



# Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

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### **HACLA Responds to City Controller's Audit**

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) fully cooperated with the City Controller's Audit released today. HACLA's Board of Commissioners requested the audit and the Authority paid for the services. The findings in the report will assist in enhancing existing protocols to further strengthen internal controls as it relates to the agency's financial management. The agency will prepare a detailed response to the individual findings in the report for the Controller's office.

Under new leadership, HACLA has made numerous reforms in the following categories:

- Travel policy
- vehicle usage
- purchasing card
- New Chief Financial Officer
- HUD financial training conducted for all BOC members and senior staff
- Established Audit & Finance Committee

“Since accepting the position of CEO this April, the changes I've implemented as it relates to personnel and policy have paved the way to bolster the agency's financial operations to safeguard taxpayer dollars,” said HACLA President and CEO Doug Guthrie. “We agree with the overall conclusion that there are opportunities to enhance internal controls and strengthen HACLA's financial management system. The comments in the audit will add to the reforms under way. I am committed to carrying out the mission of providing affordable housing for Angelenos with transparency and accountability.”

“Under the leadership of Doug Guthrie, the Housing Authority has worked diligently to win back the trust of the people,” said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. “Policy changes and increased transparency mean a stronger agency committed to its work

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of housing struggling families, seniors and the disabled. I am confident that this agency will continue to make necessary reforms and focus on the excellent work that it has produced as the leader in the affordable housing industry.”

The HACLA is the second largest public housing authority in the nation with 75,000 households who depend on the work of this agency. The Authority continues to meet and exceed expectation by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in all programs; Section 8 and public housing has been recognized as a “High” performing program for the past two years and for the first time in agency history Section 8 received a perfect score of 100% in its federal assessment. The agency has won numerous national industry awards for innovative programs.

Annually, the HACLA is audited by an outside firm. The report is provided to the Board of Commissioners and available to the public. HUD also conducts reviews of the Authority. The layers of checks on the financial workings of the agency ensure that we are held accountable as stewards of public funds.

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