



MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM:	Sean Rabé, City Manager
DATE:	October 14, 2024
SUBJECT:	City Manager Report for September 23 City Council Meeting

Mayor and Council Members,

The following report provides an update on some of the major activities City Staff has been working on recently:

City Manager's Department:

- *Auburn Airport's 90th Anniversary Celebration:* This past weekend saw an amazing turnout at the 90th Anniversary Celebration of the Auburn Airport. Airport Manager Tyghe Richardson did a great job organizing this event which featured several local dignitaries and members of the airport community speaking about the facility as well as many vendors, an antique car show, breakfast by Leadership Auburn, and many aircraft on display. It was a great event.
- *Pickleball Coming Soon:* The elevator contractor is now working at School Park Preserve, with an anticipated construction timeline of about two weeks or so. We will be able to schedule an official ribbon-cutting for the multi-purpose/Pickleball court once the elevator is fully functional.
- *State of the City Taking Shape:* Staff and Mayor Radell-Harris continue to plan for the State of the City event, scheduled for November 21. A Save the Date flyer has been posted to the website for the event, where we will reflect on our accomplishments, discuss challenges, and outline our vision for the future.

Police Department:

- *School Threat investigation- EV Cain:* Auburn Police Department was alerted to a social media post threatening violence at EV Cain Middle School. The post, shared among students via text and social media, was investigated and determined to be part of a wider, non-credible trend on TikTok, which encouraged disruptive behavior, such as pulling fire alarms to incite panic. Although no credible threat was found, the department increased officer presence at the school as a precaution and maintained communication with school officials to ensure the safety of students and staff.

In response to the surge in similar threats, Lt. Huey met with Homeland Security to discuss strategies and strengthen our partnership in addressing these growing

concerns. We are working closely with federal agencies to enhance our efforts in keeping schools safe.

- **Traffic Safety & Stop Sign Enforcement:** There was noticeable rise in traffic collisions, speeding, and red-light violations in the Hwy 49 & Elm area. In response, the department increased enforcement to improve safety for drivers and pedestrians. Additionally, due to complaints about drivers not fully stopping at the Burlin and Maidu Dr. intersection, officers are conducting extra enforcement to ensure compliance with stop sign regulations. The department urged motorists to make complete stops and help keep our roads safe.
- **Alcohol Compliance Operations:** In partnership with ABC, officers inspected eight local businesses that sell alcohol—each was in compliance with regulations. During a separate minor decoy operation, one downtown business was cited for selling alcohol to a minor without checking ID. These actions are part of our ongoing efforts under the ABC Alcohol Policing Partnership Grant to promote safety and prevent underage alcohol consumption in our community.
- **Officer Training – EVOC:** To further enhance officer readiness and response capabilities, the department has been conducting Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) training. This comprehensive training is designed to ensure that officers can safely and effectively operate patrol vehicles under high-stress conditions, such as emergency responses and pursuits. EVOC covers critical areas such as maneuvering at high speeds, controlled braking, obstacle avoidance, and safe driving tactics in various weather and road conditions.

By participating in EVOC, officers not only improve their driving skills but also enhance their ability to respond quickly and safely to emergencies, helping ensure the safety of both officers and the public during critical incidents.
- **Addressing Recurring Calls for Service Through Community Partnership:** Patrol staff and the POP team identified a residence within the city limits that has been generating repeated calls for service. The homeowner was identified as being a member of The United Auburn Indian Tribe. Rather than utilizing enforcement action as an initial response, the POP team recognized the situation to be an opportunity for the Tribal Council to influence and encourage corrective behavior of its tribal member. Additionally, Sergeant Neri identified this approach as a means to enhance the relationship between the PD and The United Auburn Indian Tribe. The POP team and command staff met with the Tribal Council who expressed their sincere gratitude toward the POP team's handling of the situation.

Planning/Economic Department:

- **Old Town Business Association:** The Old Town Business Association is making bold moves these days. At their last meeting they authorized an electrician to light up the skyline of Old Town just like Nevada City and, most recently, Grass Valley has done. If all building owners go along with the program, the entire district will be lit at night, thus creating a brighter ambiance and higher visibility from highway 80.

With this electrical project, they are having plugs installed on the streetlights to power up holiday decorations. These new plugs will be put to use as soon as a volunteer group head by Kat Eich, owner of the Old Town businesses Lady of the Canyon, finds the time to strings holiday lights on the Old Town's traditional holiday wreaths. The holiday lights were provided by the new Auburn Ace Hardware.

- *Confluence High School Intern:* Starting last week a student from Confluence High School came onboard to provide the Community and Economic Development Department with a hand on our records management project. The basement is full of records, in some cases piled floor to ceiling. Our new intern has fearlessly agreed to help us get a handle on what records are where and to help us organize each box for scanning. Not something you would think a highschooler would be excited about but ours is pumped to be doing something that makes a difference for the City.
- *The Chamber Billboard:* Those items displayed on the Chamber billboard don't often make the City Manager report, but this one is different. The Economic Development Commission knew that they did not have enough money in their shrunken budget this fiscal year to responsibly fund an advertisement on the billboard themselves, so they took to the streets and got the Chamber, the OTBA and DBA to help. The billboard is up now and is designed to encourage people shop Auburn in the fall. A QR code takes you to a list of local businesses and their websites. It is nice to see these different entities come together in the spirit of Auburn Economic Development.

Finance Department:

- *Eide Bailly Begins Audit:* The Finance Department is welcoming our external auditors, Eide Bailly LLP, to City Hall this week and next for their field work to prepare our 2024 Annual Comprehensive Annual Report. The auditors will be on site to physically review a variety of financial transactions and evaluate the support for why the transactions were prepared. They will located be in the Council Chambers, Tuesday through Thursday of both weeks. They will evaluate if the City's financial transactions were appropriate, lacking, or otherwise perfect or imperfect. They will also evaluate our internal control procedures to ensure the right folks are preparing transactions versus reviewing and approving transactions. It is normal for external auditors to identify areas of improvement, especially for a small finance team where often roles are blurred. Our goal in preparing for the audit was to ensure the entirety of FY 2023-24 was void of misstatements, errors were not due to poor practices, and we had thorough support for transactions. The Finance Department believes, to the best of their knowledge during a time of tremendous turnover, that fiscal practices were upheld to the highest standards possible within the means of the employees currently responsible for the City's finances. Coming up at the October 28, 2024 City Council meeting, the Finance Director will present the FY 2024-25 1stquarter financial update which will include a report on current budget versus actuals and some key budget adjustments that are needed prior to December 31, 2024.

Human Resources:

- Interim Chief of Police: We are pleased to announce that Ted Stec has officially begun his role as Interim Chief of Police today.

The recruitment process for the permanent Chief of Police is currently underway, with a closing date for applications set for October 25th. Interviews are anticipated to occur in mid-November.

Fire Department:

- State-Mandated Inspection Program: The Auburn Fire Department started their State-Mandated Inspection Program on September 27th, with notices and educational flyers sent to over 100 R-1, R-2, and E occupancies within the city limits. Crews are currently reviewing the fire code in preparation for inspections of multi-family dwellings, hotels, motels, and educational facilities. The purpose of these inspections is to ensure residents, visitors, and students live, stay, and learn in fire safe environments.
- Folsom/Auburn Vegetation Management Meeting: The Auburn Fire Department has reengaged with the Bureau of Reclamation and State Parks regarding the American River Canyon and adjacent Auburn Shaded Fuel Break. Auburn Fire was invited to the Folsom/Auburn Vegetation Management monthly meetings and will continue to foster a productive working relationship while emphasizing the importance of maintaining the Auburn Shaded Fuel Break.
- Firewise Community Update: The Auburn Fire Department recently met with two community groups who are interested in becoming Firewise Communities. The startup process was reviewed, and fire risk assessments provided. The Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council and Placer County Firewise Coordinator have also been involved to ensure these communities successfully achieve Firewise status.
- Awali Firewise Community Meeting: On October 3rd, Chief D'Ambrogi attended the Awali Firewise Community Meeting at the Rec Park. Chief D'Ambrogi presented to 50 residents focusing on the Baltimore Ravine Shaded Fuel Break project, Firewise landscaping, defensible space, and Union Pacific Railroad's on-going hazard fuel reduction near their neighborhood.
- Sierra College Fire Technology Presentation: On October 7th, Chief Rogers presented to nearly 20 Sierra College Fire Technology students. The presentation covered the Auburn Fire Department and fire service history. The students were engaged, asking numerous questions about entering the fire service and the nature of the career.
- Fuel Reduction on Union Pacific Railroad Right-of-Way: Chase Tree Service has recently begun fuel reduction efforts along the Union Pacific Railroad Right-of-Way in Auburn. Progress can be seen from Auburn-Folsom Road near the Recreation Park and extending east towards the fairgrounds. An example of the fuel reduction efforts can be seen adjacent to the Sacramento Street crossing by Railhead Park,

where overgrown areas now resemble a park-like setting. Further updates will follow as the project progresses.

Public Works Department:

- *Street Sweeping & Storm Drain Mapping for MS4 Compliance:* As the weather changes, so must the priorities and focus of Public Works. Over the next month, Public Works staff will increase street sweeping activities to ensure that storm drains effectively manage excess groundwater from parking lots, streets, and sidewalks. This year and beyond, there will be a strong emphasis on not only removing common pollutants from these areas but also accurately mapping our storm drain systems. This is especially important given the damage to road surfaces caused by previously unknown or unmapped sinkholes. This effort is a crucial step in maintaining compliance with the MS4 permits issued by the state water board.
- *Spare App Transition Increases Auburn Transit Ridership:* October 1st marked the complete transition from The Transloc App to the Spare On-Demand (Go Sout Placer) Transit application. Auburn Transit adopted a full-time on-demand transit system out of necessity during the pandemic. The program has proven to be exceptionally successful, surpassing our previous deviated fixed route in every way. The current on-demand system averages about 90 passengers per day, nearly five times the volume of the previous system, and continues to grow. While the change was challenging at first, once the program was established, it exceeded our expectations. Transitioning to a new app has its challenges, but we've noticed ongoing growth in the service.
- *Closed Landfill Solution Complicated by FAA Restrictions:* Staff are actively working on a solution for the closed landfill, and describing this issue as a challenge would be an understatement. The council will soon be updated on the details of the latest developments. In brief, the area where the closed landfill is located falls within the FAA's sphere of influence. This presents significant challenges, as any work or relocation of materials within the closed landfill could potentially affect future airport operations, which is prohibited based on how the purchase was funded.

QUESTIONS? Please contact me at the phone number below or by email at srabe@auburn.ca.gov.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Rabé".

Sean Rabé, City Manager