

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD IN PERSON AND ONLINE VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 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. **Genesys Mata, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 25NWCV00562**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(a) in the amount of \$99,999.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. **The Estate of Destiny Ortega, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22CMCV00447**

This wrongful death lawsuit seeks compensation for the death of an inmate in the custody of the Sheriff's Department.

Action Taken:

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

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**c. Mercedes Torres, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:22-cv-04250**

This federal civil rights lawsuit seeks compensation for the death of an inmate in the custody of the Sheriff's Department.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(c) in the amount of \$1,450,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

d. Non-Litigated Claim of Daniel L. Kim

This claim arises from injuries Claimant allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Fire Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(d) in the amount of \$35,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

e. Non-Litigated Claims of Penate, et al.

These claims arise from injuries Claimants allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Fire Engine driven by a Fire Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(e) in the amount of \$38,540.91.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**f. Kason Nelson v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23CHCV00748**

This lawsuit seeks compensation for injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained during two use-of-force incidents while housed in juvenile custody within the Probation Department.

Action Taken:

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

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**g. Kamryn Garbutt v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:24-cv-10947**

This federal civil rights lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff was assaulted by a probation officer and subsequently missed a court hearing, resulting in his over-detention.

Action Taken:

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

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

**h. Heriberto Ponce v. Claudia Rodriguera, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV21112**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving an employee of the District Attorney's Office.

Action Taken:

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

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**i. Brian Gonzalez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AVCV00591**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(i) in the amount of \$325,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

4. Approval of the Minutes of the December 1, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the December 1, 2025, meeting.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

5. **Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.**

No such matters were discussed.

6. **Adjournment.**

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Genesys Mata, et al. v. City of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	25NWCV00562
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	May 9, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 99,999
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	SAMER HABBAS, ESQ. Law Offices of Samer Habbas & Associates, PC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MICHAEL J. GORDON, ESQ. Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On January 13, 2024, a collision between a Sheriff's Department patrol car and Plaintiffs' automobile occurred at the intersection of Alameda Street and Firestone Boulevard in the Florence-Graham neighborhood. Plaintiffs allege the collision caused injuries for which they seek compensation.</p> <p>Given the risk and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$99,999 is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 1,250
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Estate of Destiny Ortega, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22CMCV00447
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 25, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 750,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	FRANK PEREZ Perez & Perez, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	CAROLINE S. CRADDOCK Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	On December 29, 2021, Plaintiffs allege that decedent died at the hands of her cellmate as a result of inappropriately housing decedent in the same jail cell with her alleged attacker. Due to the uncertainties and the risks of litigation, the proposed settlement is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 185,542
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 41,992

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Mercedes Torres, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:22-cv-04250
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	June 21, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 1,450,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	ALEXIS GALINDO Curd, Galindo & Smith
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	CAROLINE S. CRADDOCK Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiffs allege that decedent died on January 27, 2022, as a result of an attack by his cellmates on September 1, 2021. Due to the uncertainties and the risks of litigation, the proposed settlement is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 399,381
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 30,460

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-Litigated Claim of Daniel L. Kim
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Fire Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 35,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Mark W. Lomax, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This claim involves personal injuries sustained when a Fire Department truck rear-ended the claimant's vehicle. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full settlement of the claim is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ -0-
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ -0-

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-Litigated Claims of Penate et al.
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Fire
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 38,540.91
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	SB Law Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Joseph A. Langton Principal Deputy County Counsel Litigation Monitoring Division
NATURE OF CASE	These claims arise from an automobile accident causing damages. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full settlement of the claim is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Kason Nelson v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23CHCV00748
COURT	Los Angeles County Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 14, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Los Angeles County Probation Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 50,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	CHRISTIAN CONTRERAS Law Office of Christian Contreras, PLC STEPHEN A. KING Kings Justice Law, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	ANNA REITANO Deputy County Counsel PAUL B. BEACH Lawrence Beach Allen & Choi, PC
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$50,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, in a civil rights lawsuit filed by Kason Nelson (Plaintiff) in the Los Angeles Superior Court against the County of Los Angeles (County) and ten officers employed by the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation Department). Plaintiff's lawsuit seeks damages arising from injuries he sustained in 2022 during two use-of-force incidents while he was housed in juvenile custody within the Probation Department.</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 \$50,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 69,718
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Kamryn Garbutt v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:24-CV-10947-WLH (BFMx)
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	December 19, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Los Angeles Probation Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 400,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	ERIN DARLING Law Offices of Erin Darling
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	ANNA REITANO Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	ANDREW BAUM Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro LLP This is a recommendation to settle the federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Kamryn Garbutt arising out of an alleged assault and extended incarceration after missing his court date of \$400,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs. Due to the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs. The full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$400,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 49,871
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 10,000



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 21, 2024
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p>Plaintiff Kamryn Garbutt sued the County of Los Angeles for the following: Violation of Civil Rights against a Probation Officer and two Supervising Probation Officers; Unconstitutional Custom, Practice or Policy; Inadequate Training/Policy of Inaction; Conspiracy to Violate Civil Rights; and Supervisory Liability.</p> <p>On Sunday, January 21, 2024, Plaintiff alleges he was physically abused by a Probation Officer in the shower area of Camp Paige and that Supervising Deputy Probation Officers were aware and failed to intervene, or act. The Plaintiff alleges he teased the defendant, a Probation Officer, about supporting the opposing football team, which ended up upsetting him. Later that evening, the Plaintiff alleges the Probation Officer choked him while taking a shower and did not stop until another probation officer intervened. The next day, the plaintiff alleges supervisors urged the Plaintiff to complete an affidavit stating nothing happened to him and threatened to delay his release from court the following day should he speak up regarding the alleged attack on him by the Probation Officer. Plaintiff further alleges the supervisors cancelled his court appearance that was scheduled for the next day and consequently confined for another month because of it.</p>

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

- A. Employee used unreasonable/prohibited use of force in violation of Abusive Institutional Practices.
- B. Allegations of retaliatory action and cover up (threatening to cancel youth court appearance so he would not report use of force)
- C. Lack of CCTV around facility

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:

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

- A. The department's current policy prohibits inappropriate and/or abusive acts to youth. A memo was issued on September 17, 2025, to all RTSB staff, reminding them of the policy outlined in RTSB Manual Section 1108 – Abusive Institutional Practices.
- B. A memo was issued on September 17, 2025, to all RTSB staff, reminding them of the guidelines outlined in RTSB Manual Section 1705 –Anti-Retaliation (L) regarding the Bureau's anti-retaliation policy.

RTSB Manual Section 1705 (L) Anti-Retaliation policy states the department has zero tolerance for retaliation against anyone who reports alleged policy violations, including inappropriate or excessive force. Officers, youth, partner agency personnel, visitors, or other staff assigned to the facility shall not be retaliated against (including shunning) for reporting and/or intervening in any alleged policy violation. Any activity or knowledge involving verbal, physical, or written threat to youth, staff, partner personnel, or visitors shall be immediately reported. This includes incidents of suspected abuse, use of force, or retaliation against whistleblowing (whistle-blowers report alleged wrongdoing or acts of fraud). Every person reporting an incident and acting in good faith shall be able to report an incident and be free from influence, threats, or restraint. No one shall prevent any other person from reporting or otherwise bringing to the attention of inappropriate and/or prohibited behavior. Staff shall be trained on the prohibitions, consequences, and measures to ensure the reliability of the complaint/grievance process related to retaliation, including the assignment of a Bureau Chief to address the need for interim protections for those who report. Those who violate this provision are subject to discipline up to and including termination.

- C. Camp Paige is temporarily closed but scheduled for the installation of CCTV cameras in early 2026. The camp may reopen later depending on operational needs of the department. Although cameras will not be installed in the shower area, they will be placed at the entrance of the showers which provide access to who enters and exits the area.

During shower supervision, staff are positioned within the shower area to eliminate any blind spots and to ensure all youth are safely supervised.

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)

Crystal Hurtado

Signature:

Crystal Hurtado

Date:

11/18/2025

Name: (Department Head)

Stacy Lopez-Maddox

Signature:

Stacy Lopez-Maddox

Date:

11/19/2025

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:

Betty Karmirlian

Date:

11/19/25

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Heriberto Ponce vs. Claudia Rodriguera, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23STCV21112
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	September 1, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	District Attorney
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 75,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	JEFFREY MOLCHAN, ESQ. Legal Offices of David Grey
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MELISSA McCAVERTY, ESQ. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is an auto-liability lawsuit which arises from a traffic collision that occurred on December 13, 2022. Plaintiff claims he suffered injuries and damages as a result of the collision. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 15,850
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 6,657

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Brian Gonzalez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23AVCV00591
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	June 1, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 325,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	RANDI L. THOMPSON, ESQ. Jacoby & Meyers Attorneys LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	SANJAY ATHALYE, ESQ. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This lawsuit arose after a Department employee, driving in the course and scope of employment, made a left turn and collided with Plaintiff's vehicle as he was entering the intersection of Avenue M and 20th East Street in the City of Palmdale. Plaintiff claims to have sustained 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	\$ 157,400
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 39,981



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	July 26, 2022
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	The Plaintiff claims to have suffered physical and property damages, as well as loss of wages, due to a traffic collision caused by a DCFS employee.

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

On July 26, 2022, the DCFS employee made an unsafe left turn while en route to a foster home to conduct a home inspection.

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

On December 14, 2022, the Vehicle Accident Review Committee (VARC) reviewed the accident involving the DCFS employee dated July 26, 2022. Based on the information provided, the Committee classified the accident as "preventable." The DCFS employee was issued a Notice of Expectation on May 23, 2023.

The DCFS employee was asked to participate in Defensive Driver training, which was completed on June 15, 2023.

On or about May 1, 2025, DCFS began requiring all mileage permittees to complete Defensive Driver training biennially. On October 20, 2025, the Department issued a memo to all mileage permittees, dated October 15, 2025, informing them of this new biennial training requirement.

On April 22, 2025, Chief Executive Office released a Safety Bulletin on Distracted Driving. The bulletin was shared with DCFS employees on May 1, 2025.

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)

Veronica Pawlowski

Signature:



Date:

11/5/25

Name: (Department Head)

Brandon T. Nichols, Director

Signature:



Date:

11/10/25

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY

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

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

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)

Betty Karmirlian

Signature:



Date:

11/25/25

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

December 1, 2025

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:42 a.m. The meeting was held virtually with Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro, Claims Board Member Oscar Valdez, Claims Board Member Adrienne M. Byers, and Claims Board Administrator Laura Z. Salazar participating in person at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Sixth Floor, Conference Room C, Los Angeles, California 90012.

All other participants at the Claims Board meeting appeared virtually: Narbeh Bagdasarian, Kevin Engelen, Timothy J. Kral, Anna Reitano, Melissa A. McCaverty, Roberto Saldaña, Kent Sommer, Vanessa Evangelista, and Eduardo Montelongo appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Benjamin Waterman, Arun Patel, and Elizabeth Augusta appeared for the Department of Health Services. Sergeant Shanese E. Winfrey, Deputy Nancy K. Madarasz, Captain Shawnee Hinchman, Captain Chris M. Kusayanagi, Commander Ernest O. Bille, Commander Terrence L. Bell, Chief Yolanda R. Figueroa, Lieutenant Tania A. Giggles, and Captain Nicole N. Palomino appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Marian Bellard appeared for the Internal Services Department. Dana Pratt and Michael Samsing appeared for the Chief Executive Office. Julie Dixon Silva appeared for the Office of the District Attorney. Catie Mathers appeared for the Department of Health Services. Yuk Kwong Law appeared for Law + Brandmeyer, LLP. Andrew Baum and Thomas Barajas appeared for Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan and Shapiro. Michael Weiss appeared for Akerman LLP. Michele Goldsmith appeared for BDG Law Group, APLC.

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 9:43 a.m., Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(h).

4. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session.

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

At 12:35 p.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session via video conference and reported the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Renee Lemos, et al. v. Los Angeles Unified School District, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV01719

This medical malpractice lawsuit alleges that Olive View Medical Center staff were negligent, which caused or contributed to injuries suffered by a minor.

Action Taken:

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

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

**b. Jose Gaitan v. Steven Martinez, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV36900**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(b) in the amount of \$450,000.

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

**c. Estate of Nicholas Burgos, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-cv-05566**

This federal civil rights lawsuit arises from a Sheriff's Department deputy's use of deadly force during an encounter with Nicholas Burgos at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(c) in the amount of \$1,100,000 for economic reasons only.

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

**d. Kamryn Garbutt v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:24-cv-10947**

This federal civil rights lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff was assaulted by a probation officer and subsequently missed a court hearing, resulting in his over-detention.

Action Taken:

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

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

**e. Maria Evila Rodriguez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23NWCV00478**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving an employee of the Internal Services Department.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(e) in the amount of \$45,500.

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

**f. XJ Grand Hotel LLC v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV09617**

This lawsuit seeks compensation for property damages allegedly caused by occupants participating in a temporary County housing program.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(f) in the amount of \$175,000.

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

**g. Erwin Mandani v. LAC+USC Medical Center, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV40257**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that the Department of Health Services failed to engage in the interactive process or provide reasonable accommodation to a former employee with a disability.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(g) in the amount of \$230,000.

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

**h. Jon Hatami v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV32870**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the District Attorney's Office was subjected to discrimination based on race and retaliation.

Action Taken:

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

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

5. Approval of the Minutes of the November 17, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:


The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the November 17, 2025, meeting.

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

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By 
Laura Z. Salazar
Claims Board Administrator
Office of the County Counsel