



LAURA DOUD

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Long Beach City Auditor's Business Improvement District Oversight Audit Wins National Award Audit to Improve Oversight of \$17 Million Investment in Business Corridors Earns Distinguished Knighton Award**

Long Beach, CA – The Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA) recently announced that the Long Beach City Auditor's Office has been awarded the prestigious 2017 Distinguished Knighton Award for the Business Improvement District (BID) Oversight Audit. The award will be presented to City Auditor Laura Doud and the audit team Hannah Morgan, Jennifer Lopez and Jessica Tims on May 7, 2018 at ALGA's Annual National Conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The team has also been invited to present the audit at the conference.

Judges determined the Office's audit was among the best of 2017. They noted the audit is a thorough and innovative examination of Long Beach's BID Program. The BID Programs topic is relevant, because it is an emerging issue of interest for cities nationwide. Judges noted the audit has potential to improve government efficiency and effectiveness through findings that matter to policymakers and citizens. They also noted the effective use of the Report Highlights Sheet, dynamic visual aids, color and formatting to help readers move through significant detail and comprehend findings of high importance.

In December 2017, the Office issued the Business Improvement District (BID) Oversight Audit. BIDs, created by local businesses and property owners, facilitate the pooling of private resources (through assessment fees) to collectively pay for activities – such as cleaning and maintenance, security patrols, community events, promotion and marketing – that are beyond the services provided by the City and that business and property owners cannot afford on their own. These key services help to physically and economically improve areas of the City where people shop, eat, and work, as well as enhance the image of the City as a whole. BIDs reported that they have been well supported by City staff. However, the audit found the City needs to improve oversight of the more technical aspects of the BID Program, in which ten BIDs received \$17 million in 2016, to ensure that BIDs follow agreements, comply with State Law, and receive the resources to which they are entitled.

The audit's recommendations focused on improving the City's oversight by clarifying BID reporting requirements, enhancing communication and information sharing, and improving assessment processes.

"I am pleased the City has taken steps to address our recommendations by planning workshop trainings with the BIDs to improve communication and understanding of agreement terms, reporting requirements and management and transfer of fees," said City Auditor Laura Doud. "We want to thank the BIDs for being receptive to our recommendations. We are fortunate to have BIDs that are dedicated to providing valuable services to Long Beach. With better oversight, the City can help BIDs maximize the impact on business corridors, and improve the City's overall economic vitality."

This is the fifth ALGA Knighton Audit Award City Auditor Laura Doud's Office has received. The Knighton Award is one of the most highly regarded honors, because it recognizes the best performance audit reports issued by its 350 local government audit organization members.

"Our Office is committed to improving City operations, and my staff and I appreciate ALGA's recognition of our work on behalf of the citizens of Long Beach," said City Auditor Laura Doud.

Detailed judges' comments can be viewed [here](#), the Business Improvement District (BID) Oversight Audit can be viewed [here](#), and the Report Highlights Sheet can be viewed [here](#).

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