



DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

A TWICE-MONTHLY SUMMARY FROM YOUR CITY OF GIG HARBOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

These department updates are an effort to increase our internal and external communication initiatives, to provide the mayor and city councilmembers with the information they need to serve the public and make informed decisions, and just as importantly, to share citywide information and updates with all staff and residents. Please feel free to send any questions, suggestions, or concerns about this document to communications@gigharborwa.gov.

ADMINISTRATION

City Administrator Katrina Knutson

AWC City Action Days: Mayor Mary Barber and Councilmembers Julie Martin and Loreto Tessicini attended the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) City Action Days in Olympia last week, joining more than 300 city officials from across Washington to engage directly with lawmakers on issues critical to cities. Their participation underscores the importance of showing up at the state level to advocate for Gig Harbor and ensure local perspectives are heard.



Key takeaways from AWC City Action Days included:

- **Cities are problem-solvers.** State leaders and AWC staff emphasized that city officials drive innovation and find practical solutions, often accomplishing significant work with limited staff and resources.
- **Local government work matters.** Governor Bob Ferguson recognized the challenges city officials face and highlighted that the toughest public service roles are often those closest to the people.

- **Stories shape policy.** Sharing real, local stories with legislators helps translate proposed legislation into real-world impacts for communities like Gig Harbor. Those stories are often repeated in legislative debates.
- **Data strengthens advocacy.** Pairing community stories with clear data and visuals makes city priorities even more compelling and effective.
- **Public safety funding remains a challenge.** Cities continue to face hurdles accessing new public safety funding programs and are advocating for clearer, more workable processes.
- **Budget pressures are ongoing.** With a projected state budget shortfall, cities are urging legislators to protect state-shared revenues that directly support essential local services.
- **City pride drives leadership.** City officials from across the state shared why their communities matter, reinforcing the dedication behind local public service.

Through their participation, the city team helped ensure Gig Harbor's voice was represented in critical state-level conversations. This demonstrates the value of engaged proactive leadership on behalf of the community.

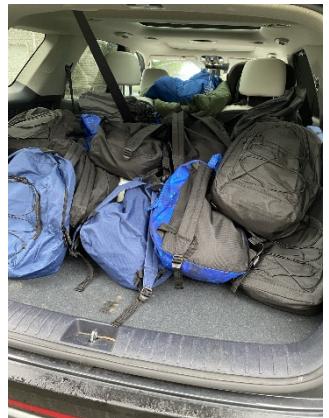
City Administrator Knutson appointed to second term on statewide AWC Legislative Committee: City Administrator Katrina Knutson has been appointed to serve a second term on the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Legislative Committee, a key statewide body that helps shape AWC's legislative priorities and advocacy efforts during the state legislative session. The committee is made up of 29 members from across Washington, including 25 elected officials and just four city managers/administrators, making the appointment both competitive and highly selective.

Serving on this committee is a significant honor and reflects confidence in Gig Harbor's leadership and perspective. The AWC Legislative Committee plays a critical role in reviewing proposed legislation, developing policy positions, and guiding advocacy on issues that directly affect cities, including public safety, infrastructure, housing, economic development, and local government funding. Katrina's continued service ensures Gig Harbor has a direct voice at the table as these decisions are shaped in Olympia, while also supporting shared priorities that benefit cities statewide.

This appointment highlights Gig Harbor's active role in state-level leadership and advocacy and underscores the city's commitment to thoughtful, engaged participation in decisions that impact our community today and into the future.

Point in Time Count: The Point in Time (PIT) Count is a federally required snapshot that measures the number of individuals experiencing homelessness within a community over a 24-hour period. In Pierce County, the PIT Count is conducted annually. This year's count took place from Thursday morning, Jan. 29, through Friday morning, Jan. 30, capturing both sheltered and unsheltered individuals.

The count was made possible through the dedication of incredible community volunteers who supported outreach and data collection, along with generous donations of essential items distributed during engagement. The city's Housing, Health & Human Services (H3) Program served as the



primary point of contact for Gig Harbor, coordinating local efforts and partner engagement throughout the 24-hour count. The success of the count was made possible by the safe, respectful, and coordinated outreach partnership with Pierce County, KPCS Homeless Outreach, and the Gig Harbor Police Department.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Director Eric Baker

Planning: The planning team continues to take, process, and review key permitting activity, including the recent submittal of permit applications for the renovation of the Gig Harbor High School track and football field. Staff are coordinating intake and review of the application materials and continue to work with the applicant and internal departments as the project moves forward. In addition, senior planner interviews are scheduled to take place during the first week of February as part of the department's ongoing staffing efforts.

We are looking forward to getting to know and working alongside our five new planning commissioners as we advance through the 2026 work plan.

Building: During this past reporting period the Building & Fire Division received applications for 21 new permits including those for the suppression system for Iver's Seafood Bar and a reroof of the Peninsula Shopping Center. The 23 issued permits included those for two new homes, one for Mainvue, who has resumed construction at the Reserve plat off of Peacock Hill Ave and an additional permit issued at Summit Point plat. The tenant improvement permits went out for the new barber shop at Olympic Village. 24 finalized projects were primarily the completion of residential remodels and accessory structures, other than the Braatens, who were able to move into their new home on Bayridge Ave.

We have two Business Assistance Meetings scheduled, one for a new ice cream shop proposed at Olympic Village and the other for Midway, going into the old Heritage site.

Our pre-construction meeting with the fire district went well. They are anticipating the project to kick off on Monday, Feb. 2 for the new fire station on Kimball Drive.

Code enforcement: The department held interviews this week for a replacement code enforcement officer and hope to have a new member of the community development team by the end of the month. Fingers crossed we find the right candidate...and that Chief Federici remains unaware that they exist. 😊

COURT

Court Administrator Stacy Colberg

No updates this time but stay tuned!

FINANCE

Interim Finance Director Scott Larson

Welcome Scott Larson: Please join us in welcoming Scott Larson as the city's interim finance director. Scott brings valuable experience and steady leadership to the finance team, and we're grateful to have him step into this role during transition. We'd also like to thank Dave Rodenbach for his service to the city and wish him the very best in his next chapter.

Welcome, Scott – we're so glad you're here!

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources Director Shannon Costanti

Advance your career: Looking to grow in your career? Check out the [current job opportunities](#) here at the city!

Position	Type	Status
Experienced Police Officer	FT	Continuous
Utility Billing Technician	FT	Closes Feb 16, 2026
Code Compliance Officer	FT	Closed - selection pending
Senior Planner	FT	Closed - selection pending
Police Lieutenant	FT	Closed – W. King started Feb. 02
Judicial Specialist	FT	Closed - selection pending

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

ITS Manager Logan Rosenstiel

No updates this time but stay tuned!

POLICE

Police Chief Tray Federici

PD returns to full staffing: After several years of operating below authorized staffing levels in a highly competitive law-enforcement market, the Gig Harbor Police Department has reached full staffing with 26 full-time sworn officers.

This milestone was achieved through focused recruitment efforts, creative outreach, extensive background investigation work, and a strengthened, mission-driven partnership with the city's human resources team.

On Jan. 26, the department formally marked this achievement with the ceremonial swearing-in of four outstanding officers who bring experience, professionalism, and a strong commitment to service to the Gig Harbor community. Welcome aboard Officers Dustin Hulbrock, Cali Hinzman, Kelly Palmore, and April Goff.



Leadership advancement and succession in operations: The department recognized the promotion of Jarab Daniel from detective sergeant to operations lieutenant on Jan. 26. Lieutenant Daniel brings more than eleven years of service with the Gig Harbor Police Department and a strong operational background spanning both patrol and the detective division. His experience and institutional knowledge position him well to lead at the executive level.



Lieutenant Daniel's promotion created a vacancy at the sergeant level, which was filled by the promotion of Officer Patrick Sam to detective sergeant, also recognized on Jan. 26. Sergeant Sam has over nine years of service with the department, with a solid patrol foundation and extensive experience within the detective division. His familiarity with the unit has allowed for a virtually seamless transition into supervisory responsibilities, maintaining unit productivity and operational efficiency.

Organized retail theft case advancement: Following the previously reported organized retail theft incident on Jan. 15, which escalated into a vehicle assault, Gig Harbor police detectives located and arrested one of the two suspects on Jan. 29 in Auburn. Detectives also located the suspect vehicle, which was towed to the Gig Harbor Police Department's secure impound pending execution of a search warrant. The investigation remains active as detectives continue follow-up efforts related to the second suspect.

Rapid resolution of significant theft case: On the night of Jan. 26, a local retailer reported the masked theft of a substantial amount of merchandise. Using electronic investigative methods, detectives acted immediately, responded to a residence in Tacoma, and recovered and returned nearly \$7,000 in stolen product. A suspect has been identified, and the case is pending prosecution.



Early morning DUI arrest leads to medical evaluation: On Jan. 27, at 7:39 a.m., Gig Harbor police officers responded to multiple reports of a possible impaired driver traveling across multiple lanes of traffic and, at times, against the flow of traffic. Officer Jasen Raphael located the vehicle near Harborview Drive, where it appeared to have sustained axle damage.

Officer Raphael conducted a DUI investigation, and the female driver was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence. During the investigation, officers determined the driver's level of impairment was significant enough to raise medical concerns. As a precaution, officers transported the driver to a local emergency room for medical evaluation and treatment.



Traffic enforcement at a glance: Traffic enforcement continues to be an area of consistent interest throughout the city, with daily inquiries received from residents and city leadership. To provide context, from Jan. 1 through Feb. 2, 2025, the Gig Harbor Police Department conducted 180 traffic stops. During the same period in 2026, the department conducted 405 traffic stops.

While the department continues to prioritize education whenever appropriate, enforcement efforts have increasingly shifted toward more formal enforcement options in response to observed driving behaviors and community concerns.



PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm

Crescent Creek Park Master Plan adopted: At the Jan. 26 city council meeting, Resolution 1350 was passed, adopting the Crescent Creek Master Plan, after more than three years of effort. The plan creates a framework for future design and development of the park. Many thanks to members of the community advisory committee who volunteered their time to help guide the future of the park. The question of what will happen to the former masonic lodge at the park will be determined by council as part of a separate process, involving a historic building study.

Alan Anderson Boathouse: Council adopted Resolution 1351 at their Jan. 26 meeting, naming the boat storage building at Ancich Waterfront Park after Alan Anderson, the founder of the Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team. Staff are working with a sign vendor to get the sign ordered for the building, as well as with friends of Coach Anderson to help with an informational sign about him for the park. Stay tuned for more details about a celebration when the sign is installed.

SUP Nationals coming to Gig Harbor: The national championships for standup paddleboarding (SUP) are coming to Gig Harbor. The Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team is hosting the national championships as part of their annual Narrows Challenge race in Gig Harbor Sept. 18-20. Organizers met with city staff in January to discuss how to work together to host a smooth, safe event for competitors and visitors from across the country and will continue to coordinate as the event gets closer.

Wastewater operations: (1) On Feb. 1, the Sunset Grill restaurant had a sewage overflow in their parking lot. City crews worked with the tenant's contractor to clean up the overflow and complete the overflow report. The catch basins, which received sewage from the overflow, were also cleaned by city crews due to the contractor's lack of weekend resources. City crews will be cleaning equipment and completing reports to the Department of Ecology regarding the overflow. An invoice for city time and equipment will be prepared and submitted to the restaurant for reimbursement. (2) Crews will be working in a manhole off Ridgeway Drive to remove roots that are restricting flows. The roots were found during the routine inspection of gravity sewers. (3) The city's crews have completed repairs to the generator transfer switch at lift station 10 (Forest Grove Apartments). (4) Crews are planning to install a temporary flow meter in the 15" gravity sanitary sewer on Burnham Drive at 96th Street. This work is to help with the sewer modeling efforts being completed by the city's consultant. (5) Staff will be gathering 2025 biosolids production data to complete year end reports to the EPA and Department of Ecology. These reports are due Feb. 21 and Mar. 1, respectively.

Parks and facilities operations: (1) Staff are preparing to replace an original 2003 natural gas hot water tank at the Civic Center that has sprung a small leak. This tank will be replaced with an electric heat pump hot water tank. (2) The outside heat pump unit at the former Masonic Lodge is in need of maintenance. Staff will look at providing a short-term fix. (3) The city is preparing to perform plumbing repairs on the restrooms at the Maritime Pier.

Shore Acres Water Company transfer update: The city is continuing to work across departments to complete the transfer of the Shore Acres Water Company to the City of Gig Harbor. This work includes: (1) meetings with Peninsula Light Company, finance department staff, and water

operations staff to plan and prepare for the utility billing transfers, (2) regulatory discussions with Pierce County and the Washington State Department of Health, and (3) preparations with the city's communications manager to provide notice of the transfer. The anticipated timeline for transfer is the end of Quarter 2.

Streets and storm operations: (1) Crews have started the installation of a new traffic signal battery backup system for the intersection of Olympic Drive and 32nd Ave. The city has previously installed a similar system at the intersection of Point Fosdick Drive and Olympic Drive. This system allows a signal to continue to operate for many hours during power outages. (2) Staff have been auditing streetlights in the city that are owned and operated by Peninsula Light Company to verify the street lights the city is paying for are still in use and/or are still necessary.

Capital improvement project status updates: For the most recent updates on the city's design and construction projects, see our online [CIP StoryMap](#).