



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Long Beach City Auditor's Report Shows \$33 Million Spent for Public Safety City Auditor Doud's Initiative Results in More Funding for First Responders, Equipment & Training**

Long Beach, CA – Long Beach City Auditor Laura Doud today released the [City Auditor's Proposition H Impact Report](#). In 2006, City Auditor Doud found that Long Beach had a low oil production tax rate compared to surrounding cities and recommended that it be increased to bring in more revenue to support public safety operations. This led to City Auditor Doud championing the ballot initiative known as Proposition H (Prop H) which passed with 70% of voters in favor. Since its inception in 2007, Prop H has continued to raise an average of \$3.3 million dollars of revenue every year for the Long Beach Police and Fire Departments. Over the last ten years, Prop H has resulted in \$33 million for public safety services, supporting the staffing of first responders, and a variety of related costs, including purchasing emergency equipment, construction of facilities, and training for public safety staff.

"I am very pleased that Long Beach community groups and voters joined together to pass a Measure that has provided critical dollars to fund additional first responders and public safety programs that have protected Long Beach citizens over the past ten years at no cost to the taxpayers," said City Auditor Laura Doud. "Over the past decade Long Beach has faced budget challenges and constraints, and I want to thank the public for their confidence in voting in favor of this Measure as it has and will continue to be an on-going source of revenue for public safety."

City Auditor Doud found that 87% of Prop H funds have been used to staff police officer and firefighter positions. In 2008, the Police Department used Prop H funds to launch the Crime Impact Motor Team. The team uses motorcycle officers to provide more speed and mobility in responding to priority calls for service, reducing violent and gang related crime in high impact areas. From 2012 through 2016, the Crime Impact Motor Team responded to over 47,500 community safety incidents, including 29,500 emergency calls and resulting in nearly 17,000 citations and more than 1,000 arrests.

Prop H also helped fund life-saving operational and personnel needs for Fire Station 17, Truck 17. Prop H funds the constant staffing of two daily Firefighters and one daily Fire Engineer at the station. Truck 17 responded to more than 14,000 incidents including over 11,000 emergency medical calls and 2,000 fires from 2012 through 2016.

In addition to first responder staffing, Prop H has been integral to funding resources that support police and fire operations. This includes funds for:

- a new fire truck at Fire Station 14 which responded to over 4,200 emergency calls;
- re-purposing the Police East Patrol Division substation which serves 46% of the City; and
- Fire and Police Academy sessions graduating 33 new firefighters and 110 new police officers.

Prop H funds have also been used to support the City's Homelessness Education and Response Team (H.E.A.R.T.) and Quality of Life Team in homelessness outreach, intervention and medical care.

"Proposition H has provided crucial financial support to the City of Long Beach's emergency response and homeless outreach efforts, improving public safety for all our residents," said Mayor Robert Garcia. "I want to thank City Auditor Laura Doud for championing this proposal."

The complete visual City Auditor's Proposition H Impact Report can be viewed [here](#). Printed copies can be requested by e-mail [Auditor@longbeach.gov](mailto:Auditor@longbeach.gov) or by phone 562-570-6751.

## Background

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In 2006 City Auditor Doud conducted a comprehensive analysis to identify a fair and appropriate rate for the City's Oil Production Tax (OPT). With this information, the Mayor and City Council placed Proposition H on the 2007 ballot to add an additional 25 cents per barrel tax and mandate that the additional funds raised from the OPT were to be spent on public safety in Long Beach. The voter approved ordinance mandated annual independent reviews by the City Auditor's Office which have been performed. The Office will continue to monitor Proposition H to ensure that the revenue is being properly collected and spent for the City's Police and Fire Departments as intended and report this to the public as it has in the past.

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