



CITY OF OAKLAND  
Office of the City Auditor



**INDEPENDENT CITY AUDITOR. REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE RESIDENTS.**

**September 8, 2023**

## Announcing My Resignation



Dear Oaklanders,

Today, I write you with sadness and gratitude in my heart. It has been a great honor to serve as your City Auditor for 13 years, and for personal and family reasons, I will be resigning from my position effective October 13th. This was not an easy decision to make, yet I feel it is the right decision for me and my family.

As I step away, I could not be prouder of what my team and I have accomplished, and I could not be more excited about the future of the Auditor's Office with our recently published [Annual Work Plan](#), and the impactful work yet to come.

In my stead, Assistant City Auditor Michael Houston will be leading the City Auditor's Office. Michael has over 15 years of government auditing experience having previously worked at the San Jose City Auditor's Office where he analyzed the efficiency and effectiveness of myriad city programs, and at Cal State University East Bay, where he directed the campus' internal audit and investigation functions. He joined my team in 2019 as the Whistleblower Program Manager, a role in which he led investigations into allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse reported to the City Auditor's [Whistleblower Hotline](#). He was promoted to Assistant City Auditor in 2021. His current role assumes responsibility for the department's operations in the absence of the City Auditor and he will manage the charter responsibilities of the City Auditor's Office effective October 14, 2023, until a new Auditor is elected.

While our audit and investigative work will be happening in the forefront, in the background, a series of steps will take place to permanently fill the vacant City Auditor position. According to the City Charter, when the elected City Auditor vacates their position, the City Council sets a special election to be held within 120 days and may extend the time period by up to 90 more days, if the election can be combined with a scheduled election.

Michael and I are fortunate to lead an [exceptional team of audit professionals](#) and dedicated public servants. We anticipate limited impacts on the Office's work during this transition, as we have built a stable foundation that is dependent on executing our work according to standards and leading practices.

My personal and professional next steps include relocating to Southern California with my family, where I will begin working for the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) to lead its independent performance audit function, established by the California State Legislature in 2018.

While I am excited about what this move will afford me and my family, I will deeply miss serving Oaklanders and working alongside so many amazing public servants – you will forever remain in my heart.

In gratitude and always,

Courtney



[Read About Our Reports In Progress](#)

## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2023

# Oakland's City Auditor Courtney Ruby, Resigns After 13 Years of Devoted Service

Today, Oakland's City Auditor Courtney Ruby, announced she will be resigning effective October 13, 2023. Auditor Ruby acknowledges her deep appreciation for being Oakland's elected watchdog, now serving her fourth term, noting, "It is with deep sadness and gratitude that I will be resigning from my position effective October 13th due to personal and family reasons. This was not an easy decision to make, yet I feel it is the right decision for me and my family."

Under the City Charter, when the elected City Auditor vacates their position, the City Council sets a special election to be held within 120 days and may extend the time period by up to 90 more days, if the election can be combined with a scheduled election. In the interim, Michael C. Houston, the current Assistant City Auditor, will be acting as Oakland's City Auditor. His current role assumes responsibility for the department's operations in the absence of the City Auditor and he will manage the charter responsibilities of the Office effective October 14, 2023, until a new Auditor is elected.

Auditor Ruby stated, "I have the utmost confidence in Michael to seamlessly step into this acting role and anticipate limited impacts on the Office's work due to this transition. Michael and I have built a stable foundation that is dependent on executing our work according to standards and leading practices."

Michael has over 15 years of government auditing experience having previously worked at the San Jose City Auditor's Office where he analyzed the efficiency and effectiveness of myriad city programs, and at Cal State University East Bay, where he directed the campus' internal audit and investigation functions. He joined Auditor Ruby's team in 2019 as the Whistleblower Program Manager, a role in which he led investigations into allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse reported to the City Auditor's Whistleblower Hotline. He was promoted to Assistant City Auditor in 2021. In this role, Michael is second in command over the Office's operations and is responsible for directing the Office's professional staff in conducting performance audits, investigations, and special analyses.

Auditor Ruby stated, "It has been the greatest professional honor of my life to serve as Oakland's elected City Auditor for 13 years, and to have the opportunity over the years to have led such incredible teams of audit professionals and dedicated public servants focused on improving government. Together, my current team and I have focused on several areas of greatest risk and concern to the residents including homelessness, police reform, fire prevention, and the City's financial condition."

Auditor Ruby also established the Whistleblower Hotline Program in 2009 to ensure employees had a safe, confidential, and reliable place to report fraud, waste, and abuse. Since the program's inception, the Office has uncovered multiple instances of fraud, waste, and abuse and held fraudsters accountable including criminal charges and restitution.

Auditor Ruby and her family will be relocating to Southern California where she will begin working for the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) to lead its independent performance audit function. On January 1, 2018, a new California Assembly Bill (AB 805) required the creation of the independent performance auditor position. "As I step away, I could not be prouder of what my team and I have accomplished, and I could not be more excited about the future of the Auditor's Office with our recently published Annual Work Plan, and the impactful work yet to come."

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Questions should be directed to Dena Shupe at [dshupe@oaklandca.gov](mailto:dshupe@oaklandca.gov).

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Committed to serving you with the utmost integrity,

**COURTNEY RUBY, CPA, CFE**  
**CITY AUDITOR**



**SUBMIT A COMPLAINT TO OUR WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAM**

This confidential hotline is for employees and residents to report **fraud**, **waste**, and **abuse** in the City of Oakland. Available 24/7.

**(888) 329-6390**

[Submit Online](#)



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