



NEWS FROM

CITY CONTROLLER LAURA CHICK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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CHICK AUDIT FINDS CITY FALLING SHORT IN GRANT OPERATIONS

Los Angeles -- Citing the City of Los Angeles for, "...groping in the dark," in how it manages its grant dollars, City Controller Laura Chick has called for centralizing the overall grant operations.

"It is nearly 2008 and the City of Los Angeles is groping in the dark in how we manage our grant dollars. My audit found that the City falls short of most of the leading grant practices across the nation. The mere fact that it takes the City up to five months to simply accept a grant, demonstrates that there is something seriously wrong," Chick wrote in a letter to the City's elected officials.

Chick released her audit at a news conference with City Councilmember Bernard Parks who authored the City Council motion which prompted the grants audit.

"The Budget and Finance Committee has been interested for several years in creating new policies for the administration of grant opportunities. I am pleased that the Los Angeles City Council funded this study so that the Controller could provide a blueprint for the better management of millions of dollars of programs and personnel cost," said Parks, Chair of the Los Angeles City Council's Budget and Finance Committee.

"The City must have a centralized operation for seeking and administering these hundreds of millions of annual grant dollars," said Chick. "The bureaucratic maze is unwieldy; a one-stop-shop is vital to overseeing these important functions. With individual departments all wandering about, looking for grant dollars...or not...it's a slam dunk to assume there are a lot more grant dollars we don't even know about."

The Chick report makes 28 recommendations including:

- Establish a centralized grants unit
- Create an integrated grants database
- City Council should review its grant acceptance process looking for ways to streamline it