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Are you a Long Beach city hall watchdog? Here's what the auditor is working on this year



By Harry Saltzgaver, Special to the Press-Telegram

POSTED: 03/09/15, 12:18 PM PDT | UPDATED: ON 03/09/2015

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LONG BEACH >> City Auditor Laura Doud wants Long Beach residents to know what her office is up to — heck, she says she would be happy if they even knew her office exists.

So in her ninth year in office, Doud has published her first Annual Work Plan.

Long Beach elects its city auditor, as required by the city charter. It is one of only four cities in California with an elected auditor.

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While there have been annual work plans for her 18-person office in the past, Doud believed it time to make it more formal and share it. According to [the work plan](#), available at www.cityauditorlauradoud.com, there are 15 specific audit projects on the calendar for 2015. There will be limited scope audits citywide on contract oversight and cash/revenue collection. And there will be a study of the progress in upgrading computers, software and other information technology.

Doud doesn't shy away from controversial issues. She will take on doing a benchmarking report on the new paramedic staffing model in the Long Beach Fire Department, efficiency of library services compared to other cities, the large landscape maintenance contract in the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department and hiring practices in the Civil Service Department.

"It's my job to look at the facts and nothing else," Doud said. "I try not to get into the politics of issues. If I am going to be effective in my job, I have to be impartial."

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