



AUBURN HILLS MEETING SCHEDULE  
248-370-9402 | WWW.AUBURNHILLS.ORG

## FEBRUARY 2026

DAY	TITLE	TIME	LOCATION
2	City Council Workshop	5:30 PM	Administrative Conference Room 1827 N. Squirrel Road
2	City Council Meeting	7:00 PM	Council Chamber 1827 N. Squirrel Road
4	Planning Commission	7:00 PM	Council Chamber 1827 N. Squirrel Road
9	<del>Downtown Development Authority Informational Meeting &amp; Business Meeting to follow immediately</del>	<del>5:30 PM</del>	<b>CANCELLED</b>
9	Library Board	7:00 PM	Auburn Hills Public Library 3400 Seyburn Drive
10	Tax Increment Finance Authority	5:30 PM	Administrative Conference Room 1827 N. Squirrel Road
<del>12</del>	<del>Zoning Board of Appeals</del>	<del>6:30 PM</del>	<b>CANCELLED</b>
16	City Council Meeting	7:00 PM	Council Chamber 1827 N. Squirrel Road
<del>17</del>	<del>Brownfield Redevelopment Authority</del>	<del>6:00 PM</del>	<b>CANCELLED</b>
24	Public Safety Advisory Committee	5:00 PM	Public Safety Building 1899 N. Squirrel Road

**NOTE: Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the City Clerk's Office at 248.370.9402 48 hours prior to the meeting. Staff will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements. PLEASE BE ADVISED, DUE TO A LACK OF AGENDA ITEMS, SOME MEETINGS MAY BE CANCELED.**



# AUBURN HILLS MEETING SCHEDULE

248-370-9402 | WWW.AUBURNHILLS.ORG

## MARCH 2026

DAY	TITLE	TIME	LOCATION
2	City Council Workshop	5:30 PM	Administrative Conference Room 1827 N. Squirrel Road
2	City Council Meeting	7:00 PM	Council Chamber 1827 N. Squirrel Road
3	Board of Review Organizational Meeting	9:00 AM	Administrative Conference Room 1827 N. Squirrel Road
4	Planning Commission	6:00 PM	Council Conference Room 1827 N. Squirrel Road
9	Board of Review	9:00 AM	Administrative Conference Room 1827 N. Squirrel Road
9	Downtown Development Authority	5:30 PM	Administrative Conference Room 1827 N. Squirrel Road
9	Library Board	7:00 PM	Auburn Hills Public Library 3400 Seyburn Drive
10	Board of Review	2:00 PM	Administrative Conference Room 1827 N. Squirrel Road
10	Tax Increment Finance Authority	5:30 PM	Council Chamber 1827 N. Squirrel Road
11	Pension Board	3:00 PM	Administrative Conference Room 1827 N. Squirrel Road
11	Retiree Health Care	Immediately following the Pension Board meeting	Administrative Conference Room 1827 N. Squirrel Road
12	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30 PM	Council Chamber 1827 N. Squirrel Road
16	City Council Meeting	7:00 PM	Council Chamber 1827 N. Squirrel Road
17	Brownfield Redevelopment Authority	6:00PM	Administrative Conference Room 1827 N. Squirrel Road

**NOTE: Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the City Clerk's Office at 248.370.9402 48 hours prior to the meeting. Staff will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements. PLEASE BE ADVISED, DUE TO A LACK OF AGENDA ITEMS, SOME MEETINGS MAY BE CANCELED.**



**CITY OF AUBURN HILLS**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026**  
**Regular City Council Meeting ♦ 7:00 PM**

Council Chamber, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills MI  
248-370-9402 ♦ [www.auburnhills.org](http://www.auburnhills.org)

- 1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - 4a. City Council Workshop Minutes, February 2, 2026
  - 4b. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, February 2, 2026
- 5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS**
  - 5a. Motion – To confirm the reappointment of John Young to the Downtown Development Authority.
  - 5b. Introduction of Downtown Engagement Specialists.
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 7. CONSENT AGENDA**

**All items listed are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.**

  - 7a. Board and Commission Minutes
    - 7a1. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, January 22, 2026
    - 7a2. Planning Commission, February 4, 2026
  - 7b. Motion – To adopt the updated Fire Department Fee Schedule.
  - 7c. Motion – To approve the installation of a 250-year Historical Marker in Aaron Webster Cemetery.
- 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- 9. NEW BUSINESS**
  - 9a. Motion – To approve the Special Land Use Permit to allow for the outside and overnight storage of commercial vehicles / Concraft, Inc.
- 10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL**
- 11. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**
- 12. CITY MANAGER REPORT**
- 13. ADJOURNMENT**

City Council meeting minutes are on file in the City Clerk's Office. NOTE: Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the City Clerk's Office at 248.370.9402 or the City Manager's Office at 248.370.9440 48 hours prior to the meeting. Staff will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements.



# CITY OF AUBURN HILLS CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2026

AGENDA ITEM NO 4A

CITY COUNCIL



## CITY OF AUBURN HILLS CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES

FEBRUARY 2, 2026

**CALL TO ORDER &** Mayor Hawkins at 5:34 PM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**LOCATION:**

Admin Conference Room, City Hall, 1827 N. Squirrel Rd, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Present: Council Members Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz

Absent: Council Member Verbeke

Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Asst City Manager Skopek, City Attorney Kelly, City Clerk Pierce, Chief of Police Gagnon, Fire Chief Robinson, Public Works Director Baldante, Mgr of Fleet & Roads Hefner, Finance Director/Treasurer Schulz, Accountant Moss, Asst to the Manager Hagge, Engineer Juidici

0 Guests

Workshop Topic: Roads Division / Bringing Local Road Improvements In-house

Mr. Baldante explained that there has been a significant increase in road costs. To be fiscally responsible, it was decided that it would be worth exploring bringing the local road improvements in-house.

Mr. Baldante pointed out that there are 180 total lane miles of roadway, 106 are major roads and 74 are local roads. In addition, there are over 145 miles of pathway in the City. Mr. Hefner described the road maintenance performed by DPW, which includes crack fill, blow-tack-patch-roll, infrared reheater, pavement striping, sign maintenance, and mastics. The contracted work consists of concrete maintenance, mill & overlay, and asphalt replacement.

Mr. Baldante explained that a new In-House Paving Division would require equipment, labor and material. He explained the equipment that the department currently has and noted the equipment that would be need to be purchased. He stated that eight staff positions would be needed, a DPW Deputy Director who would be responsible for the in-house roads and contract work, a crew leader and maintenance technicians, including a paver operator which is one of the key positions. In the summer, this crew would do road work and, in the winter, they would do storm repair, catch basin, sweeping, plowing and other maintenance work. Discussion ensued regarding the staffing model and training needed. It was noted that there should be at least two machine operators on duty. Equipment storage and cost savings were also discussed.

Mr. Tanghe noted that there are more conversations and more study that will need to take place. He noted that this would not start in 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

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Eugene Hawkins III, Mayor

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Laura M. Pierce, City Clerk



# CITY OF AUBURN HILLS CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2026

AGENDA ITEM NO 4B

CITY COUNCIL



## CITY OF AUBURN HILLS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

FEBRUARY 2, 2026

**CALL TO ORDER &** Mayor Hawkins at 7:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**LOCATION:** Council Chamber, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills MI

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Council Members Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz

Absent: Council Member Verbeke

Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Asst City Manager Skopek, City Attorney Kelly, City Clerk Pierce, Chief of Police Gagnon, Fire Chief Robinson, Public Works Director Baldante, Mgr of Fleet & Roads Hefner, Finance Director/Treasurer Schulz, Engineer Juidici

7 Guests

A workshop session was held prior to the regular City Council meeting at 5:30 PM. Workshop Topic: Roads Division / Bringing Local Road Improvements In-house

#### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4a. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, January 19, 2026

**Moved by Knight, Seconded by Moniz.**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2026.

**VOTE:** Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz

No: None

**Resolution No. 26.02.014**

**Motion Carried (6 - 0)**

#### 5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5a. Motion - To confirm the appointment of Elaine Evans to the Public Safety Advisory Committee for a term ending November 20, 2027.

Ms. Elaine Evans introduced herself and shared that she is looking forward to learning and giving back to the City.

**Moved by Ferguson, Seconded by Moniz.**

**RESOLVED:** To confirm the appointment of Elaine Evans to the Public Safety Advisory Committee for a term ending November 20, 2027.

**VOTE:** Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz  
No: None

**Resolution No. 26.02.015**

**Motion Carried (6 - 0)**

5b. Motion - To confirm the reappointment of Jay Boelter to the Public Safety Advisory Committee for a term ending November 20, 2027.

**Moved by Marzolf, Seconded by Ferguson.**

**RESOLVED:** To confirm the reappointment of Jay Boelter to the Public Safety Advisory Committee for a term ending November 20, 2027.

**VOTE:** Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz  
No: None

**Resolution No. 26.02.016**

**Motion Carried (6 - 0)**

5c. Motion – To confirm the reappointment of Donearl Johnson to the Public Safety Advisory Committee for a term ending November 20, 2027.

**Moved by Fletcher, Seconded by Ferguson.**

**RESOLVED:** To confirm the reappointment of Donearl Johnson to the Public Safety Advisory Committee for a term ending November 20, 2027.

**VOTE:** Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz  
No: None

**Resolution No. 26.02.017**

**Motion Carried (6 - 0)**

5d. Motion – To confirm the reappointment of Gail Cartwright to the Public Safety Advisory Committee for a term ending November 20, 2027.

**Moved by Moniz, Seconded by Fletcher.**

**RESOLVED:** To confirm the reappointment of Gail Cartwright to the Public Safety Advisory Committee for a term ending November 20, 2027.

**VOTE:** Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz  
No: None

**Resolution No. 26.02.018**

**Motion Carried (6 - 0)**

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**7. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Moniz requested that Item 7d (purchase of two Tahoe PPVs to replace two police vehicles) be removed from the Consent Agenda.

7a. Board and Commission Minutes

7a1. Zoning Board of Appeals, January 15, 2026

**RESOLVED: To receive and file the Board and Commission Minutes.**

7b. Motion – To reappoint Yeo & Yeo, PC as the independent financial and compliance auditors.

**RESOLVED: To reappoint Yeo and Yeo, PC as the City’s independent financial and compliance auditor for fiscal years 2026-2028. Further, to authorize the City Manager to execute the appropriate engagement of services at the fees proposed for the City of Auburn Hills audit.**

7c. Motion – To approve the Oakland County P25 Simulcast System (Public Safety Radio System) Interlocal Agreement.

**RESOLVED: To approve the Oakland County P25 Simulcast System Interlocal Agreement between Oakland County and the City of Auburn Hills and to authorize the Chief of Police to sign the agreement on behalf of the city.**

**Moved by Moniz, Seconded by Knight.**

**RESOLVED: To approve the Consent Agenda.**

**VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz  
No: None**

**Resolution No. 26.02.019**

**Motion Carried (6 - 0)**

7d. Motion – To approve the purchase of two Tahoe PPVs to replace two police vehicles.

Mr. Moniz removed this item to discuss possibly incorporating the grappler device on these vehicles. Chief Gagnon shared that a decision has not been made at this time as they are pricey to install on patrol vehicles and because it is a newer product for the police industry, the risk to the public would need to be considered.

**Moved by Moniz, Seconded by Marzolf.**

**RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of two (2) Chevrolet Tahoe PPVs listed above for \$111,782.00 from LaFontaine Automotive Group of China Township, MI under the MiDEAL contract #240000001210.**

**VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz  
No: None**

**Resolution No. 26.02.020**

**Motion Carried (6 - 0)**

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

9a. Motion – To approve design services for Cross Creek & Squirrel HAWK Crossing.

Mr. Hefner explained the project that involves a High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) signal installation and pedestrian improvements for North Squirrel Road at Cross Creek Parkway. It was explained that in 2024, a grant was received for this project that will cover 90% of the cost. The remaining 10% will be the responsibility of the City. The design services for this project will include a not-to-exceed amount of \$40,000 to OHM Advisors while G2 Consulting will be used for geotechnical services for an estimated cost of \$5,000.

**Moved by Ferguson, Seconded by Fletcher.**

**RESOLVED: To approve the design contract for the Cross Creek & Squirrel HAWK Crossing to OHM Advisors in the not-to-exceed amount of \$40,000 and geotechnical services to G2 Consulting at the estimated cost of \$5,000 for the estimated total of \$45,000.**

**VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz  
No: None**

**Resolution No. 26.02.021**

**Motion Carried (6 - 0)**

**10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

Mr. Knight supported the HAWK Crossing because it allows a place to safely cross and is a great addition to the pedestrians. He thanked DPW for keeping the roads clean during the snowstorms and for their quick response to damaged mailboxes. He shared that he is pleased with the new stores in the Downtown Area.

Mr. Moniz suggested that there are no City Council Meetings held on Martin Luther King Day so that the holiday could be properly commemorated. It will be discussed again in the Fall when next year’s meeting schedule is presented.

Mr. Marzolf stated that he supports the HAWK Crossing at Cross Creek because he continues to want to see the City become pedestrian friendly. He thanked the DPW Director for the presentation that took place at the workshop.

Mayor Hawkins congratulated Ms. Evans on being appointed to PSAC and the other board members on their reappointments. He welcomed two new businesses to the Downtown Area. He also thanked the Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce for their efforts to grow the business community and their support with the Community Address that was given recently.

**11. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

**12. CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Tanghe commented on the Auburn Hills Celebrates America event to be held on June 18<sup>th</sup> for the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. There will be more information forthcoming.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Fletcher, Seconded by Marzolf.**

**RESOLVED: To adjourn the meeting.**

**VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 26.02.022**

**Motion Carried (6 - 0)**

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

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Eugene Hawkins III, Mayor

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Laura M. Pierce, City Clerk



# CITY OF AUBURN HILLS CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2026

AGENDA ITEM NO 5A

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Eugene Hawkins, III, Mayor; Stephanie Carroll, Economic Development Manager  
**Submitted:** February 4, 2026  
**Subject:** Motion – To confirm the reappointment of John Young.

### **INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY**

Please consider confirming the following reappointment to fulfill a four (4)-year term.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Board</b>	<b>Term Ending Date</b>
John Young	Downtown Development Authority	10/31/2029

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that John Young be reappointed to the Downtown Development Authority.

### **MOTION**

**Move to confirm the reappointment of John Young to the Downtown Development Authority for a term ending October 31, 2029.**



**CITY OF AUBURN HILLS  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

1827 N. Squirrel Rd., Auburn Hills MI 48326

Phone: 248.370.9402 Fax: 248.364.6719

[CityClerk@auburnhills.org](mailto:CityClerk@auburnhills.org)

[www.auburnhills.org/cityboards](http://www.auburnhills.org/cityboards)

**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO  
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

NAME: Young John O  
(Please Print) (Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED]  
(Number/Street) (City/Zip) (Phone)

EMAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN AUBURN HILLS? - ARE YOU A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes

DO YOU WORK IN AUBURN HILLS? yes LENGTH OF TIME EMPLOYED IN AUBURN HILLS: 13 years

If you work in Auburn Hills, please list the name and address of the business:

Oakland University 2200 N. Squirrel Rd [REDACTED]  
(Business Name) (Number/Street) (Phone)

PLEASE LIST WHICH BOARD/COMMISSION YOU ARE INTERESTED IN: DDA

WHAT SPECIALTIES/EXPERIENCE/EDUCATION DO YOU BRING TO THIS BOARD/COMMISSION:

(Attach additional sheet if necessary)

Communications and marketing skills; numerous years on civic and appointed boards; senior staff at Oakland University

LIST ANY CIVIC/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES THAT ARE YOU INVOLVED IN:

(Attach additional sheet if necessary)

Current Chair DDA Auburn Hills; Treasurer Oakland Community Health Network; past chair RRC Board; past Planning Commission member Midland; past vice chair Farmington Hills Planning Commission; past Chair Farmington Area Arts Commission

Please return this form to the City Clerk's Office at the above address for processing. This information will be provided to the City Council, on a public agenda, for the use in making appointment to the various Boards and Commissions at the City Council Meeting.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

[Signature] 2/10/26  
(Signature) (Date)



# CITY OF AUBURN HILLS CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

**MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2026**

**AGENDA ITEM NO 7A1**

**AUBURN HILLS BROWNFIELD  
REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

“Not Yet Approved”

## **CITY OF AUBURN HILLS BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING**

**January 22, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Slocum called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present:	Hopper, Schaarr, Schindler, Knight, and Slocum
Absent:	None
Also Present:	Stephanie Carroll, Economic Development Manager, Megan Napier, AKT Peerless, Ryan Higuchi, AKT
Guests:	Stan Torres, Auburn Hills Parks Supervisor

**LOCATION:** Auburn Hills City Hall, Administrative Conference Room-1827 North Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

### **PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD**

Mr. Torres introduced himself and indicated he was looking forward to the update regarding the EPA Grant funding opportunity for Kayak Point.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Item 3a. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Regular Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2025.**

**Moved by Mr. Hopper to approve the November 18, 2025, minutes as presented.**

**Seconded by Mr. Schaar.**

**Yes: Hopper, Slocum, Schindler, Knight, and Schaar**

**No: None**

**Motion Carried**

### **4. CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Higuchi reviewed the EPA Brownfield Clean Up grant process with the board. He covered the basics of the grant, including the January 28 submission deadline and the May notification of award decisions. Mr. Higuchi outlined the grant's focus, including the targeted cleanup of PCB-contaminated soil and other activities required by the grant guidelines, such as grant administration. He reviewed the budget and timeline.

Ms. Napier reported the fourth-quarter 2025 testing results for Galloway Creek and the Clinton River. She stated that the results remain consistent with previous testing and that nothing currently warrants concern.

The Board discussed whether quarterly testing should continue in 2026. Ms. Carroll noted that the Board included a budget for quarterly testing in 2026, but it can be reevaluated at any time. The board's consensus was to continue monitoring quarterly testing and revisit the issue later in the year.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Item 5a. FY 2024 Adopted Budget and YTD Summary -December 31, 2025.**

Ms. Carroll presented the financial report for the period ending December 31, 2025. She stated that more than 100% of the budgeted tax increment revenue has been received, and that AHBRA has spent approximately 80% of its FY2025 budget.

**Moved by Mr. Schaar to receive and file the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority financial report for the period ending December 31, 2025.**

**Seconded by Mr. Hopper.**

**Yes: Schaar, Knight, Schindler, Hopper, and Slocum**

**No: None**

**Motion Carried**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 7a. FY2026 EPA Clean Up Grant Application Public Hearing for 2041 Auburn Road.**

The Public Hearing was opened by Chairperson Slocum at 6: 57 p.m.

The Public Hearing was closed by Chairperson Slocum at 6:58 p.m.

*As a requirement of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) guidelines, a public hearing was held to receive comments related to the project. No action was taken on this matter.*

**Item 7b. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Mr. Knight nominated Mr. Slocum for Chairperson.

*There were no other nominations.*

Mr. Slocum accepted the nomination for Chairperson.

Seconded by Mr. Hopper

**Yes: Schaar, Knight, Schindler, Hopper, and Slocum**

**No: None**

**Motion Carried**

Mr. Schaar nominated Mr. Knight for Vice Chairperson

*There were no other nominations*

Mr. Knight accepted the nomination for Vice Chairperson

Seconded by Mr. Hopper.

**Yes: Schaar, Knight, Schindler, Hopper, and Slocum**

**No: None**

**Motion Carried**

**DIRECTOR UPDATES**

**None**

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Knight thanked the Board members for their service on behalf of the City Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Schindler and there being no objections, the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

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Stephanie Carroll  
Executive Director



# CITY OF AUBURN HILLS CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2026

AGENDA ITEM NO 7A2

PLANNING COMMISSION



## CITY OF AUBURN HILLS PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES **NOT YET APPROVED**

February 4, 2026

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Beidoun called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: **Carolyn Shearer, Darlene MacMillan, Jack Ferguson, Raymond Saelens, Dominick Tringali, Cynthia Pavlich, Dominic Patrus, Sam Beidoun**  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Director of Community Development Steve Cohen, Assistant Director of Community Development Devin Lang  
Guests: Two

**LOCATION:** Council Chambers, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

### 3. PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 10, 2025

Moved by Pavlich to approve the minutes of December 10, 2025.

Second by Patrus.

**VOTE:** Yes: Shearer, MacMillan, Saelens, Ferguson, Pavlich, Tringali, Patrus, Beidoun  
No: None **Motion Carried (8-0)**

### 5. PETITIONERS

Chairperson Beidoun shared the public hearing procedure and the steps the Commission will follow.

#### 5a. Concraft, Inc. (7:03 p.m.)

**Public Hearing/Motion – Recommendation to City Council for Special Land Use Permit approval to allow for the outside and overnight storage of commercial vehicles.**

Mr. Beidoun opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Cohen confirmed that the hearing documents are in order and that no communications had been received regarding the petition.

Mr. Cohen stated that this is a request from Concraft, Inc. for a Special Land Use Permit to allow for the outside and overnight storage of up to fourteen (14) commercial vehicles on the property located at 4225 N. Atlantic Blvd. The vehicles will be screened from view of the roadway by the company's 34,961-square-foot building. The parcel is 2.01 acres and zoned I-1, Light Industrial.

Concraft, Inc. is a property restoration company for homeowners and business owners throughout southeast Michigan. They provide 24/7 emergency response for their customers, including securing buildings after damage from floods, storms, vehicles and fire. They previously received similar Special Land Use permits in 2005 and 2022 for the outdoor storage of commercial vehicles at their former location at 1171 Centre Road. The company moved

to 4225 N. Atlantic Blvd. in early 2024.

**Nick Crimando, Concraft, Inc., 4225 N. Atlantic Blvd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326** was available to answer any questions of the Commission.

The Commission asked about the following:

1. The size of the building;
2. Whether the vehicles could be stored in the building;
3. Type of restoration activities;
4. Whether items are wrapped;
5. How many customers there are at any one time;
6. The number of vehicles currently stored outside;
7. Compliance history at the previous site;
8. The size of the crates;
9. Are the vehicles stored outside empty.

Mr. Crimando explained that the building is approximately 35,000 square feet. The contents are stored in 10'x10' or 9'x13' crates, which are not easy to move around. Parking the vehicles inside would not leave room for the storage crates. Mr. Crimando also explained that there is a room dedicated for restoration of the contents of the crates. That room is approximately 20'x25' and is used to work on the contents. The odd-shaped items (i.e. couches, chairs, etc.) are wrapped to protect them. Concraft handles approximately 1,000 customers per year, and the number at any one time varies. There were twelve (12) vehicles stored outside under the 2022 agreement. The number of vehicles has increased over the span of the previous two agreements. In 2002, there were four (4) vehicles stored outside. The company has been very successful. Mr. Crimando confirmed that the trucks stored outside are empty.

Mr. Cohen stated that Concraft has a good track record with the City. Any issues Code Enforcement has observed over the years have been addressed promptly.

There being no public comments, Mr. Beidoun closed the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

**Moved by Ferguson to recommend to City Council the approval of the Special Land Use Permit for Concraft, Inc., to allow for the outside and overnight storage of fourteen (14) commercial vehicles at 4115 N. Atlantic Blvd., subject to the representations made by the company and the conditions of the City's Administrative Review Team. This permit is non-transferable and shall expire if Concraft, Inc. vacates or ceases operations on the property.**

**Second by Saelens.**

**VOTE:**

**Yes: Pavlich, Saelens, MacMillan, Shearer, Patrus, Tringali, Ferguson, Beidoun**

**No: None**

**Motion Carried (8-0)**

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.**

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7a. Discussion (Potential Motion) – Amend the By-Laws to start future meetings at 6:00 p.m.**

**Moved by Shearer to amend the City of Auburn Hills Planning Commission By-Laws, Article 4. Section 1. to change the meeting time to 6:00 p.m.**

**Second by Pavlich.**

**VOTE:**

**Yes: Saelens, MacMillan, Shearer, Patrus, Tringali, Ferguson, Pavlich, Beidoun**

**No: None**

**Motion Carried (8-0)**

**8. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Cohen shared information regarding potential matters coming before the Planning Commission in the next few months.

**9. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Auburn Hills Council Chambers.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairperson Beidoun adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Submitted by:

Susan McCullough, MiPMC III, CMC

Recording Secretary



# CITY OF AUBURN HILLS CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2026

AGENDA ITEM NO 7B

FIRE DEPARTMENT

**To:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager; Trevin Robinson, Fire Chief  
**Submitted:** February 10, 2026  
**Subject:** Motion – Adopt the Updated Fire Department Fee Schedule

### INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

Each year, the Clerk's Office provides departments with the opportunity to adjust the fee schedule as needed. While the Fire Department can adjust many fees in the schedule at that time, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) fees follow those set by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM). Blue Cross did not provide its updated fee schedule until the City Council had already approved the fee schedule for the year. The changes to the fee schedule (See EMS section) mirror the charges of BCBSM.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend adopting the proposed updated fee schedule to mirror those charged by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

### MOTION

Move to adopt the updated Fire Department fee schedule.

I CONCUR:

THOMAS A. TANGHE, CITY MANAGER



# 2026 FEE SCHEDULE DRAFT

FIRE DEPARTMENT	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
<b>DETECTION PLAN REVIEW – per device count</b>		
1 to 20	\$ 255	
21 to 40	\$ 520	
41 to 60	\$ 845	
61 to 80	\$ 1,050	
81 to 100	\$ 1,200	
101 to 120	\$ 1,350	
121 to 140	\$ 1,500	
141 to 160	\$ 1,700	
161 to 180	\$ 1,800	
Over 180	\$ \$1,800 + \$6.65 per device over 180	
<b>DETECTION PERMIT FEES – per device count</b>		
1 to 10	\$ 160	
11 to 25	\$ 255	
26 to 50	\$ 485	
51 to 75	\$ 750	
76 to 100	\$ 825	
101 to 125	\$ 1,120	
Over 125: \$1,120 plus \$2.50 for each additional over 125	\$ \$1,120 + \$2.50 for each additional over 125	
The third, and all subsequent follow up inspections	\$ 100	
<b>SUPPRESSION SYSTEM REVIEW, AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS – per sprinkler count</b>		
1 to 20	\$ 285	
21 to 50	\$ 500	
51 to 100	\$ 595	
101 to 150	\$ 660	
151 to 200	\$ 765	
201 to 300	\$ 820	
301 to 400	\$ 1,090	
401 to 500	\$ 1,135	
Over 500	\$ \$1,135 + \$1.75 for each sprinkler over 500	



# 2026 FEE SCHEDULE DRAFT

FIRE DEPARTMENT	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
<b>SUPPRESSION SYSTEM REVIEW, GAS OR DRY CHEMICAL -</b> Cubic Footage of Protected Area		
0 to 5,000	\$ 635	
5,001 to 10,000	\$ 765	
Over 10,000	\$ \$765 + \$0.10 for each cubic foot over 10k	
<b>SUPPRESSION SYSTEM REVIEW, RESTAURANT WET CHEMICAL</b>		
1 to 10 nozzles	\$ 390	
11 to 20 nozzles	\$ 515	
21 to 30 nozzles	\$ 645	
Over 30 nozzles	\$ \$645 + \$12.70 per additional nozzle over 30	
<b>SUPPRESSION SYSTEM REVIEW, Standpipe/Pump Systems -</b> if separate from sprinkler system		
Per standpipe	\$ 300	
Per Fire Pump	\$ 265	
<b>SUPPRESSION SYSTEM PERMIT – per device count</b>		
1 to 20 sprinkler heads/nozzles	\$ 160	
21 to 50 sprinkler heads/nozzles	\$ 255	
51 to 100 sprinkler heads/nozzles	\$ 485	
101-150 sprinkler heads/nozzles	\$ 750	
151-200 sprinkler heads/nozzles	\$ 775	
201 to 300 sprinkler heads/nozzles	\$ 825	
301 to 400 sprinkler heads/nozzles	\$ 975	
401 to 500 sprinkler heads/nozzles	\$ 1,120	
Over 500: \$1,120 plus \$1.25 each additional over 500	\$ \$1,120 + 1.25 each additional over 500	



# 2026 FEE SCHEDULE DRAFT

FIRE DEPARTMENT	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
<b>MISC FEES, PREVENTION/SUPPRESSION</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup> and subsequent reviews, per hour in 1 hour increments	\$ \$95 per hour with \$160 minimum fee	
Seven (7) day reviews, add 100% to base review fee		
After Hours Inspection, per hour (minimum of 2 hours)	\$ \$95 per hour (also for 3 <sup>rd</sup> and subsequent inspections)	
<b>BURN PERMIT</b>		
Prescribed Burn Permit	\$ 75.00	
<b>HAZARDOUS MATERIAL OPERATING PERMIT</b>		
Permit Waiver Affidavit (Green level)		
Permit Application – (Yellow level)	\$ 200.00	
Permit Application – (Red level), Site Specific Plan Required	\$ 500.00	
Overdue Payment on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Invoice - Over 30 Days (Yellow level)	\$ 200.00	
Overdue Payment on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Invoice - Over 30 Days (Red level)	\$ 500.00	
<b>PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS / IMPLOSIONS</b>		
Indoor Pyrotechnics	\$ 300.00	
Outdoor Pyrotechnics	\$ 2,500.00	
Structural Implosion	\$ 300.00	
All subsequent inspections after two pre-event inspections – per hour	\$ 100.00	
<b>COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS</b>		
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation/Standard First Aid Course		
Adult CPR – Residents per person	\$ 25.00	
Non-residents per person	\$ 50.00	
Infant/Child CPR – Residents per person	\$ 25.00	
Non-residents per person	\$ 50.00	
Basic Life Support CPR – per person	\$ 50.00	
Standard First Aid – Resident per person	\$ 25.00	
Non-residents per person	\$ 40.00	



# 2026 FEE SCHEDULE DRAFT

FIRE DEPARTMENT	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
<b>EMS FEES</b>		
Advanced Life Support II	\$ <del>875.00</del>	906.00
Advance Life Support Emergency	\$ <del>675.00</del>	705.00
Advanced Life Support Non-Emergency	\$ <del>525.00</del>	491.00
Basic Life Support	\$ <del>525.00</del>	553.00
Basic Life Support Non-Emergency	\$ <del>400.00</del>	380.00
Treat / No Transport	\$ <del>350.00</del>	513.00
Mileage	\$ <del>15.49</del>	15.00
Oxygen	\$ <del>40.00</del>	51.00
Vehicle Extrication	\$ 500.00	
<b>APPARATUS</b>		
Engines	\$ 483.00	
Trucks	\$ 586.00	
Ambulance	\$ 196.00	
Staff Vehicle	\$ 100.00	
<b>FIRE ALARM FEE (Per Calendar Year)</b>		
First and Second False Alarm	\$ 0.00	
Third through Fifth False Alarm	\$ 250.00	
Greater than Five False Alarms	\$ 350.00	
<b>RESTITUTION FEES</b>		
Personnel – per hour		
Fire Chief	\$ 71.55	
Assistant Fire Chief	\$ 66.30	
Administrative Officer	\$ 61.50	
Captain - career	\$ 48.00	
Lieutenant – career	\$ 43.75	
Fire Inspector	\$ 57.95	
Fire Fighter – career	\$ 42.15	
Clerical	\$ 41.70	
Clerical Holiday	\$ 69.30	
Firefighters – paid call	\$ 25.30	
Firefighter – paid call Holiday	\$ 37.90	



# 2026 FEE SCHEDULE DRAFT

FIRE DEPARTMENT	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
<p><b>Miscellaneous Equipment</b> – The actual cost of reimbursement for firefighting foams, chemicals, absorbents, storage and containment equipment and other materials as may be required for the control, containment, removal, and/or mitigation of fires or hazardous material spills, leaks or accidents.</p>		
<p><b>Miscellaneous Services</b> – The actual cost of specialized equipment, materials, or the services of a private contractor, another unit of local government, or a state or federal agency as may be required to respond to incidents which occur in the City of Auburn Hills.</p>		



# CITY OF AUBURN HILLS CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2026

AGENDA ITEM NO 7C

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

**To: Mayor and City Council**  
**From: Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager; Andrew Hagge, Assistant to the City Manager**  
**Submitted: February 10, 2026**  
**Subject: Motion – Approve Purchase and Installation of 250-year Historical Marker in Aaron Webster Cemetery**

## **INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY**

Placed on the ground in the Aaron Webster Cemetery, adjacent to the Veterans Memorial, lies a historical marker in honor of all those who served to maintain freedom for the United State of America for 200 years. The existing historical marker was dedicated to the Aaron Webster Cemetery by the then Pontiac Township Bicentennial Committee on July 3, 1976.

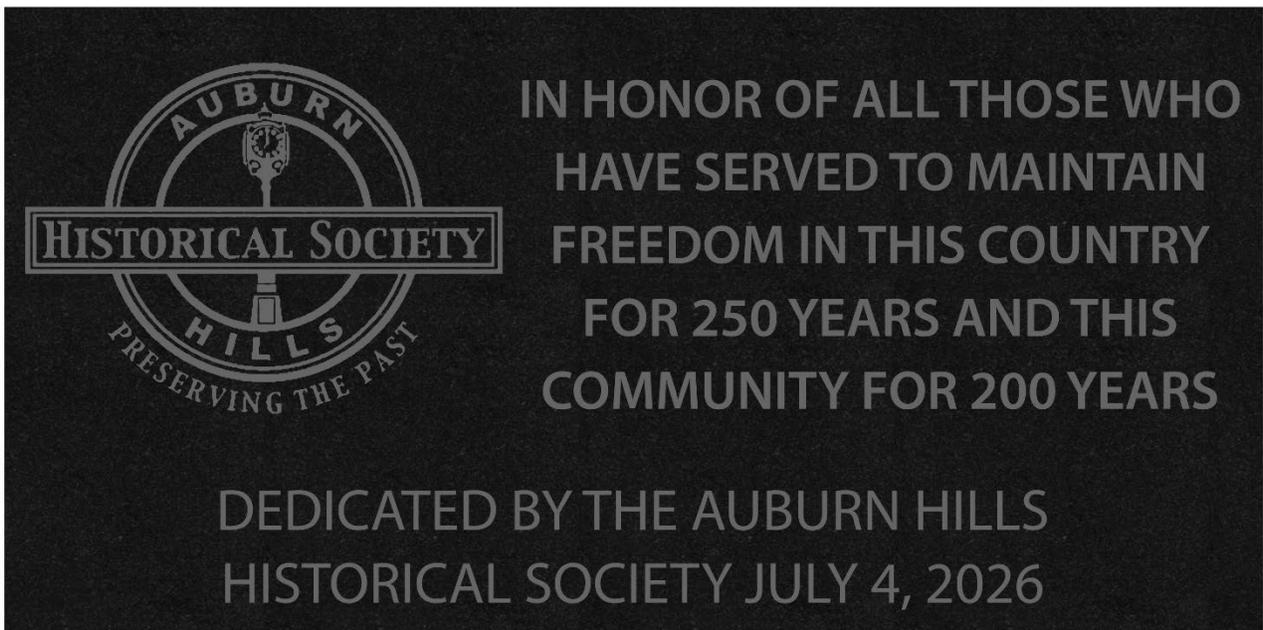
City of Auburn Hills staff were approached by the Auburn Hills Historical Society with the idea of purchasing and placing a similar historical marker, adjacent to the existing bicentennial marker, that would acknowledge the country's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Auburn Hills Historical Society has offered to purchase this new historical marker in the amount of \$352.98, **and while it will be of no cost to the City, its installation requires approval from the City Council because it involves an alteration to a city property which is governed by the city council.**

For additional context, images of the existing and proposed historical marker are included in the body of this memo. The 200-year marker is 12" x 24" in size, and the proposed 250-year marker would have the same dimensions.



[Image of the existing bicentennial historical marker within the Aaron Webster Cemetery]

order Q108141  
24" x 12" Granite



[Image of proposed 250-year historical marker]

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

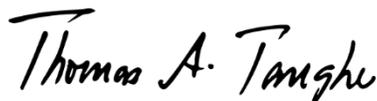
City staff recommend approval to install the 250-year historical marker with the Aaron Webster Cemetery.

**MOTION**

Move to approve the installation of a 250-year historical marker within the Aaron Webster Cemetery.

**CITY MANAGER'S NOTE:** I want to commend the Historical Society on their decision to add this marker to our historic cemetery. Note only does it provide appropriate recognition, it aligns well with the city's recognition and celebration of our country's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.

I CONCUR:



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THOMAS A. TANGHE, CITY MANAGER

To: Mayor and City Council  
From: Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager; Steven J. Cohen, AICP, Director of Community Development  
Submitted: February 9, 2026  
Subject: Concraft, Inc. - 4225 N. Atlantic Boulevard  
Motion - To approve the Special Land Use Permit for the outside and overnight storage of commercial vehicles

**INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY**

Concraft, Inc. is seeking Special Land Use Permit approval to allow for the outside and overnight storage of up to fourteen (14) commercial vehicles on the property located at 4225 N. Atlantic Boulevard. The vehicles will be screened from view of the roadway by the company's 34,961-square-foot building. The parcel is 2.01 acres and zoned I-1, Light Industrial District.

Established in 1986, Concraft, Inc. is a property restoration company for homeowners and business owners throughout Southeast Michigan. They specialize in providing 24/7 emergency response for their customers, including securing buildings after damage from floods, storms, vehicles, and fire.



*Proposed location of the outside storage area for commercial vehicles*

**KEY ISSUE****Overnight Storage of Vehicles**

Concraft, Inc. previously received similar Special Land Use Permits in 2005 and 2022 for the outdoor storage of commercial vehicles at their former location at 1171 Centre Road. The company moved to 4225 N. Atlantic Boulevard in early 2024.



*Photographs of the type of vehicles to be stored outside and overnight*

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Please be advised that the City's Administrative Review Team has reviewed this project and has received a recommendation for approval.

We recommend Approval of the Special Land Use Permit request to allow for the outside and overnight parking of up to fourteen (14) commercial vehicles and offer the following discretionary findings of fact:

1. The location of the use will not negatively impact adjacent areas, which are zoned non-residential.
2. The land will be used in accordance with its immediate character, which is planned and zoned for non-residential development.
3. The requirements of Section 1818 in the City's Zoning Ordinance will be met.
4. The use will promote the purpose and intent of the City's Zoning Ordinance.
5. The use will be consistent with the health, safety, and general welfare of the City of Auburn Hills, and the purpose and intent of the City's Zoning Ordinance.
6. The intent of Section 1807, Item 3 in the City's Zoning Ordinance will be met.
7. Sufficient parking is provided on the site for the proposed use, including the outside storage of vehicles.

**PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

Recommended Approval on February 4, 2026 (8-0 vote)

**MOTION**

Move to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation and approve the Special Land Use Permit for Concraft, Inc. to allow for the outside and overnight storage of fourteen (14) commercial vehicles at 4225 N. Atlantic Boulevard, subject to the representations made by the company and the conditions of the City's Administrative Review Team. This permit is non-transferable and shall expire if Concraft, Inc. vacates or ceases operations on the property.

I CONCUR:

*Thomas A. Tanghe*

THOMAS A. TANGHE, CITY MANAGER



CITY OF AUBURN HILLS  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
**NOT YET APPROVED - EXCERPT**

February 4, 2026

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Beidoun called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: **Carolyn Shearer, Darlene MacMillan, Jack Ferguson, Raymond Saelens, Dominick Tringali, Cynthia Pavlich, Dominic Patrus, Sam Beidoun**  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Director of Community Development Steve Cohen, Assistant Director of Community Development Devin Lang  
Guests: Two

**LOCATION:** Council Chambers, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

## 5. PETITIONERS

Chairperson Beidoun shared the public hearing procedure and the steps the Commission will follow.

### 5a. Concraft, Inc. (7:03 p.m.)

**Public Hearing/Motion – Recommendation to City Council for Special Land Use Permit approval to allow for the outside and overnight storage of commercial vehicles.**

Mr. Beidoun opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Cohen confirmed that the hearing documents are in order and that no communications had been received regarding the petition.

Mr. Cohen stated that this is a request from Concraft, Inc. for a Special Land Use Permit to allow for the outside and overnight storage of up to fourteen (14) commercial vehicles on the property located at 4225 N. Atlantic Blvd. The vehicles will be screened from view of the roadway by the company's 34,961-square-foot building. The parcel is 2.01 acres and zoned I-1, Light Industrial.

Concraft, Inc. is a property restoration company for homeowners and business owners throughout southeast Michigan. They provide 24/7 emergency response for their customers, including securing buildings after damage from floods, storms, vehicles and fire. They previously received similar Special Land Use permits in 2005 and 2022 for the outdoor storage of commercial vehicles at their former location at 1171 Centre Road. The company moved to 4225 N. Atlantic Blvd. in early 2024.

**Nick Crimando, Concraft, Inc., 4225 N. Atlantic Blvd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326** was available to answer any questions of the Commission.

The Commission asked about the following:

1. The size of the building;
2. Whether the vehicles could be stored in the building;
3. Type of restoration activities;
4. Whether items are wrapped;
5. How many customers there are at any one time;
6. The number of vehicles currently stored outside;
7. Compliance history at the previous site;
8. The size of the crates;
9. Are the vehicles stored outside empty.

Mr. Crimando explained that the building is approximately 35,000 square feet. The contents are stored in 10'x10' or 9'x13' crates, which are not easy to move around. Parking the vehicles inside would not leave room for the storage crates. Mr. Crimando also explained that there is a room dedicated for restoration of the contents of the crates. That room is approximately 20'x25' and is used to work on the contents. The odd-shaped items (i.e. couches,

chairs, etc.) are wrapped to protect them. Concraft handles approximately 1,000 customers per year, and the number at any one time varies. There were twelve (12) vehicles stored outside under the 2022 agreement. The number of vehicles has increased over the span of the previous two agreements. In 2002, there were four (4) vehicles stored outside. The company has been very successful. Mr. Crimando confirmed that the trucks stored outside are empty.

Mr. Cohen stated that Concraft has a good track record with the City. Any issues Code Enforcement has observed over the years have been addressed promptly.

There being no public comments, Mr. Beidoun closed the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

**Moved by Ferguson to recommend to City Council the approval of the Special Land Use Permit for Concraft, Inc., to allow for the outside and overnight storage of fourteen (14) commercial vehicles at 4115 N. Atlantic Blvd., subject to the representations made by the company and the conditions of the City's Administrative Review Team. This permit is non-transferable and shall expire if Concraft, Inc. vacates or ceases operations on the property.**

**Second by Saelens.**

**VOTE:**

**Yes: Pavlich, Saelens, MacMillan, Shearer, Patrus, Tringali, Ferguson, Beidoun**

**No: None**

**Motion Carried (8-0)**



# Development Application



Project Name: Concraft Inc.

General Project Location: 4225 N. Atlantic Blvd.

Parcel Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Zoning: \_\_\_\_\_

Sidwell Number(s): 02-14-04-201-001

Project Description: Concraft overnight outdoor parking

Building Size (sq. ft.): \_\_\_\_\_

**City Use Only**

Address: 4225 N Atlantic Blvd.

Date Received: 09/25/25

Fees Paid: \$1500

SP #: \_\_\_\_\_

SLU #(s): 250004

LD/LE/SUB #: \_\_\_\_\_

RZ #: \_\_\_\_\_

PUD #: \_\_\_\_\_

ZBA #: \_\_\_\_\_

PTR #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check requested review(s)**

- Site Plan
- Tree Removal Permit
- Special Land Use Permit(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- Land Division
- Land Exchange
- Subdivision
- Planned Unit Development - Step 1/Step 2/Combined
- Rezoning \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- ZBA Variance or Interpretation (see supplemental application)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant

Name: Concraft <sup>Mary Ann</sup> Crimando Signature: Mary Ann Crimando

Business Name and Address: Concraft Inc. 4225 N. Atlantic Blvd.

City: Auburn Hills State: MI Zip Code: 48326 Phone Number: 248-276-9400

Fax Number: 248-276-9444 Alt. Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner(s)

Name: Mary Ann Crimando Signature: Mary Ann Crimando

Business Name and Address: AMC Five K LLC 61510 Huntington Cir E

City: Washington State: MI Zip Code: 48094 Phone Number: 248-276-9400

(Provide additional sheet if necessary for multiple property owners)

Please contact the City of Auburn Hills Community Development Department,  
1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326 / Phone: 248-364-6900 Fax: 248-364-6939  
www.auburnhills.org

LSHINO@CONCRAFT.COM  
NCRIMANDO@CONCRAFT.COM



September 22, 2025

City of Auburn Hills  
1827 N. Squirrel Road  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

ATTN: Jeffrey Spencer  
Building Official

RE: Special Land Use Permit Application  
Parcel #02-14-04-200-032

Dear Mr. Spencer:

Concraft Inc. is requesting Special Land Use approval to allow for outdoor parking overnight for fourteen (14) commercial vehicles on the property located at 4225 North Atlantic Boulevard.

Concraft is a restoration company that responds 24/7 to emergency situations. It is necessary to have vehicles readily available to handle 24/7 emergency situations. Our company responds to secure buildings after damage from flood, storm, vehicle and fire. These vehicles will be parked on the rear (west) side of the building. The parking lot is lit, in addition to surveillance cameras that monitor the area. The vehicles would include Concraft lettered vehicles: 12 Vans/Transit Vans, one box truck and one Stake Truck.

Please see the attached site plan of our property.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Crimando  
President

attachment

4225 N. Atlantic Blvd. – Auburn Hills, MI 48326

248.276.9400

1.888.290.2121

248.276.9444 fax

[www.concraft.com](http://www.concraft.com)





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# Concraft Celebrates Ribbon Cutting

June 27, 2024

On Wednesday, June 26th, the Concraft team celebrated a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their new office and expanded facilities at 4225 N. Atlantic Blvd. Since 1986, Concraft has been a trusted partner in restorations, renovations, and remodels. Concraft services Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, Lapeer, Livingston, and Washtenaw Counties, and responds to emergency calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Specializing in full-service restoration services for properties damaged by fire, flood, mold, hail, and storms, Concraft has earned a reputation for meticulous craftsmanship, responsiveness, and good communication. Their expertise spans from small residential repairs to large-scale commercial renovations, including hotels and corporate buildings. Concraft also provides biohazard clean up for crime scenes, trauma incidents, and other biohazard events.

In addition to their exemplary service record, Concraft has been recognized by the Construction Association of Michigan for fostering a positive safety culture for a company with 50 or more employees.

For more information about Concraft and their services, visit their website at [concraft.com](http://concraft.com).

The City of Auburn Hills is excited to welcome Concraft to the community and wishes them all the best.

Lisa Passalacqua, Community Engagement Manager

## Departments

- [Auburn Hills Historical Society](#)
- [Brownfield Redevelopment Authority](#)
- [Building Services](#)
- [Business Development](#)
- [City Clerk](#)
- [City Council](#)
- [City Manager's Office](#)
- [City Planning](#)
- [Code Enforcement](#)
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- [Community Development](#)
- [Community Relations](#)
- [Department of Public Works](#)
- [Downtown](#)
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**CITY OF AUBURN HILLS**  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES - EXCERPT

FEBRUARY 21, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor McDaniel at 7:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Council Chamber, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills MI

Present: Mayor McDaniel, Council Members Carrier, Hawkins, Kittle, Knight, Marzolf and Verbeke

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Assistant City Manager Skopek, City Attorney Beckerleg, City Clerk Pierce, Police Chief Baker, Deputy Police Chief Gagnon, Fire Chief Taylor, Assistant Fire Chief Robinson, City Planner Keenan, DPW Director Melchert, Mgr of Municipal Properties Baldante, Mgr of Roads and Fleet Hefner, HR Manager Parpart, Senior Services Director Adcock, Senior Program Coordinator Beckett, Recreation Director Hegdal, City Engineers Juidici and Cousino, Management Asst Hagge

80 Guests

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

9e. Motion – To approve a Special Land Use Permit to allow for the outside and overnight storage of commercial vehicles / Concraft

Mr. Keenan presented the Special Land Use Permit to allow Concraft to store up to twelve commercial vehicles outside and overnight at 1171 Center Road. Concraft has the need to store on ten vans, one box truck, and one stake truck. The type of vehicles is limited to the company branded transit vans, box truck and stake truck. The vehicles will be stored in the twelve existing parking spaces behind the building with nine spaces next to the existing six-foot four inch screened wall and three spaces close to the building. This location was found to be ideal due to the stored vehicles will be screened from Center Road by the building. The SLUP was approved for Concraft in 2005 to allow the storage and overnight vehicles of four vehicles. Concraft has experienced growth in their business which necessitates this request. This permit will be for one year with annual renewal by Planning Commission and City Council for compliance. Concraft may seek annual extension directly from City Council via application with Community Development.

Mr. Athony Crimando was present.

Mr. Keenan shared that the City has patrolled the Center Court area for compliance and found some businesses that were out of compliance and these actions are bringing them into compliance.

**Moved by Kittle, Seconded by Carrier.**

**RESOLVED:** To accept the Planning Commission's recommendation and approve a one (1) year Special Land Use Permit to allow for the outside and overnight storage of twelve (12) commercial vehicles subject to the representations made by Concraft and the conditions of the City's Administrative Review Team. Concraft may seek annual extensions directly from the City Council

via an application with the Community Development Department. The City Council may grant annual extensions, provided it finds the company has complied with the conditions of the Special Land Use Permit. This permit is a revision to the Special Land Use Permit previously approved by the Auburn Hills City Council on December 19, 2005.

**VOTE: Yes: Carrier, Hawkins, Kittle, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 22.02.37**

**Motion Carried (6 - 0)**



CITY OF AUBURN HILLS  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
MINUTES - EXCERPT

February 9, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Ouellette called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Sam Beidoun, Brian Marzolf, Bob Pierce, Carlene Pederson, Carolyn Shearer, Chauncey Hitchcock, Ray Saelens, Greg Ouellette  
Absent: Laura Ochs  
Also Present: City Planner Keenan  
Guests: 4

**LOCATION:** City Council Chamber, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

## 5. PETITIONERS

### 5c. Concraft (7:19 p.m.)

#### **Public Hearing/Motion – Recommendation to City Council for Special Land Use Permit approval to allow for the outside and overnight storage of commercial vehicles.**

Mr. Keenan explained that Concraft is seeking Special Land Use Permit approval to allow for the outside and overnight storage of up to twelve (12) commercial vehicles on the property located at 1171 Centre Road. The 17,973 square foot building is located on the 1.25-acre parcel that is zoned I-1, Light Industrial District.

At this time Concraft has the need to store ten (10) vans, one (1) box truck, and one (1) stake truck. The type of vehicles stored by Concraft will be limited to company-branded vans/transit vans, box trucks, and stake trucks. The storage of trailers, equipment, or any other type of commercial/construction vehicles and equipment will be prohibited.

The vehicles will be stored in the twelve (12) existing parking spaces located behind the building, with nine (9) spaces located next to the existing 6'-4" tall screen wall and three (3) spaces close to the building. This location was found to be ideal because the stored vehicles will be screened from Centre Road by the building.

A Special Land Use Permit was approved for Concraft in 2005 to allow for the outdoor and overnight parking of four (4) work vehicles. Concraft has experienced growth in their business since their initial Special Land Use Permit approval that necessitates their request to store an additional eight (8) work vehicles on site for a total of twelve (12) vehicles.

Staff recommends the approval of a one-year Special Land Use Permit for Concraft, to allow the Planning Commission and City Council the opportunity to follow up and monitor the company's compliance with the SLU permit conditions. Concraft may seek annual extensions directly from the City Council via an application with the Community Development Department. The City Council may grant annual extensions, provided it finds the company has complied with the conditions of the Special Land Use.

**Anthony Crimando, Concraft, Inc., 1171 Centre Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326** was available to answer any questions of the Commission.

Mr. Ouellette asked what type of business Concraft is. Mr. Crimando explained that it's a twenty-four-hour emergency services restoration company for incidents such as fire, water, storm, etc.

Mr. Saelens asked if anything will be stored in the vans. Mr. Crimando stated that the vans will be empty.

Mr. Hitchcock congratulated Mr. Crimando on the company's thirty-six years in business.

Mr. Ouellette opened the public hearing at 7:23 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mr. Ouellette closed the public hearing at 7:23 p.m.

**Moved by Hitchcock to recommend to City Council the approval of a one (1) year Special Land Use Permit for Concraft, to allow for the outside and overnight storage of twelve (12) commercial vehicles subject to the representations made by Concraft and the conditions of the City’s Administrative Review Team. Concraft may seek annual extensions directly from the City Council via an application with the Community Development Department. The City Council may grant annual extensions, provided it finds the company has complied with the conditions of the Special Land Use Permit. This permit is a revision to the Special Land Use Permit previously approved by the Auburn Hills City Council on December 19, 2005.**

**Second by Shearer.**

**VOTE: Yes: Hitchcock, Shearer, Pederson, Pierce, Marzolf, Beidoun, Ouellette**

**No: Saelens**

**Motion Carried (7-1)**

*EXCERPT*  
*The City of Auburn Hills*  
Regular City Council Meeting

December 19, 2005

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**CALL TO ORDER:** by Mayor Edwards at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**LOCATION:** City Council Chambers, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills MI 48326

**ROLL CALL:** Present. Mayor Edwards, Mayor Pro Tem Pillsbury (6:24 p.m.), Council Members Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDonald, Newkirk

Absent. None

Also Present. City Manager Randall, Assistant City Manager Tanghe, City Clerk Shannon, Community Development Department Director McBroom, DPW Director Culpepper, City Treasurer Valko, Golf Professional Marmion, Police Chief Olko, Finance Director Barnes, Recreation Director Marzolf, Senior Director Adcock, Information Technologies Director Leix, Tax Increment Finance Authority Chair Bennett, City Attorney Beckerleg, City Engineer Westmoreland  
24 Guests

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**10a. Motion – Approval of Special Land Use Permit for Concraft, Inc - Outside Storage of Vehicles**

Speaking for Concraft, Inc., **Mr. Tony Crimando**, AMC Development, assured Council that vehicles will only be stored behind the building and only overnight and on weekends. Responding to questions, Mr. Crimando stated that the storage area is not fenced, but the area is lit and surveillance cameras are in place.

**Moved by Mr. Newkirk to approve the special land use permit for Concraft, Inc. Approval will allow the outdoor storage of vehicles overnight (not to exceed 4 vehicles) on a site zoned I-1, Light Industrial District. The property is located at 1171 Centre Road.**

**Supported by Mr. Pillsbury.**

**VOTE: Yes: Edwards, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDonald, Newkirk, Pillsbury**

**No: None**

**RESOLUTION NO. 05.12.222**

**Motion carried (7-0)**

**EXCERPT**  
**CITY OF AUBURN HILLS**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**

**December 1, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Hurt-Mendyka called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present. Beidoun, Hurt-Mendyka, Hitchcock, Ouellette, Pierce, Verbeke  
Absent. Doyle  
Also Present. City Planner Cohen  
Guests. 1

**LOCATION:** City Council Chambers, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

**PERSON WISHING TO BE HEARD** – none

**PETITIONERS –**

**Concraft, Inc- Public Hearing**

(Sidwell No. 14-23-151-038)

Ms. Hurt-Mendyka presented the request for approval of a special land use permit to allow the outside storage of vehicles on a site zoned I-1, Light Industrial district. The property is located at 1171 Centre Road.

There was one communication received regarding the special land use request dated November 29, 2005:

*Subject: SLU-13, Concraft, Inc.*

*Dear Mr. Cohen:*

*Please be advised that the Auburn Centre Industrial Park Association has not objections to the petitioner's request to park its trucks on the subject property as long as they are behind the building and screened from the street.*

*We welcome this Company to our Industrial Park.*

*David G. Miles*

*President*

*Auburn Centre Industrial Park Association*

Mr. Cohen noted:

- Concraft, Inc. request permission to park up to four (4) vehicles for overnight storage in the back of the property.
- The vehicles will be parked in designated parking spots behind the bulding.
- This permit will allow the business to occupy an existing vacant building.
- The vehicles can not be seen from Centre Road.

Ms. Hurt-Mendyka moved to open and close the public hearing at 7:07 p.m. since there were no comments from the audience.

**Ms. Verbeke moved to recommend to City Council approval of the special land use permit for Concraft, Inc. Approval will allow the outdoor storage of vehicles overnight (not to exceed 4 vehicles) on a site zoned I-1, Light Industrial District. The property is located at 1171 Centre Road. Supported by Mr. Beidoun.**

**VOTE: Yes: Beidoun, Hitchcock, Hurt-Mendyka, Ouellette, Pierce, Verbeke  
No: None**

**Motion Carried (6-0)**

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF HEARING  
FOR THE COMMUNICATIONS CUSTOMERS OF  
CASE NO. U-22006**

FEB 2026 PM 2:22

- Comcast Corporation has been directed to show cause why it should not be found in violation of 2013 PA 174, the MISS DIG Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act, MCL 460.721 et seq.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write Sean P. Gallagher, Fraser Trebilcock Davis & Dunlap, PC, 124 W. Allegan St., Ste. 1000, Lansing, MI 48933, for a free copy of Michigan Public Service Commission's January 15, 2026 Order. Any person may review the Commission's January 15, 2026 Order at the offices of or on the Commission's website at: <https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/> under Case No. U-22006.
- A pre-hearing will be held:

**DATE/TIME:** Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 9:00 AM

**BEFORE:** Administrative Law Judge James M. Varchetti

**LOCATION:** Video/Teleconference

**PARTICIPATION:** Any interested person may participate. Persons needing any assistance to participate or who are seeking access to the video/teleconference should contact the Administrative Law Judge's secretary at (517) 284-8130 or by email at [LARA-MOHR-PSC@michigan.gov](mailto:LARA-MOHR-PSC@michigan.gov) in advance of the hearing.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a pre-hearing to allow Comcast Corporation (Comcast) to show cause why it should not be found in violation of Act 174 of 2013 (Act 174), the MISS DIG Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act, MCL 460.721 et seq., which requires facility owners or operators, after proper notice, to respond to a dig ticket by the start date and time for the excavation by marking their facilities in the area of the proposed excavation or blasting. MCL 460.727(1). The marking by the facility owner or operator must be done in a manner that permits the excavator to employ soft excavation to establish the precise location of the facilities. Comcast Corporation shall file its response to the allegations to show cause accompanied by prefiled testimony and supporting documentation by **5:00 p.m. (Eastern time) on February 5, 2026**. Comcast's response shall be accompanied by prefiled direct testimony, exhibits, work papers, and affidavits supporting the veracity of its response prepared by a person or persons with actual knowledge of the circumstances. The Commission reserves jurisdiction and may issue further orders as necessary.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: <https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/>. Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: [LARA-MPSC-edockets@michigan.gov](mailto:LARA-MPSC-edockets@michigan.gov). If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: [LARA-MPSC-edockets@michigan.gov](mailto:LARA-MPSC-edockets@michigan.gov).

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by February 10, 2026. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Comcast Corporation's attorney, Sean P. Gallagher, 124 W. Allegan St., Ste. 1000, Lansing, MI 48933.

The prehearing is scheduled to be held remotely by video conference or teleconference. Persons filing a petition to intervene will be advised of the process for participating in the hearing.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of their wish to make a statement of position. Mich Admin Code, R 792.10413 (Rule 413).

Any person wishing to file a public comment may do so by filing a written statement in this docket. The written statement may be mailed or emailed and should reference Case No. **U-22006**. Statements may be emailed to: [LARA-MPSC-edockets@michigan.gov](mailto:LARA-MPSC-edockets@michigan.gov). Statements may be mailed to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917.

All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Executive Secretary at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules R 792.10422 and R 792.10432. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1991 PA 179, as amended, MCL 484.2101 et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; and Parts 1 & 4 of the Administrative Hearing Rules of the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules, Mich. Admin Code, R 792.10106(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7); R 792.10121; and R 792.10401 through R 792.10448.

U-22006

**R 792.10422      Adjournments.**

Rule 422

- (1) Unless the presiding officer allows otherwise, a request for adjournment shall be by motion or stipulation made orally at a hearing or in writing and shall be based on good cause.
- (2) A motion or stipulation for adjournment shall state the party who is requesting the adjournment and the reason for the adjournment.
- (3) An adjournment may be granted for good cause and shall be in writing or on the record.
- (4) In granting an adjournment, the presiding officer, administrative law manager assigned by the hearing system to the commission, or commission may impose reasonable conditions.

**R 792.10432      Motion practice.**

Rule 432

- (1) In a pending proceeding, a request to the commission or presiding officer for a ruling or order, other than a final order, shall be by motion. Unless made during a hearing, a motion shall be in compliance with all of the following provisions:
  - (a) Be in writing.
  - (b) State with particularity the grounds and authority on which the motion is based. (c) State the relief or order sought.
  - (d) Be signed by the party or the party's attorney.
- (2) Unless a different time is set by the commission or presiding officer or unless the motion is one that may be heard ex parte, a written motion, notice of the hearing on the motion, and any supporting brief or affidavits shall be served as follows:
  - (a) Not less than 9 days before the hearing, if served electronically or by mail.
  - (b) Not less than 7 days before the hearing, if served electronically or by delivery to the attorney or party under Michigan court rule 2.107(c)(1) or (2).
- (3) Unless a different time is set by the commission or presiding officer, any response to a motion, including a brief or an affidavit, shall be served as follows:
  - (a) Not less than 5 days before the hearing, if served electronically or by mail.
  - (b) Not less than 3 days before the hearing, if served electronically or by delivery to the attorney or party under Michigan court rule 2.107(c)(1) or (2).
- (4) Motions shall be noticed for hearing at the time designated by the commission or presiding officer.
- (5) When a motion is based on facts not appearing on the record, the commission or presiding officer may hear the motion on affidavits presented by the parties or may direct that the motion be heard wholly or partly as oral testimony or deposition.
- (6) The commission or presiding officer may limit oral arguments on motions and may require the parties to file briefs in support of, and in opposition to, a motion. The commission may dispense with oral argument on matters brought before the commission.

# Cops nab Waterford man accused of robbing Great Lakes Crossing stores at knifepoint



file photo (Aileen Wingblad/MediaNews Group)

By Aileen Wingblad | [awingblad@medianewsgroup.com](mailto:awingblad@medianewsgroup.com) | The Oakland Press  
PUBLISHED: January 30, 2026 at 12:57 PM EST | UPDATED: January 30, 2026 at 1:00 PM EST

A Waterford Township man is facing multiple felony charges for allegedly robbing two stores at knifepoint at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets on Tuesday, allegedly threatening police officers when they confronted him and then fleeing in his car.

Ryan David Kissel, 29, is charged with two counts of armed robbery, felonious assault, fleeing/eluding police-third degree, and two counts of assaulting/resisting/obstructing police in connection with the Jan. 27 incident.



Ryan Kissel booking photo

According to the Auburn Hills Police Department, officers responded to the mall, located at 4000 Baldwin Road, at around 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 27 after receiving 911 calls about a man armed with a knife who had robbed two stores. Kissel reportedly threatened officers who approached him the parking lot, then got into his car and drove away.

As stated in a news release from the police department, "Officers pursued the suspect until it was deemed too dangerous to continue, and the pursuit was terminated." A "Be On the Lookout" alert was sent out to area police agencies as an investigation continued, police said.

No injuries were reported in the alleged robberies, police said.

At approximately 9:30 p.m., on Jan. 27, Kissel was taken into custody at his home in Waterford. Charges were issued the next day. At Kissel's arraignment on Jan. 29 in 52-3 District Court, Magistrate Marie Soma set bond at \$250,000 with no 10% provision. If he posts bond, and is released from the Oakland County Jail, Kissel is to be monitored by electronic tether and prohibited from returning to Great Lakes Crossing Outlets.

Kissel's next court appearance is scheduled for Feb. 12 for a probable cause conference followed by a preliminary exam a week later. Armed robbery is punishable by up to life in prison.

In the news release, the Auburn Hills Police Department acknowledged assistance from the mall's security staff and the Waterford Police Department for "outstanding cooperation and professionalism."

"Their timely communication, coordinated response and investigative assistance were instrumental in the safe identification and apprehension of the suspect. This incident highlights the importance of strong partnerships between private security and law enforcement agencies in protecting our community," the news release stated.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or has additional information about it is asked to call the Auburn Hills Police Department at 248-370-9460.

# Michigan Strategic Fund board OKs incentives to keep VW in Michigan



Volkswagen logo. (MNG file)

By Detroit News

PUBLISHED: January 28, 2026 at 10:41 PM EST

By Candice Williams, cwilliams@detroitnews.com

The Michigan Strategic Fund Board on Tuesday approved incentives to support Volkswagen Group of America Inc.'s plan to retain hundreds of jobs in Oakland County as the company downsizes its Michigan footprint.

The fund board approved a \$4.09 million performance-based grant through the Michigan Business Development Program to support the project. It is expected to retain 909 jobs and generate at least \$13 million in capital investment in Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills, officials said.

The project involves downsizing and modernizing Volkswagen's operations in Michigan. The company said it plans to relocate its office and administrative functions from its outdated 360,000-square-foot Auburn Hills facility to a smaller 99,000-square-foot site on Opdyke Road. The company also plans to consolidate its technical operations, including engineering, quality and warranty services, at its Audi Training Center in Rochester Hills.

"Our goal really is to modernize it, to right-size our Auburn Hills footprint," Kjell Gruner, CEO of Volkswagen Group of America, said during the meeting. "We want really facilities that match today's ways of working and tomorrow's technology needs. We moved in 1991... So many things have changed, and we want to be ready for the future. So our goal is improve utilization, reduce fixed costs, while keeping our capabilities anchored in Michigan. And there's a practical plan that builds on what already works today and what positions us for the future."

According to a Michigan Economic Development Corporation memo, the incentive was needed to help Michigan compete with alternative locations under consideration, including Volkswagen facilities in Reston, Virginia, and Chattanooga, Tennessee.

"The Company has been asked by Volkswagen AG to evaluate the possibility of closing down the facility in Michigan and moving to Chattanooga and Reston," the briefing memo read. "The aim of this project is to maintain the footprint in Auburn Hills for both administrative tasks, but also technical activities, whilst optimizing the space and running costs."

The retained positions pay base wages above \$33 per hour, with many professional roles paying more than \$50 per hour.

Volkswagen Group of America, a subsidiary of Volkswagen AG, employs about 10,000 people nationwide, including the 909 jobs in Michigan covered under the incentive.

"Why also Michigan?" Gruner said. "It's very clear. It's the people there, it's the technology, it's the universities, it's the research. It is the entire ecosystem in Michigan what makes it so attractive for us. And, of course, also the strong economy making this a very important hub for our people and for our business. And to keep the jobs, the know-how, and also the community engagement in Auburn Hills, in Michigan matters, of course, to our teams, but also to us as a company."

The Michigan Strategic Fund Board also approved \$2.7 million to continue supporting the Michigan Central Innovation District, building on a 2022 investment. Over the next 18 months, the funding will integrate TechTown Detroit as the small business partner helping startups with commercialization and job creation.

# New OU program aims to fill need for social workers

## Eight universities now offer program



Oakland University joins Ferris State and Eastern Michigan this year as universities joining the Title IV-E program. (Stephen Frye / MediaNews Group)

By Matthew Fahr | mfahr@medianewsgroup.com | The Oakland Press

PUBLISHED: February 5, 2026 at 11:49 AM EST

Oakland University has joined seven other universities around the state in offering a unique opportunity for students to pursue a career in social work.

Last fall OU began participating in the Michigan Title IV-E Child Welfare Fellowship — a statewide initiative designed to recruit, educate and retain future leaders in child welfare.

The fellowship, which is federally funded and dispersed individually to states, provides additional resources and support to students pursuing careers in Michigan’s child welfare system, including Children’s Protective Services, foster care, licensing and adoption.

The program began in the state in 2024 at Wayne State, University of Michigan, Michigan State, Western Michigan and Central Michigan and this year OU, Eastern Michigan and Ferris State joined.

“Historically states around the country have been using Title IV-E this way to train future child welfare workers and only recently Michigan began using Title IV-E funding this way,” said Maria Beam, director of Social Work and coordinator of Title IV-E at Oakland University.

It combines specialized coursework with practicum education and requires fellows to seek employment in public, private or tribal child welfare agencies in the state after graduation.

Students are committed to work four months in the child welfare system in the state for every semester completed with fellowship funding.

Oakland is set to receive \$273,000, with most funds directed to student stipends as well as grant management and the development of child welfare training and curriculum.



Dr. Beam is responsible for the management, accreditation, and oversight of the Social Work Program and is also a licensed clinical and macro social worker in the State of Michigan. photo courtesy OU

The program has already supported six OU students — four Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) students and two Master of Social Work (MSW) students — with plans to expand participation in the 2026–2027 academic year.

“The big problem is being able to retain individuals to work in the public sector and even with private child protective welfare agencies the attrition rate is high, so part of the training program is to be very intentional in the preparation so that these students know exactly what they are getting into,” Beam said. “They are going to have training alongside people that work in child welfare, while simultaneously completing their degree.”

The program provides stipends to social work students who commit to working in under-resourced communities across the state.

“It prepares them for understanding the enormity of the position, the responsibility of the position and the challenges that people who are encountering the child welfare system face and how to navigate all of that,” said Beam. “With everything they go through while getting their degree, they will enter the workforce feeling confident and comfortable with what they will be doing.”

Social work is a field of need in the state.

A survey by the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan found average vacancy rates for mental health employers at 19%, with direct care worker positions seeing 27% vacancies and demand for social workers is expected to grow by 6 % by 2032.

To address this, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) launched the Title IV-E program and increased funding for the program this year from \$1.7 million to \$4.5 million.

“It is because of the intentional training. It is because of the robust curriculum. It is because of our values in social work that make the best child welfare workers,” said Beam. “This program has the best training for the profession.”

Currently, 82 students are enrolled in the program statewide. Since its launch, 25 students have graduated, with 19 now employed by MDHHS.

“This program has already resulted in 25 graduates who have committed to protecting children and supporting families as part of Michigan’s child welfare workforce,” said MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel. “It helps support social work students financially as they prepare to enter the workforce and is critical to recruiting and retaining dedicated professionals.”

Eligible students may receive \$5,000 per semester at the bachelors level and \$8,000 per semester at the masters level while completing required coursework and field placements.

“We have already seen a lot of interest in this here on campus and students have already begun filling out applications for next year,” said Beam. “It is a great example of how institutions of higher education can partner with the government or partner with the non-profit sector and make these connections that help throughout the state.”

## Two sought after man stabbed on Oakland University campus



File photo. (Stephen Frye / MediaNews Group)

By Aileen Wingblad | [awingblad@medianewsgroup.com](mailto:awingblad@medianewsgroup.com) | The Oakland Press

PUBLISHED: February 6, 2026 at 9:01 AM EST | UPDATED: February 6, 2026 at 9:28 AM EST

Police are investigating a stabbing on the campus of Oakland University on Thursday night and are searching for two suspects who fled the scene after the assault.

According to OU Police Chief Mark Gordon, the male victim — who is not a student — was stabbed multiple times outside Van Wagoner Hall and was subsequently let inside by an unidentified person. Police responded to the scene at around 8:15 p.m. after receiving multiple 911 calls about a fight in progress, Gordon said.

First responders transported the victim to McLaren Oakland Hospital where he was prepped for surgery, Gordon said.

Prior to police arriving, the two suspects fled in a dark-colored SUV and remained at-large as of Friday morning. Gordon said witnesses described the suspects as black men in their early 20s. One suspect had chin-length dreadlocks, is 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 10 inches tall, and was wearing a black North Face jacket, black pants and white shoes with blue on the back at the time. The other suspect had short curly hair and was wearing a camouflage jacket with a black hood, black pants and black shoes at the time.

The campus was put on lockdown following the assault but was reopened Friday morning.

Gordon said it wasn't clear why the victim was on campus but may have been there to visit a student.

Anyone with further information on the incident is asked to contact the Oakland University Police Department at 248-370-3331.

Additional details will be reported by The Oakland Press as they become available.