



## PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### **Long Beach City Auditor's 2006 Initiative Results in an Additional \$52 Million for Public Safety With a Declining Trend in Oil Production, the City Needs to Prepare Accordingly for Public Safety Funding**

Long Beach, CA – Long Beach City Auditor Laura Doud today released the [City Auditor's Public Safety Oil Production Act Impact Summary](#). In 2006, City Auditor Laura Doud found that the City of Long Beach had a low tax rate on oil producers compared to surrounding cities and recommended that it be increased to bring in more revenue to support public safety operations. This led to the Public Safety Oil Production Act (Proposition H) which passed with 70% of voters in favor. Since its inception in 2007, the Public Safety Oil Production Act has raised an average of \$3.25 million dollars of revenue every year, and over \$52 million total, for the Long Beach Police and Fire Departments at no cost to the taxpayers.

“These critical funds support the City’s public safety staffing, emergency response, homelessness outreach efforts, mental health services, and resources,” said City Auditor Laura Doud. “Due to California’s transition away from oil production, Mayor Rex Richardson requested and the City Council approved a comprehensive review on oil production revenue, which our Office is overseeing. The review will provide estimates of the impact of the loss of this revenue on City services such as public safety. With a declining trend in oil production, the City needs to prepare accordingly for ongoing funding of Police and Fire staffing and services which the Public Safety Oil Production Act supports.”

The Public Safety Oil Production Act funds have supported the City’s homelessness outreach and assistance. This includes funding the Homelessness Education and Response Team which had 816 emergency medical service contacts in one year. Funds have also supported the City’s Quality of Life Team which connects individuals experiencing homelessness to supporting services and the Mental Evaluation Team which provides assistance to individuals who need access to mental health services. In collaboration with the Quality of Life Team, the Mental Evaluation Team connects individuals experiencing homelessness to temporary housing and mental health facilities. In 2022, the Mental Evaluation Team made 894 contacts with individuals experiencing homelessness and 641 crisis evaluations.

“When people are given the proper help and opportunity to succeed, it in turn creates a safer City,” said Mental Evaluation Team Officer E. Gorski. “The number of people who both the Quality of Life Team and Mental Evaluation Team have been able to reach would not have been possible without the help of Public Safety Oil Production Act funds.”

The Public Safety Oil Production Act helped fund the life-saving operational and personnel needs for Fire Station 17, Truck 17 which responded to 26,395 incidents including 20,829 emergency medical calls, 4,208 fires, and 1,358 rescues and assists from 2012 through 2022.

Additionally, the Public Safety Oil Production Act has been integral to funding other police and fire resources and operations. This includes funds for:

- a new fire truck in 2009 which still supports the Fire Department today;
- a Crime Impact Motor Team that responded to over 107,000 community safety incidents in an eight year period; and
- Fire and Police Academy sessions graduating 135 new firefighters and 212 new police officers.

The complete visual City Auditor’s Public Safety Oil Production Act Impact Summary can be viewed [here](#) and is available in [Spanish](#), [Khmer](#), and [Tagalog](#). Printed copies can be requested by e-mail [Auditor@longbeach.gov](mailto:Auditor@longbeach.gov) or by phone 562-570-6751.

## **Background**

In 2006 City Auditor Laura Doud conducted a comprehensive analysis to identify a fair and appropriate rate for the City's Oil Production Tax (OPT). With this information, the Public Safety Oil Production Act (Proposition H) was placed on the 2007 ballot to add an additional 25 cents per barrel tax with an adjusted annual CPI and mandate that the additional funds raised from the OPT were to be spent on public safety in the City of 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 the funds 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.

## **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](http://CityAuditorLauraDoud.com) and connect with the Office @LBCityAuditor on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#). Sign up to receive email [updates](#) and download the MyAuditor App at the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

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