

LOCAL NEWS

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Council to study police review

Council: Efficiency study to get review; ammunition sale record to be weighed.

By Samantha Gonzaga

Staff writer

LONG BEACH — The City Council today will review the findings of an efficiency report on the Long Beach Police Department.

City Auditor Laura Doud last fall ordered a study of the police department to see how well it is using its resources and to find ways of improving efficiency.

"This was not a fault-finding activity of the police department," Doud said. "It was a way to look at cost-effectiveness and the most effective way of supporting the mayor's goal of increasing (the department) by 100 officers."

The study was conducted by Public Financial Management, a firm Doud says specializes in police department analysis, at a cost of \$93,000. A steering committee comprised of city officials also took part in the effort, among them former City Manager Jerry Miller, Assistant City Manager Christine Shippey, Director of Financial Management Michael Killebrew, and former Police Chief Anthony Batts — appointed to fill Miller's position on a temporary basis last week.

"This was a really collaborative process," Doud said.

Findings and recommendations were divided under four categories:

- **Civilianization**, or hiring civilian employees to free sworn officers from administrative positions. The study found 23 positions that could potentially be occupied by civilian personnel.

- **Redeployment**, under which falls the issue of moving officers to either higher-priority calls and temporary assignment to other departments or from investigations to patrol. Overtime is also covered under this category. Doud said overtime accounts for \$12 million of the police department's \$169.5 million budget, that in turn accounts for more than 45 percent of the city's general fund budget.

- **Fine enforcement**, something Doud said could be a potential source of revenue-generating benefits and **technology upgrades**.

Doud also stressed that the study and its recommendations aren't final.

"This report is a working guide," she said. "We're going to keep this active and alive to ensure its implementation along the way."

Batts may have temporarily stepped away from the police department, but he's certainly not back-pedaling in its defense.

While speaking at the Long Beach Police Academy graduation last week, Batts used the opportunity to fire a salvo at some of his critics.

"You've read in the press that we have a \$6 million deficit in the police department," Batts said. "That's because we've run back-to-back academies. And I'd like to say that for the first time we're at full staff and full budget."