



LAURA DOUD

## PRESS RELEASE

May 8, 2018

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### **Long Beach City Auditor Laura Doud & Team Receive National Award Audit Team Receives Recognition & Gives Business Improvement District Presentation at National Conference**

Long Beach, CA – Yesterday, Long Beach City Auditor Laura Doud and the audit team of Hannah Morgan, Jennifer Lopez and Jessica Tims received the prestigious Distinguished Knighton Award for their Business Improvement District (BID) Oversight Audit at the 2018 Annual Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA) Conference. This is the fifth ALGA Knighton Audit Award that City Auditor Laura Doud's Office has received.

The audit team also presented the report findings and recommendations to ALGA conference attendees, who recognized that BID programs are becoming an important driver of economic development in cities nationwide. "I believe that, because of its relevancy, this audit will serve as a model for other cities to follow as BIDs grow throughout the country," said City Auditor Laura Doud.

"The audit was judged on several key elements such as the potential for significant impact, and BIDs affect a broad cross-section of the public," said ALGA Awards Committee Chair Lisa Monteiro. "All audit shops can take away information from their presentation on how they tackled auditing this complex BID topic resulting in findings that matter to policymakers and citizens."

"It is a great privilege to receive this Distinguished Knighton Award from our peers," said City Auditor Laura Doud. "The Knighton Award is a wonderful honor as it recognizes the best performance audits issued by its 350 local government audit organization members. As City Auditor, I lead an Office committed to improving City operations through innovative, independent reviews, and my team and I appreciate ALGA's recognition of our work on behalf of the citizens of Long Beach."

"This audit was undertaken because of the important role BIDs play in Long Beach's economic vitality and the valuable services- such as cleaning, security, marketing and community events - that the dedicated BIDs provide to the citizens and visitors of Long Beach," said City Auditor Doud.

The audit found the City needs to improve oversight of the more technical aspects of the BID Program. 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. Since the audit's release, the City has taken steps to address the audit's recommendations by implementing workshop trainings with the BIDs to improve communication and understanding of agreement terms, reporting requirements and management and transfer of fees.

"The findings of this report are extremely helpful as it emphasized the impact of BIDs and how valuable this resource is to the districts, neighborhoods and corridors we respectively serve. Now we can focus on the efforts to help create a platinum standard of how the City and BIDs partner to become better organized, effectively communicate, strategically execute and demonstrate measurable results," said Downtown Long Beach Alliance President & CEO Kraig Kojian.

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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