

Risk Management

Merry Celeste
Division Director

Tel. No (727) 464-3664
Fax. No. (727) 464-4060

MEMORANDUM

To: Jewel White, County Attorney
Kevin Knutson, Assistant County Administrator

From: Merry Celeste, Division Director, Purchasing & Risk Management, Administrative Services

Subject: County Attorney's Office Quarterly Report for April 1, 2021 - through June 30, 2021 on claims settled between \$25,001 and \$50,000

Date: July 9, 2021

This is the Quarterly Report that is submitted to the Board of County Commissioners to be received and filed for informational purposes only.

There were four (4) General Liability settlements and one (1) Workers Compensation settlement that fell within the quarter and they are as follows:

Paul & Amy Palmer

Claim # 14-11037

Incident Date: 4/9/2014

Claimants, Paul & Amy Palmer, unknowingly purchased a home that was partially built over a Pinellas County sewer main. The sewer main, which was located outside the easement, was built in the 1950's and acquired from Kenneth City in the 1960's. The Palmers believed that the sewer main was leaking and causing noxious gases to enter the home, making the home uninhabitable. The home was sold in foreclosure and the Palmers lost their investment in the home. The plaintiff's sought to recover the full value of the home, but through much negotiation in litigation they agreed to settle for \$50,000.00.

Alice Wright

Claim # 17-20747

Incident Date: 5/23/2017

Claimant, Ms. Wright, a retired Pastor, alleged that she tripped and fell on a raised & cracked portion of a Pinellas County sidewalk. As a result of this fall, Ms. Wright fractured her left wrist, which required surgery. Pinellas County replaced the raised section of sidewalk and ground down several other areas. The plaintiff's attorney demanded \$200,000.00 pre-suit, then served a proposal for settlement for \$65,000.00 and through much negotiation, they agreed to settle for \$50,000.00.

Alexis Campbell

Claim # 18-20475

Incident Date: 10/24/2018

Claimant, Ms. Campbell, was driving through a Publix parking lot when a County vehicle pulled out and sideswiped her vehicle. The PCU driver was found at fault, but not cited. Ms. Campbell claimed various soft tissue injuries to neck, shoulder and back. The plaintiff's attorney demanded \$175,000.00 pre-suit, and through much negotiation in litigation, they agreed to settle for \$50,000.00.

Margaret Burris

Claim # 18-20610

Incident Date: 9/7/2018

Claimant, Ms. Burris, alleged that she tripped and fell on a raised portion of a Pinellas County sidewalk. As a result of this fall, Ms. Burris fractured and displaced her left shoulder, which required surgery. Pinellas County replaced the raised section of sidewalk, which had been previously ground down. The plaintiff's attorney served a proposal for settlement for \$200,000.00, and through much negotiation in litigation, they agreed to settle for \$47,500.00.

Richard Ludlow

Claim # 97-32247

Incident Date: 3/31/1997

Employee worked for the Clerk of Courts and had a claim for an exposure to chemicals while he was working in the print shop. This exposure permanently aggravated his pre-existing medical condition. He continued to work for the Clerk's Office until his retirement. Prior to retirement he requested that we evaluate his claim for a possible settlement. His claim was evaluated and settled for \$50,000 thereby eliminating future medical and indemnity exposure.