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City Auditor Offers Work Plan

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Long Beach's City Auditor, Laura Doud, took her office high tech last year.

Doud released her 2016 Annual Work Plan last week, including accomplishments from 2015. Top on that list was making the office more transparent through technology.

A fraud hotline was started in 2014, and the first fraud hotline report was issued in 2015. There were 58 tips, with 76% of those tips resulting in some sort of action, including major changes in the way some city departments conduct business.

Doud's office also added a presence on social media channels — @LBCityAuditor on Twitter and facebook.com/LongBeachCityAuditor. A free MyAuditor app was launched for smart phones allowing quick access to updates and a mobile way to report suspected fraud. An the office's website, cityauditorlauradoud.com, was updated with a user-friendly interface to make it easier to use.

The there was the actual auditing work done. According to Doud, her office's 2015 reports covered more than \$20 million in annual operations in seven departments, and resulted in 80 different recommendations. City management agreed with all but

two of those recommendations.

Three audits underway now are expected to be complete in 2016. They include audits of Public Works Department job order contracts, the park landscape maintenance contract and overall contract administration.

A new study of disability pensions for public safety officers is on the agenda for 2016, as is a review of issues concerning ethics and the handling of fraud allegations throughout the city. There also is the ongoing work of auditing real-time transactions citywide.

Other potential audits or studies in 2016 include the Water Department's sewer system management plan, fire department code enforcement costs, street repair contracts, facility maintenance, tree maintenance, the city's food inspection program and library services costs. Any work not completed in 2016 would be carried over into the next year — a vacated building study, the sewer plan, library services and food inspections all are carried over from 2015.

To reach the fraud hotline, call 1 (888) FRAUD-07 to remain anonymous or call the office at (562) 570-6751. Concerns also can be reported online or through the mobile app.

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