



Auburn Police Department



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LOCAL BUSINESS RECEIVES COIN AND THANKS

Detective Chad Syphers recently presented Republic Jewelry (Center Street) with an Auburn Police Department “Challenge Coin.” The coin, presented to owner Dan Cunliffe II, was given in recognition of Republic’s efforts to help reduce property crime in Auburn.

The Department has a community recognition program in which officers and staff are encouraged to present one of the agency’s commemorative coins to a citizen who they feel has gone ‘above and beyond’ in service to the community. The officers explain to the Chief why they presented their coin, and are given a replacement to continue the recognition. The citizen receives a letter of thanks from the Chief.

“This is the first coin we have presented to a business,” said Crowell. “Republic is a large buyer of jewelry and coins, and they are often our first line of defense in locating stolen items.” Republic Jewelry works closely with APD officers and detectives, and their team has assisted in recovering numerous items over the years, allowing them to be returned to their rightful owners.

“It’s clear that Republic goes out of their way to assist law enforcement in the recovery of stolen property and apprehension of criminal offenders,” said Detective Syphers.

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Photo: Police Chief Phil Crowell with Dan Cunliffe II of Republic Jewelry

*A **challenge coin** is a small coin or medallion (usually military or law enforcement), bearing an organization’s insignia or emblem and carried by the organization’s members. Traditionally, they are given to prove membership when challenged and to enhance morale. In practice, challenge coins are normally presented by unit commanders in recognition of special achievement by a member of the unit. In World War I, a wealthy lieutenant had custom challenge coins minted for all those in his unit to commemorate their loyalty to the ongoing war effort. Narrowly escaping the Germans, one pilot in this unit produced his personal challenge coin to French soldiers and had his life spared. That inspired the other members in this pilot’s unit to carry their military challenge coins with them at all times.*

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