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AUDITOR

LAURA DOUD

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Contact: Meghan King, Communications Manager, 562.570.6726,

Meghan.King@longbeach.gov

For Immediate Release

Long Beach City Auditor Highlights Importance of Fraud Hotline During International Fraud Awareness Week

Long Beach, CA – City Auditor Laura Doud today highlights the importance of the City Auditor's Fraud Hotline in correlation with International Fraud Awareness Week (Nov. 15-21). The City Auditor's Fraud Hotline is available to anyone to anonymously report tips of alleged City fraud, waste or abuse. For every tip received through the City Auditor's Fraud Hotline, the City Auditor's Office creates a case and conducts preliminary fact finding and thorough analysis to determine if there is sufficient basis to investigate.

According to the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners 2020 Global Fraud Study, tips are the most common method of fraud detection.

"Tips initiate positive change," said City Auditor Laura Doud. "Tips have led to significant audits and corrective action recommendations issued to City departments as seen in the last <u>City Auditor's Fraud Hotline Activity Report</u>. These recommendations are made to protect City funds and resources as well as improve City operations and programs."

"If something doesn't add up, sound right or feel right, it's probably not right," said City Auditor Laura Doud. "We encourage anyone who suspects fraud to report the detailed tip to the City Auditor's Fraud Hotline."

There are three simple ways to anonymously and confidentially report tips of fraud, waste or abuse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to the City Auditor's Fraud Hotline:

- Phone: 1-888-FRAUD-07 (1-888-372-8307)
- Online form at CityAuditorLauraDoud.com
- MyAuditor App available for free at the <u>App Store</u> or <u>Google Play</u>

"During challenging times, the pressure, opportunity and risk of fraud increases, and it is extremely important, especially now, that we have this tool to report tips of alleged fraud," added City Auditor Laura Doud. "City fraud, waste and abuse can lead to lost revenue and resources impacting important services, including public safety, street repairs, libraries and parks. This is why my Office works to deter and detect fraud against the City of Long Beach. We are committed to protecting City resources and ensuring they are best used for the public's benefit."

About the Long Beach City Auditor's Office

The Long Beach City Auditor's Office's mission is to make Long Beach better through independent audits and fraud investigations. The Office works to provide assurance City funds are spent as intended, promote transparency and accountability of City operations, and prevent fraud, waste and abuse of City resources. For more information visit CityAuditorLauraDoud.com and connect with the Office @LBCityAuditor on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Sign up to receive email updates and download the MyAuditor App at the App Store or Google Play.