared virtually: Edward Morrissey, Georgina Glaviano, Narbeh Bagdasarian, Joseph A. Langton, Latasha N. Corry, Kevin Engeliem, and Michael Gordon appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Elizabeth Augusta, Nickolay Teophilov, and Roberto Avitia appeared for the Department of Health Services. Claudia Aguirre, Nancy Blake, and Lorena Mendez appeared for Los Angeles General Medical Center. Captain Richard B. Conti, Deputy Nancy K. Madarasz, Sergeant Shanese E. Winfrey, Commander Johann W. Thrall, Captain Angela Gonzalez, Lieutenant Tania A. Giggles, Captain Nicole N. Palomino, and Commander Rick O. Rector appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Hugo Maldonado and Brian Mejia appeared for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Kelly L. Kiseskey appeared for David Weiss Law. Allen L. Thomas appeared for Thomas Law Firm. Caroline M. Park appeared for Collins + Collins 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 9:35 a.m., Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(f).

4. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session.

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

At 10:58 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session to report the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Samuel Lima-Medina, et al. v. County of Los Angeles Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV00538

This medical malpractice lawsuit arises from the death of a patient who fell while hospitalized at Los Angeles General Medical Center.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(a) in the amount of \$375,000.

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

b. Non-Litigated Claim of Saul Quezada

This medical malpractice claim concerns allegations that MLK-Outpatient Center negligently performed surgery on Claimant resulting in injuries.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(b) in the amount of \$411,649.

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

c. Non-Litigated Claims of Ruth Torres

This claim against the Sheriff's Department seeks compensation for property damage to a vehicle allegedly caused by Norwalk Station deputies during a deputy-involved shooting.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(c) in the amount of \$32,351.40.

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

**d. Maritza Flores v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV29532**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(d) in the amount of \$39,000.

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

**e. Blanca Medel Munoz v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23TRCV02156**

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

Action Taken:

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

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

**f. Susan Cox v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV16834**

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiff sustained from a fall that occurred on a pedestrian ramp.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(f) in the amount of \$35,000.

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

5. Approval of the Minutes of the November 18, 2024, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the November 18, 2024, meeting.

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

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By



Laura Z. Salazar
Claims Board Secretary