



OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR
COURTNEY A. RUBY, CITY AUDITOR

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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.



ABOUT OAKLAND CITY AUDITOR COURTNEY RUBY

Courtney Ruby was re-elected as Oakland’s City Auditor on November 6, 2018, and is serving her 4th term as Oakland’s City Auditor. She previously served as Oakland’s City Auditor for eight years, between 2007 and 2014. During her tenure as City Auditor, she turned around a troubled agency and made it a model of accountability, transparency, and results. In 2008 Courtney sponsored critical State Legislation, The Whistleblower Act, to protect local government employees in California who exposed fraud, waste, and abuse. In 2014 she was named one of the most influential professionals in government auditing and the Office was awarded two Distinguished national Knighton Awards for its work in 2014 and 2020. Her most recent audit work focused on several areas of greatest risk and concern to Oakland residents, including homelessness, police reform, fire prevention, and the City’s financial condition. In August of 2022, Courtney was nominated as one of three candidates by the joint Legislative Audit Committee to be considered by the Governor for the position of California State Auditor. She has been an executive in governmental and political organizations for over twenty-five years, including Chief Financial Officer for the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), Chief Financial Officer for the State of Illinois Department of Human Rights, and Chief Financial Officer for the East Bay Conservation Corp. Prior to her re-election as Oakland’s City Auditor in 2019, she served as the Director of Administration and Facilities at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the transportation planning, financing, and coordinating agency for the Bay Area’s nine counties. A graduate of American University, a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Fraud Examiner, Courtney has dedicated her life to the service of others, creating organizational change and ensuring organizations manage their financial resources effectively. Prior to becoming Oakland’s elected City Auditor, Courtney spent almost a year in Ghana, Africa creating an independent educational support system for children and their families, in addition to providing capacity building for a national NGO.

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