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New York Beach Town Faces Millions in Bills for Mismanaged Past.

“If Long Beach was a business, it wouldn’t be in business.”

Long Beach is known for its raucous West End bars, Irish Day parade and two-mile boardwalk. Locally, the city of 34,000 on a barrier island 25 miles east of New York City, is also renowned for fiscal mismanagement.

Residents are still paying off more than \$8 million in debt issued almost seven years ago to cover a budget deficit. An investigation last year by the Nassau County District Attorney found that for almost two decades Long Beach had improperly overpaid employees — including the former city manager — millions of dollars for unused vacation and sick days.

Now those long-simmering woes are only getting worse. A \$131 million court judgment to a developer in a 30-year legal battle is threatening it with insolvency and Long Beach has hired advisers to craft a debt-cutting plan.

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By Martin Z Braun

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