



MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM:	Sean Rabé, City Manager
DATE:	January 27, 2025
SUBJECT:	City Manager Report for January 27th 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:

- I was able to attend the 2025 Auburn Chamber of Commerce Annual Installation and Award Dinner this past Friday. This is always a great event held by the Chamber of Commerce to honor the incoming Chamber officers and local business award winners. This year's event was held at the Auburn Holiday Inn.

The Board of Directors for 2025 include Natalie Litchfield as President and Manouch Shirvanioun, as President Elect.

Business Award winners include:

- **Rising Star Winner:** Yvonne Whalen, Stein & Sons Cremation and Burial Services
- **Jeanette Klebofski Ambassador Award:** Bonnie Pebley
- **Best Local Event:** Auburn Food, Wine and Ale Festival
- **Volunteer of the Year:** Anastasiya Slayden, Placer County
- **Best Non-Profit:** Placer County SPCA
- **New Entrepreneur:** Dallas Drake, The Yeti Tavern
- **Presidents' Award:** Max's Restaurant & Bar
- **CEO's Chamber Award:** Steve Galyardt
- **Lifetime Achievement:** Jackie Weston

Police Department:

- Officer Hopping recently went above and beyond to assist a stranded motorist on Hwy 49 during his night shift. He encountered an elderly woman whose car had broken down due to a missing fan belt, leaving her battery unable to charge. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Officer Hopping took it upon himself to visit O'Reilly's, purchase a replacement fan belt, and install it on her car. Thanks to his kindness and resourcefulness, the woman was able to continue her journey home safely.

- For over two weeks, Officer Hatcher has been proudly serving with the Army National Guard, providing mutual aid in response to the Palisades Fire. During this time, he has been assisting with critical security and evacuation efforts to protect those impacted by the fire. We couldn't be prouder of him for stepping up in this time of need. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Officer Hatcher for his hard work and sacrifice, and we eagerly await his safe return.
- Sergeant Almeida and Officer Collins attended NorCal Tactical Medicine (TacMed) training; a program focused on enhancing medical skills for high-stress situations like active shooter incidents. Their participation strengthens the Auburn Police Department's ability to respond effectively to emergencies, ensuring the safety of officers and the community.
- CSO Williamson's persistence has led to the successful placement of a chronically homeless individual into permanent housing. Her dedication and ability to navigate housing resources reflect her commitment to improving lives and addressing homelessness in Auburn. This achievement is a significant milestone for both the individual and the Auburn Police Department's ongoing efforts.

Planning/Economic Department:

- *Old Wells Fargo Building Owner Submits Plans:* The Community and Economic Development Department has received the owner's draft plans for what can best be described as an entertainment venue and taproom. The proposed project will occupy the entire first floor of the main building, offering both indoor and outdoor spaces. While we can review the interior renovations at this stage, the exterior improvements will need to undergo a historic design review, as the property is located within the Historic Design Review area, even though it is not on a historic registry. Once the Form-Based Code is adopted, similar projects may no longer require a hearing process for review.
- *New Owners with Big Plans:* The new owners of Baker and Cakemaker are exploring ways to expand production at their Lincoln Way location. Currently, they deliver breads and treats to over 50 stores, including Whole Foods, and are working to increase distribution to even more locations. Community and Economic Development Department staff recently met with the new owners to discuss potential solutions for overcoming the limitations of the existing building. While no final decisions have been made, the owners have several options to consider and will inform staff when they are ready to move forward with implementation.
- *Business Retention and Expansion:* The City recently met with the Placer County Economic Development Department who hosted a Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) meeting with the two Tylers from Station Public House (SPH) to discuss their current business needs and what has contributed to SPH's popularity as a go-to outdoor hangout spot. The Tylers shared that their business model was

shaped by the pandemic, and despite covid being over, the model has remained successful and relevant. They also expressed their appreciation for City staff, noting the valuable support they've received in helping their business start and grow in Auburn. The Tylers emphasized that their business is built on strong relationships, whether with the City, their staff, or the community.

Finance Department:

- *Preparing for Budget:* The new year marks another round of overlapping City budget activities. As departments are busy preparing their FY 2024-25 mid-year budget adjustment requests, the Finance department is preparing the financial model for the mid-year presentation to City Council, and in partnership with Human Resources is also readying the ClearGov budget software for the FY 2025-26 proposed budget. Finance is encouraged by the latest current fiscal year-end projections that include partial year labor cost savings due to the hiring freeze that began back in April 2024. The mid-year budget presentation to City Council will be on February 24, 2025 which will include the multi-year financial forecast for the General Fund to highlight the year-over-year deficit and/or surplus of the past, present, and future estimates. In addition, the City's external auditors, Eide Bailly LLP, will present the FY 2023-24 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Fire Department:

- *Auburn Fire Department - Palisades Incident Summary:* Engine 1283, with Captains Bowers and Croft and Firefighter Sims, arrived at the Palisades Incident at 11:00 am on January 8th, and were initially assigned to the southern end of the fire to protect structures in areas impacted by the fire front. The entire Strike Team worked tirelessly to extinguish vegetation burning around structures while conducting tactical patrols, successfully limiting structural losses in the areas they were assigned. Due to resource shortages, the Strike Team transitioned to an extended operational period, with E1283 moving to another area of the fire to patrol and mop-up around priority structures. Crews extinguished smoldering railroad ties and landscaping and monitored the Palisades Recreation Center, which had caught fire and was at risk of roof collapse. For the remaining operational periods, the Strike Team was assigned to the northern end of the fire, performing perimeter control, cleanup operations, and mopping up around structures. The Strike Team was released and returned to Placer County on January 18th. Thanks to Captain Bowers for providing this Strike Team summary.
- *2025 Regional Fire Training Program:* Battalion Chief Matt McCarthy, working with neighboring Battalion Chiefs, has started a monthly Regional Training Program working to enhance firefighter readiness and collaboration. This program rotates fire resources throughout the eastern end of western Placer County, providing firefighters the opportunity to train in different locations, with different crews, and on various topics. By familiarizing personnel with new concepts and areas before real emergencies occur, the program will streamline emergency response and improve coordination across fire agencies. Be on the lookout for neighboring

engines in the city assisting with emergency response coverage so Auburn Fire personnel can participate in these valuable training sessions.

Public Works Department:

- *Week of January 27th:* Work is set to resume at 858 High Street. EWMI will mobilize to the site to establish traffic control measures and a work exclusion zone. Once these are in place, the team will begin removing material from the Underground Storage Tank. The tank is expected to be cleaned and ready for inspection by Placer County Environmental Health within the same week. The remainder of the work is anticipated to be completed shortly afterward.
- *Sidewalk Repairs Underway:* With better-than-expected weather for this time of year, staff have been able to address long-overdue sidewalk trip hazards. Over the next few days, sidewalk repairs will occur at several locations, including city-owned facilities like the police department, work along Auburn Folsom Road, and other high-traffic areas.
- *Central Square Improvements:* Over the next two weeks, weather permitting, work will take place in Central Square. This includes the removal of the oversized pedestal, which is currently unused. Clearing the area will create more open space for residents and visitors to gather. The work is expected to be completed before the scheduled spring and summer events commonly held in the area.

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



Sean Rabé, City Manager