



King County
Office of Risk Management Services
Department of Executive Services
King Street Center
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 320
Seattle, WA 98104
206-263-2250 Fax 206-296-0949
TTY Relay: 711

April 1, 2023

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove, 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 Upthegrove:

I am pleased to transmit the quarterly report for the first quarter of 2023 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 four claims that resolved from January 1, 2023 through March 31, 2023 with an indemnity payment of \$100,000 or more.

Claimant: Peters-Montalva, Jamie Marie Felicia

Date of Loss: 03/24/2019

Closure Date: 02/21/2023

Indemnity Payment: \$850,000

Closure Method: Settlement

On March 24, 2019, a Metro Ford F-250 truck driven by Metro Quality Service Supervisor Scott Holbery failed to yield to the claimant, Jamie Peters-Montalva (then 37 years old), at an intersection. The damage to the claimant's vehicle was extensive. The Metro truck driver was cited by Seattle PD for inattentive driving. Metro Safety investigated the incident and found it to be preventable. Plaintiff Jamie Peters-Montalva alleges a traumatic brain injury and her spouse, Plaintiff Dan Hammett, alleges a companion loss of consortium claim. She was diagnosed with Post-Concussive Syndrome by her primary care physician and a neurologist in March 2020, and later worked with rehabilitation specialists for balance and speech therapy in 2021. The claim settled in post-mediation for \$850,000.

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

April 1, 2023

Page 2 of 3

Claimant: Hanson, Steve

Date of Loss: 10/10/2019

Closure Date: 01/04/2023

Indemnity Payment: \$675,000

Closure Method: Settlement

Claimant Steve Hanson, a 75-year-old male, was operating his 2007 Mercedes on 3rd Ave. downtown when he was rear-ended by a Metro Transit service truck. Mr. Hanson was treated at the scene then transported to the emergency room at Swedish Medical Center. Following ongoing complaints and several doctor visits a 11/23/19 follow up CT scan revealed bilateral subdural hematomas. He underwent a craniotomy and had two separate inpatient stays at Swedish before his condition improved. His wife assisted in his care and recovery. His current condition is good. The total medical specials were \$264,513. The case resolved at mediation for \$675,000.

Claimant: Adal, Birhanu

Date of Loss: 11/22/2021

Closure Date: 03/22/2023

Indemnity Payment: \$210,000

Closure Method: Settlement

Claimant Birhanu Adal, a 61-year-old male, went to the Renton Transfer Station with a friend. King County Solid Waste Division staff were not on the tipping floor when they entered. The claimant got out of the vehicle to assist his friend in backing into a commercial stall, which has no safety cables, and walked backwards off the edge and fell into the trailer. He was treated at the scene then transported to Valley Medical Center where imaging revealed an L3 compression fracture. He was released 2 days later. No surgical intervention was required, and he's made a complete recovery. The total medical specials were \$31,697.92 and his wage loss totaled \$22,192.00. The case resolved during direct negotiations for \$210,000.

Claimant: Rocca, Elizabeth

Date of Loss: 12/31/2021

Closure Date: 03/29/2023

Indemnity Payment: \$250,000

Closure Method: Settlement

Claimant Elizabeth Rocca, a former employee at KCSO, alleges she was subjected to discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual orientation, disability, and age. Further she alleges she was inappropriately harassed in the workplace, creating a hostile work environment. The case was resolved through mediation for \$250,000.

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

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

April 1, 2023

Page 3 of 3

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Oh".

Christine Oh

Director, Office of Risk Management Services

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich., Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, 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)

Susie Slonecker, Chief Civil Deputy, Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO)

Jessica Kozma, Litigation Section Head, PAO

KyMBER Waltmunson, King County Auditor