

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ray Roschmann  
Phone: (949) 854-4793  
Email: [rayroschmann@cox.net](mailto:rayroschmann@cox.net)

## Mayor of Irvine Wastes Money While City Faces Deficit Uncalled for \$59,476.20 Paid for OC Registrar Petition Validation

Irvine, CA ( May 7, 2020) — In an extraordinary move, Mayor Christina Shea, as quoted in the Orange County Register on March 23, 2020, demanded the most extensive and costly approach for the validation of an initiative petition to rezone the original ARDA Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery site exclusively for cemetery usage. She asked to have “*every signature reviewed.*” This request ultimately cost the City of Irvine \$59,476.20. The petition was validated by a large margin.

The Orange County Registrar of Voters Initiative/Referendum Handbook clearly calls out a random sampling procedure as a normal first step. This first step is designed to reduce cost and staff time, an especially critical consideration in today’s novel coronavirus environment.

Christina Shea’s demand further burdened a city, already facing a \$22 million, or more, budget deficit, as reported by Alicia Robinson in the Orange County Register, on April 20, 2020. Shea’s demand is also seemingly in direct conflict with a staff report presented to the Irvine City Council on April 28, 2020, suggesting a core spending principal, “*disallowing nonessential expenses ...that are not already approved.*”

An all-volunteer citizens’ group collected 19,790 signatures, needing only 12,888 to qualify the initiative, during a petition drive that ended March 17, 2020. Tom Chomyn, who led the signature-collection effort, stated “*This is redemption for the citizens of Irvine*” who voted down Measure B in June 2018 by a margin of 63% to 37%. In that election, Irvine voters proclaimed that the original ARDA site was the preferred site versus a land-swap proposed between the City Council and FivePoint Holdings.

The Irvine City Council is now scheduled to act upon the citizens’ initiative at the May 12, 2020 meeting. They can decide to adopt the measure or put it on the November 3, 2020 ballot. Or, they can vote to waste more time and taxpayer money by ordering more staff reviews.

Ray Roschmann is a volunteer press liaison, writing on behalf of the Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery committee. The campaign website is <https://buildtheveteranscemetery.org/>

If you would like more information, videos or photos on this topic, please contact Ray Roschmann. Call or text Ray at (949) 854-4793, or email him at [rayroschmann@cox.net](mailto:rayroschmann@cox.net)