



King County
Office of Risk Management Services
Department of Executive Services
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July 8, 2021

The Honorable Claudia Balducci, Chair
King County Council
516 Third Ave, Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

RE: Quarterly Report of Closed Claims with Indemnity Payments of \$100,000 or More

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

I am pleased to transmit the quarterly report for the second quarter of 2021 summarizing claims that closed with an indemnity payment in the amount of \$100,000 or more. This report is transmitted pursuant to Ordinance 16913 adopted on August 27, 2010, which established a quarterly reporting requirement for the King County Risk Manager. This report describes the nine claims that resolved from April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 with an indemnity payment of \$100,000 or more.

Claimant: Scott, Areva, PR for Estate of Wardell Sims	Indemnity Payment: \$4,000,000
Date of Loss: 06/16/2017	Closure Method: Settlement
Closure Date: 04/22/2021	

On June 16, 2017, Mr. Sims was booked into the King County Kent Regional Justice Center on a marijuana-related charge. On the first night of his incarceration, he fell off his top bunk and died from injuries suffered in the fall. When Mr. Sims was assigned to a top bunk, he told the Officers that, during his intake, he had disclosed his medical history of seizures and traumatic brain injury that made a top bunk assignment unsafe. He again requested to move to a lower bunk, but his request was not granted. During that night, he suffered a seizure and fell from the bunk, resulting in fatal injuries. The case was resolved for \$4,000,000.

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Claimant: Wheeler, Rodney
Date of Loss: 09/15/2016
Closure Date: 05/14/2021

Indemnity Payment: \$500,000
Closure Method: Settlement

Mr. Wheeler was arrested, charged with murder, and incarcerated by King County for over two years while awaiting trial. A jury acquitted Mr. Wheeler and, as a result, he alleged that he was wrongly incarcerated and maliciously prosecuted. The case was resolved for \$500,000.

Claimant: Brown, Isabelle J
Date of Loss: 10/01/2018
Closure Date: 05/25/2021

Indemnity Payment: \$350,000
Closure Method: Settlement

Ms. Brown, a minor, was exiting the Metro Route 8 bus on October 1, 2018. The coach operator indicated to her that it was safe to cross the street. As Ms. Brown crossed the street, she was struck by a passing vehicle and suffered severe leg injuries, which required surgery. The case was resolved for \$350,000.

Claimant: Davis, Teresa
Date of Loss: 10/01/2020
Closure Date: 05/12/2021

Indemnity Payment: \$175,000
Closure Method: Settlement

Ms. Davis has been a county employee since 2013 and works in the Procurement section of the Finance and Business Operations Division of the Department of Executive Services. She asserts she has experienced years of gender and/or age discrimination in her compensation as compared to other similarly situated employees. The case was resolved for \$175,000.

Claimant: Blanchard, Jason
Date of Loss: 09/24/2015
Closure Date: 05/10/2021

Indemnity Payment: \$250,000
Closure Method: Settlement

Mr. Blanchard was driving in downtown Seattle on September 24, 2015. While he was stopped in traffic on 2nd Avenue, he was rear-ended by a Metro bus. The accident caused minor vehicle damage. Mr. Blanchard sought medical care following the incident. His medical and wage losses were in excess of \$400,000. The case was resolved for \$250,000.

Claimant: Marr, Loraine
Date of Loss: 11/01/2015
Closure Date: 05/12/2021

Indemnity Payment: \$250,000
Closure Method: Settlement

Ms. Marr has been a King County Metro Operator since November 2015. During her employment, Ms. Marr experienced sexual harassment and was sexually assaulted and physically assaulted while on the job. The case was resolved for \$250,000.

Claimant: Henderson, Rachel Marie
Date of Loss: 03/03/2018
Closure Date: 6/11/2021

Indemnity Payment: \$195,000
Closure Method: Settlement

Ms. Henderson has been a King County Metro Operator since 2018. During her employment, she experienced sexual harassment and was sexually assaulted and physically assaulted while on the job. The case was resolved for \$195,000.

Claimant: Gerde, David
Date of Loss: 07/17/2017
Closure Date: 06/16/2021

Indemnity Payment: \$119,622
Closure Method: Settlement

Mr. Gerde was driving in Renton on July 17, 2017. While he was stopped at a red light, he was struck from behind by a Metro Bus. The impact caused Mr. Gerde's vehicle to hit the car in front of him. Mr. Gerde suffered injuries to his neck, back, shoulder, and elbow. The case was resolved for \$119,622.

Claimant: Jacobson, Kimberley Vay
Date of Loss: 02/04/2020
Closure Date: 06/30/2021

Indemnity Payment: \$200,000
Closure Method: Settlement

Ms. Jacobson boarded a Metro bus on February 4, 2020. The bus began moving while she was in the process of sitting, which caused her to fall sideways. The fall resulted in a broken leg that required surgery with a screw implantation. Following the surgery, Ms. Jacobson developed deep vein thrombosis in the leg. She continues to experience impaired mobility and pain. The case was resolved for \$200,000.

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I would be happy to answer any questions or provide a briefing for the Council on these claims at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Hills". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Hills, ARM-P, CRM
Director, Office of Risk Management Services

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
Caroline Whalen, County Administrative Officer, Department of Executive
Services (DES)
Jennifer Hills, Director, Office of Risk Management, DES
Kevin Wright, Chief Civil Deputy, Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO)
Jessica Kozma, Litigation Section Head, PAO
Kymber Waltmunson, King County Auditor