

# Whistleblower Hotline Activity Report for May 2014 - Oct 2014



Office of the City Auditor  
March 2015

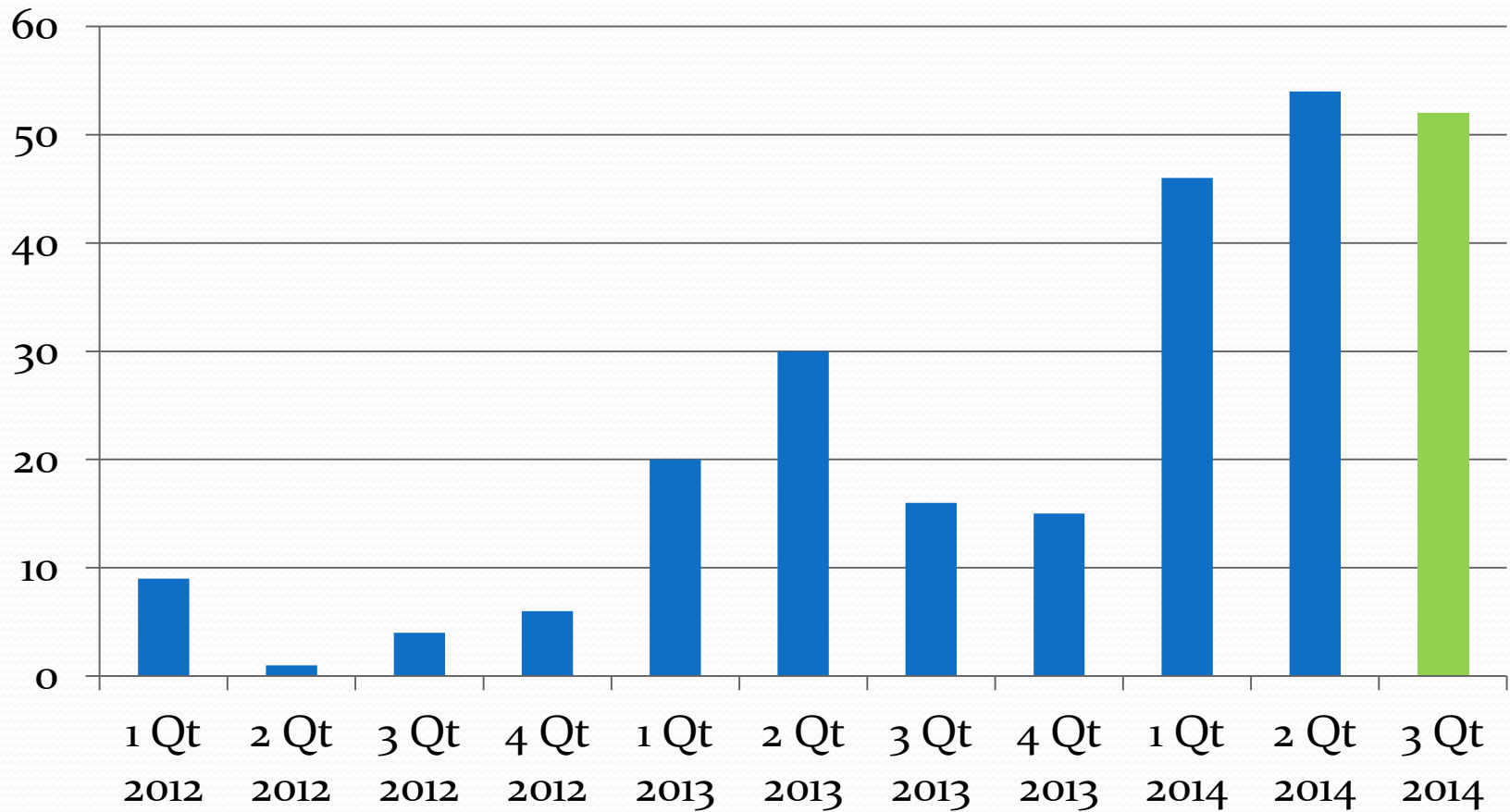
# Background

- March 2012: Council provides the City Auditor with direction to establish a Whistleblower Hotline Program to allow City employees and members of the public to report potential fraud, waste, and abuse without the fear of retaliation.
- October 2012: the City Manager posted the City Policy related to the program “Policy: Whistleblower protection AP-1002” and the City Auditor posted the “Whistleblower Hotline Procedures.”

# Improper governmental action

Any activity by a local agency or employee that is undertaken in the performance of the employee's official duties, including activities deemed to be outside the scope of his or her employment, that is in violation of any local, state, or federal law or regulation relating to corruption, malfeasance, bribery, theft of government property, fraudulent claims, fraud, coercion, conversion, malicious prosecution, misuse of government property, or willful omission to perform duty, is economically wasteful, or involves gross misconduct.

# Whistleblower Tips Received Per Quarter



# Reportable Cases

- **Substantiated:** Improper inventory of narcotics in the Fire Department
- **Substantiated:** Improper inventory of City cell phones
- **Substantiated and Referred:** Inappropriate installation of City water meters
- **Substantiated and Referred:** Inappropriate use of City cell phone
- **Substantiated and Referred:** Blight in neighborhood associated with inoperable vehicles
- **Substantiated and Referred:** Inappropriate payout of unused vacation by employees
- **Substantiated and Referred:** Inappropriate construction without required permits.

# Further Consideration

Given the growth of the program, we request the Council consider adding to the auditor's office one FTE that would be dedicated to primarily handle and investigate whistleblower tips. Doing so would help us better manage and respond to whistleblower tips as well as complete our normally scheduled performance audit reports in a more timely manner.

# Investigative Resources

## **Sacramento**

*Population: 470,956*

*Staff: 4 of 4 staff working part time*

*Program start: 2012*

## **Long Beach**

*Population: 464,662*

*Staff: 3 of 16 staff working part time*

*Program start: 2006*

## **Oakland**

*Population: 395,341*

*Staff: 1 full time staff and 2 part-time master fellows in office of 10*

*Program start: 2009*

# Annual allegations reported at similar-sized cities:

- City's Whistleblower Hotlines
  - Sacramento: 190 in the 2014
  - Long Beach: About 42 per year
  - Oakland: between 79 and 136 per year





Any Questions?