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Covering the Long Beach Unified School District...and more!



Volume 17, Issue 127

[www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com](http://www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com)

August / September 2016

## City of Long Beach, City Auditor



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City Auditor

### Long Beach is Dreaming Gold

I love the Olympics and the American pride I feel during this special event! It's great to see how the Olympics brings the world together through sports. One of my favorite parts about watching these events is hearing the inspirational stories of the athletes — about their varied upbringings, preparation, and the obstacles they faced and overcame on their journey to become

Olympians. It is a great reminder that by setting a goal, believing in ourselves, exercising discipline, willingness to sacrifice, and having just downright grit — we can achieve anything we put our minds to.

In February this year, I had the opportunity to volunteer at the Olympic Trials for the marathon that was held in Los Angeles. It was very exciting to see the fastest marathon runners from all over the country come together and compete for the top three male and female spots to represent the USA at the Olympics in Rio De Janeiro this summer. What made it even more exciting was that the female winner was Amy Cragg who was born in Long Beach!

This experience made me think of the many amazing Olympic athletes who have come from Long Beach and who we are incredibly proud of! Long Beach has much to offer in the field of sports — not only do we have great weather year round for training and great facilities available but we also have many exceptional role model athletes who have medaled, won gold and paved the way for our young, aspiring athletes to follow.

This year two Olympic athletes going to Rio representing the USA are Long Beach Wilson High School graduate Tony Azevedo who will be participating on the Men's USA Water Polo Team, and who is the first five-time Olympian in U.S water polo history. In addition, Long Beach Poly High School graduate Ariana Washington will be competing on the Women's USA Track and Field Team. What an exciting time to cheer on these Long Beach athletes as they seek to fulfill their dreams and inspire our youth. Go Team USA!

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. — Eleanor Roosevelt

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