



DEPARTMENT UPDATES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2023

A BI-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

ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITIES (AWC) CONFERENCE: Nearly 500 city councilmembers, mayors, and city partners came together in Spokane for the AWC's 90th anniversary conference. This year's theme was *90 years of building bridges*, and leaders from 140 cities and towns across the state celebrated cities working together for nearly a century. Leaders networked, shared challenges and opportunities, and gave one another inspiring ideas to take back home. Mayor Markley and City Administrator Knutson represented Gig Harbor at the conference and brought back key ideas to share with councilmembers and staff with the goal of continual civic improvement. Some key takeaways were:

- 1) **Belonging is big!** A primary tenant of the conference was centered around diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB). Keynote speaker Victoria Woodards shared her equation of, "People + Partnerships = Possibilities." City leaders learned the importance of expanding the equation to specifically include *B* for belonging. It was noted that as we build trust with those who live, work, and play in our city, we must incorporate goals across plans and processes, and discover new ways to ensure all residents are able to participate and be stakeholders.
- 2) **Keep discourse civil.** Multiple sessions, including some with Ann Macfarlane of Jurassic Parliament and with Mónica Guzmán of Braver Angels, focused on how to improve our communication and build trust - whether with our colleagues, our neighbors, our councils, or our ideological opponents. Guzmán stressed that if compromise seems impossible, we can start with finding common ground. She reminded us that trust doesn't happen at scale, but in one-on-one conversations. AWC's research shows that constituents across the state value leaders who can work together respectfully and have meaningful conversations.
- 3) **Artificial Intelligence is coming - and it will impact Gig Harbor.** Consensus is in - AI is the most profound and pervasive technological change on the horizon since the

advent of the internet. Whether it's identifying "deep fakes" or considering the ethical implications of the shifting technological landscape, it's clear that getting familiar with the subject is only the beginning. Mayor Josh Penner of Orting gave a great overview of some of the challenges and major opportunities that are already arising, and Jevin West (colloquially known as Professor BS) of UW and the Center for an Informed Public, brought us an eye-opening plenary, deep diving into the whys and the ways we should begin to think offensively about misinformation, disinformation, rogue players, and both intentional and unintentional data reporting errors.

- 4) **The kids are alright - so get them involved.** We heard in person from four of this year's eight rising stars - students who received the 2023 Center for Quality Communities (CQC) \$2,500 scholarship, including one who was also the recipient of the prestigious UW Presidential Scholar Award. Each of these student leaders was inspiring, and each was clear about their ambitions to make a difference in the world. They all spoke to the importance of having their voices heard and included by their local leaders and shared how those experiences shifted their perspectives on their future. The value of youth councils and youth consultants was emphasized both by the students' city sponsors and by the students themselves as being impactful, meaningful, and eye-opening. We plan to immediately act on this, as a Youth Council is currently in the works!

Two topics notably missing from this year's AWC conference were discussions and sessions regarding homelessness and community safety (police pursuits, etc.). We have requested these topics be considered for focus at next year's conference.

RECEPTION FOR RETIRING POLICE OFFICERS: Two of our very own Gig Harbor Police Officers, Sergeant Matt Dougil and Officer Mike Allen, are retiring after diligently serving Gig Harbor for many years! In their honor we will host a reception in advance of the July 10 council meeting, from 5:00 to 5:30 p.m., to celebrate their wonderful careers and let them know how much their service has meant to all. The reception will take place in the Civic Center Lobby. Light refreshments will be served.



PENINSULA SHOPPING CENTER: Mayor Markley, City Administrator Knutson, Public Works and Community Development staff, and representatives from the Downtown Waterfront Alliance met with Peninsula Shopping Center representatives to discuss the status of the shopping center (the Peninsula Shopping Center is located along Judson Street between Soundview and Pioneer downtown Gig Harbor). The purpose of the meeting was to determine what, if any, development is expected on those properties in the future, and to discuss the public's desire for a grocer and other amenities. Parking and housing were also discussed. Representatives stated they will meet with the city again soon to discuss zoning codes and design. This is an important piece of property in our downtown core, and it is in the city's best interest to stay informed and collaborative. No formal proposal has been made to the city and the public will be noticed if this occurs.

PIERCE COUNTY URBAN GROWTH AREA (UGA) MEETING: City Administrator Knutson and Community Development Director de Simas met with Pierce County Planning and Public Works (PPW) Director Jennifer Tetazin and Long-Range Planning Manager Angie Silva to discuss the beginning of a joint-planning agreement for the UGAs associated with Gig Harbor. Multiple paths forward were discussed regarding applicable codes, impact fees, and timing related to the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Updates. The group will meet again to review a draft Memorandum of Understanding for how the two agencies will work together to further this work. This is the first step of many needed to ensure development within the UGA is consistent with city standards.

CREATIVE ARTS DISTRICT MEETING: Community leaders and volunteers gathered again recently at the Civic Center to further discuss if Gig Harbor should become a state certified

[Creative Arts District](#). This meeting was facilitated by state and city Arts Commissioner Robin Avni. She led the group through an exercise to determine what existing arts infrastructure exists and where opportunities exist for furtherance of the arts. Data collected from this meeting will be shared at a follow up meeting in September. If you are interested in participating, please email Assistant City Clerk [Tiffany Aliment](#).



LODGING TAX GRANT RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: The Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) held a special meeting on June 30 to review a proposal from the Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce for tourism services. Under the proposal, the chamber would become the official tourism agency for the city.

The city staffed a tourism department until the end of 2022 that was funded by lodging taxes collected in the city. This funding would transfer over to the chamber to perform similar services. LTAC recommended funding the chamber \$275,600 in 2023 and \$500,000 in 2024. City staff supports the recommendation, and it will be presented to the city council for approval at the July 10 meeting.

MUNICIPAL COURT WEEK: The Municipal Court of Gig Harbor is a vital part of local government, and it plays a significant role in preserving the quality of life in our community and protecting the peace and dignity of our city.

At the July 10 City Council meeting, we will honor our municipal court personnel and the exceptional work they do. Mayor Markley will present a proclamation and declare the week of July 17-21 as Municipal Court Week.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Director Carl de Simas

PLANNING

Pre-application activity has picked up significantly, with one completed June 28 and four new applications scheduled for July. The inquiries range from a change of use downtown to a second story ADU and an 8-lot plat.

Code Enforcement Officer Adam Blodgett will make a short presentation to the Downtown Waterfront Alliance on July 12 with particular emphasis on sign regulations. On a related note, sign sweeps will be conducted on July 8 and July 15, and possible changes to the sign code are being considered to simplify the permitting process.

Senior Planner Roxy Robles and Principal Planner Robin Bolster-Grant plan to meet with City Councilmembers over the next week or two to discuss the Climate Action Plan. Their goal is to expand upon issues/questions that may not have been fully covered during the June 15 study session.

BUILDING

Over the past two weeks, Building & Fire has received 31 applications and finalized 17 permits. Of note, we have received applications for the Sports Complex 1B buildings. We're also reviewing an

application for the final building at Towne Plaza up by The Inn at 56th & 32nd. The permit to enclose the Shenandoah at the Harbor History Museum is approved and we are working to get that permit issued in the coming days.

COURT

Court Administrator Stacy Colberg

No updates this week but stay tuned!

FINANCE

Finance Director Dave Rodenbach

AUDIT: Due to a technicality, the annual compliance examination of funds the City received under the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Program (SLFRF) is postponed until 2024.

In preliminary review of the SLFRF funds and their related use, the State Auditor's Office and Finance Department agreed to postpone the examination until the 2024 audit. The regular compliance and financial statement audit will occur sometime in late summer or fall 2023.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources Director Shannon Costanti

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER

Are you looking to grow in your career? There are several opportunities available throughout the city – [take a look!](#) If you know someone who would be a great fit, please tell them about it!

POSITION	TYPE	STATUS
Police Officer - Lateral & Exceptional Entry	FT	Continuous
Construction Supervisor	FT	Continuous
Associate Engineer	FT	Continuous
Wastewater Operator I/II/III	FT	Open until 7/9
Public Works Assistant	FT	Open until 7/9
Housing, Health & Human Services Program Manager	FT	Open until 7/26
Police Officer - Entry Level	FT	Closed - selection(s) pending
Engineering Technician	FT	Closed - selection pending
Infrastructure Systems Engineer	FT	Closed - Nate Yamamoto starting 7/3
Seasonal Worker	FT	Closed - Henry Oates & Wyatt Taylor starting 7/3

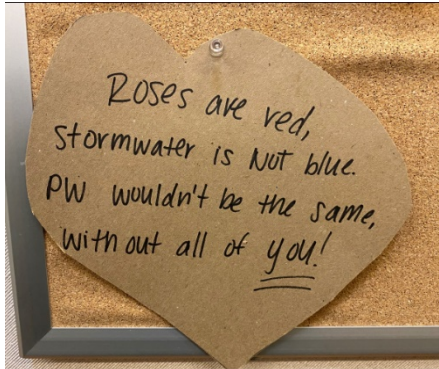
STAFF INTROS

Introducing new staff as they join the city team! This week, please join us in welcoming:

Henry Oates	Seasonal Worker	July 3
Nate Yamamoto	Infrastructure Systems Engineer	July 3
Wyatt Taylor	Seasonal Worker	July 3
Dennis Kamau	ITS Support Technician	July 5

SHOUT OUTS

Shout out to Public Works staff!



ITS

Information Technology Services Manager Keith Smith

FACILITIES SECURITY: We continue working with vendor Security Solutions to configure the new security badge system. The new door access control at the Civic Center is mostly installed and operating.

If you misplace or have an issue with your card, please submit a request to the ITS ServiceDesk and use the Building Access Key Card Issue template. Please contact your department head if your new access card is not working on specific doors. Any access changes must be submitted to the ITS ServiceDesk using the Employee Door Location Access template.

STAFFING UPDATE: I want to welcome Dennis Kamau, the ITS Support technician, and Nate Yamamoto, who will be in the ITS Infrastructure Systems Engineer role.

Dennis will start July 5 and comes here from Kidder Mathews where he was a Desktop Support Specialist II.

Nate started full-time on July 3 and comes here from the SouthSound911 support center.

POLICE

Police Chief Kelly Busey

FIREWORKS COMPLAINTS: Between June 28 – July 5, the Police Department fielded 10 fireworks complaints (a lot fewer than we expected). Our Marine Patrol Officer assigned to work the evening of July 4 fielded several inquiries from boaters and residents on the city side of the bay about fireworks not being addressed on the county side. He explained the jurisdictional differences to them, but there was apparent confusion.

Date	Time	End Location	Complaint	Disposition/Officer Notes
7/1/2023	2252	49XX DEER CREEK LN	SOUTH OF LOC ... PEOPLE SETTING OFF FIREWORKS NEIGHBORS YELLING "STOP IT"	Apparent county address - south of, likely in county, no contact requested
7/2/2023	1732	27XX HOLLYCROFT ST	IN THE PARKING LOT OF LOC, FIREWORKS GOING OFF. NO KNOWN HAZARDS	2 officer response. No notes added, other than solved on arrival.
7/4/2023	1405	101XX VETERAN AVE	POSSIBLY FROM THE NW, FIREWORKS, NO FIRE/INJURIES	Gone on arrival - No fireworks seen
7/4/2023	1920	40XX APOLLO WAY	FOR PAST 10 MINS, JUST EAST OF OF LOC, AT WHALE FIN PARK... SEES FIREWORKS...NO FLAMES/INJURIES	Large family gathering at Whale Fin park with kids. Set off a couple of small fireworks. Was advised of the law change in the city about fireworks and they agreed to stop for the evening.
7/4/2023	2029	MOONLIGHT CT/SUNDIAL LN	FIREWORKS IN THE AREA	Heard small firecrackers but no visible fireworks in the area. Spoke to residents in the area and they said they hadn't heard anything in a while
7/4/2023	2042	28XX HARBORVIEW DR	NEIGHBORS AT LOCATION ARE LIGHTING OFF FIREWORKS, NO HAZARDS, REPORTING PARTY CONCERNED FOR THE SPARKS THAT ARE LANDING IN THE DRY YARDS... (Two complaints) FOR PAST 30 MINUTES, FROM ADDRESS ... MORE THAN 15 FIREWORKS HEARD / FOR THE PAST HOUR AND A HALF... AT LOCATION. FIREWORKS GOING OFF... NOTHING ON FIRE. NOT	Unable to locate - Observed the area for several minutes and did not see or smell any fireworks.
7/4/2023	2059	PELTON CT/TAYLOR PL		SPOKE TO FAMILIES, THEY'RE COMPLIANT
7/4/2023	2105	106XX ROCKY PEAK PL	COMING FROM SENTINEL DRIVE, FIREWORKS	SPOKE TO RESIDENTS IN THE AREA & THEY AGREED TO STOP FOR THE EVENING
7/4/2023	2203	42XX 35TH AVE	PEOPLE LIGHTING OFF FIREWORKS ON BRIARWOOD LN	Educated some citizens about the new laws and they were compliant.
7/5/2023	0226	51XX OLYMPIC DR	FOR THE PAST 15 MINUTES LIGHTING OFF MORTARS IN THE PARKING LOT.....W/M 23-24 BROWN GLASSE,S UNKNOWN CLOTHING...DRIVES A BLK OLDER HYUNDAI...RP WENT OVER THERE	2 officer response - Nobody on scene upon arrival

BRUSH FIRE: On June 25, GHPD officers received word of a large brush fire on SR-16 near Wollochet Drive. The fire threatened several occupied structures, and our officers began evacuating people within those buildings. Gig Harbor Fire did a tremendous job of containing the fire before it reached the structures. The following week, Fire Chief Doan called to commend our officers for their actions in evacuating residents. Great teamwork!

CALLS FOR SERVICE: On Saturday, officers were dispatched to the report of two subjects fighting in the roadway. A description of one of the subjects matched a known subject who suffers from mental illness and has been increasingly aggressive in recent weeks. He is also the subject of a felony warrant that is not currently detainable due to jail booking restrictions. Our patrol officers arrived on the scene, but the known subject had fled on foot. The person/victim involved in the assault did not want to make a police report. Due to the known subject's volatile behavior, officers continued to search for him and soon found him nearby as he was approaching

a woman walking her dog. The officer intervened and attempted to detain him. The subject then began running toward the woman and the officer positioned himself between them. The officer drew his Taser and commanded the subject to stop. The subject continued to act aggressively and balled his fists before charging at the officer. The subject was Tased but got up and ran away. A second officer arrived on scene and both officers caught the subject and took him into custody without further event. He was booked into jail for assaulting a police officer and resisting arrest.

On Monday, an off-duty officer observed a subject obviously casing cars as potential theft targets in the business district of Borgen Boulevard. Our Detective Sergeant responded and attempted to contact an occupant of the vehicle, but the subject fled on foot. The vehicle was listed as stolen. After searching the area, the Sergeant located the subject on foot near Prentice Avenue and took him into custody.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm

MID-BIENNIAL BUDGET AMENDMENT: Public Works Managers are beginning to assemble any proposed amendments to the 2023-24 budget in time for review by Administration in September and City Council in October. The larger proposed amendments will be presented to Council as Study Session agenda items.

ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION: Jeff Olsen and his team are nearing the end of the implementation stage for the access control system project. This project will provide improved security and access throughout the Civic Center and to other City facilities in the future. Thanks to everyone involved who worked to bring us to this point!

NEW 6-MONTH LEASE AT ANCICH BOAT STORAGE BUILDING: July 1 brings a new term for the established 6-month leases for public storage of human-powered craft at Ancich Park. The Operations Crew has cleaned the storage space and prepared it for the next round of users.

WELL #5 UPDATE: Early in spring, the City's contractor removed the pump and motor assembly from the well casing for Well #5. After the well was cleaned and inspected, the pump and motor assembly were placed back into the casing, the well was flushed, and a full regiment of water samples was taken. Unfortunately, the well has remained off-line for over a month and staff is working with the contractor to have it on-line in time for the peak water demand months.

PT. FOSDICK DRIVE EMERGENCY ROADWAY REPAIR: The cement concrete pavement on Point Fosdick Drive at the intersection with Briarwood Lane is broken due to a failed utility trench that was installed prior to the City annexing this area (circa 1997). Broken pieces of concrete are currently stable in place. Staff is preparing the necessary paperwork to request an emergency contract this summer to repair the roadway. The public will encounter temporary disruptions to traffic flows during this repair work.

