



Publisher's Perspective

And Now There Are Four... Khan, Agran, Kim & Johnson-Norris

In the critically important “down-ballot” City election on Nov. 3rd, *Irvine Community News & Views (ICNV)* recommends and endorses: **Farrah Khan** for Mayor, and **Larry Agran, Tammy Kim, and Lauren Johnson-Norris** for Irvine City Council. (You have 3 votes for City Council.)

→ Our *ICNV* endorsements are based on two criteria that each of these candidates met. First, through words and actions, they have shown that, if elected, they will vote to implement



Farrah Khan

Larry Agran’s “Build It NOW!” Plan for the Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery at the original ARDA site in the Great Park. Agran’s plan provides that within just 20 days the City would begin site clearance, cleanup, earth-moving and preservation of on-site historic features, such as the iconic military aircraft control tower and original airplane hangars. Under Agran’s plan, the Veterans Cemetery would finally be under way. No more delays. No more political games. No more developer land-grab schemes. **Build It NOW!**

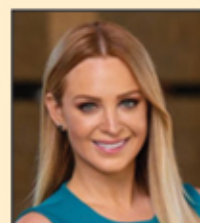


Larry Agran

→ Second, Khan, Agran, Kim & Johnson-Norris are running “clean-money” campaigns. In other words, they are running their own campaigns, honoring the small-donor campaign finance limits laid out in City ordinances. In contrast, their principal rivals in the City election — appointed Mayor Christina Shea and appointed Councilmember (and self-proclaimed “Vice Mayor”) Mike Carroll, as well as Carrie O’Malley and John Park — rely on “dark money.” In effect, they are outsourcing their campaigns to developers and other special interests that spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to elect their favorite candidates who then return the favor by rubber-stamping their massive development projects.



Tammy Kim



Lauren Johnson-Norris

Let’s put a stop to this sort of legalized corruption right now! Vote for Khan for Mayor, and Agran, Kim and Johnson-Norris for City Council.

Franklin J. Lunding

Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor



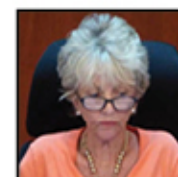
Shea-Carroll Stall & Cover-up in City Hall Mass Mailing Scandal



Councilman Mike Carroll used City Hall mailroom for \$72,000 of unauthorized taxpayer-funded mass mailings

The Mayor of Irvine has the power to set the agenda for City Council meetings — deciding what is put on the agenda ... and when. Appointed Mayor **Christina Shea** appears to be using that power to stall and even shut down public investigation into Councilman Mike Carroll’s misuse of Irvine taxpayer funds for his own personal and political benefit.

Since August, appointed Councilman **Mike Carroll** has been at the center of a growing City Hall scandal involving the Councilman’s unauthorized expenditure of \$72,000 on mass



Shea



Carroll

mailings to Irvine residents. The expensive mailings, which began last year, were designed to promote Carroll and a series of town hall meetings he was hosting. The City Council never authorized the mass mailings.

It is a violation of established City policy and strict State laws for Councilmembers

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Then VOTE!

→ continued from page 1 → **Shea-Carroll Stall & Cover-up...**

to misappropriate and spend taxpayer money on unauthorized mailings for personal or political purposes. Carroll, who was appointed, not elected, to fill a Council vacancy in 2019, is now running in the Nov. 3rd City Council election, trying to hold onto his seat.

Although Mayor Shea wrote a memo in August initially expressing anger when she learned of Carroll's misuse of taxpayer funds, she quickly backed off and has remained silent on the matter for weeks. Only recently did Shea say that the matter would come up at the October 27th "budget review" — an odd time and context for inquiring into apparent wrongdoing.


October 27th is just one week before Election Day. By then, it is expected that tens of thousands of Irvine vote-by-mail ballots will have already been cast. Moreover, Shea, wielding the gavel at Council meetings, can use her power as Mayor to keep the matter contained, even buried at the Council meeting, when the "budget review" item comes up. She can even postpone consideration of the matter altogether.

Shea appears highly motivated to keep the lid on any City Hall scandal. She is on the Nov. 3rd ballot, running for Mayor with the ballot designation "Appointed Irvine Mayor." Mike Carroll, also appointed, is running for a 4-year Council term, claiming the title "Vice Mayor." Shea and Carroll have both been endorsed by the Republican Party of Orange County, no doubt with the expectation that they will run together — and get Party support together — as endorsed pro-Trump Republicans. (Also endorsed by the Party — and part of the

Republican team — are Carrie O'Malley and John Park, running for City Council. Irvine voters have one vote for Mayor and can vote for 3 candidates for City Council.)

\$72,000 SPENT BY COUNCILMAN MIKE CARROLL ON SELF-PROMOTIONAL TAXPAYER-FUNDED MASS MAILINGS — QUESTIONS RAISED, BUT STILL UNANSWERED

- ✓ Was the Irvine City Manager or upper management staff aware of the Carroll mass mailings? What did they know and when did they know it? Did the City Manager facilitate the mailings without City Council authority?
- ✓ Were mailroom employees bullied, coerced or deceived into preparing the Carroll mass mailings? Much of the mailroom staff includes developmentally disabled men and women who have worked for the City for years.
- ✓ What mass mailing lists were provided to the mailroom? Were they from City sources intended to be kept private in accordance with City law? Or, were they voter lists intended for maximum political benefit for Carroll?
- ✓ Did Carroll convert these lists or responses to his town hall mailing invitations for his own use, harvesting names and email addresses for political use in his City Council campaign?
- ✓ In its preliminary investigation, *Irvine Community News & Views* has confirmed that mailings were sent out in envelopes with first-class postage. Why? Authorized City mailings are customarily sent out at sharply reduced postal rates available to cities and other nonprofit organizations.

Community News & Views, issued her own statement. In it, she said: "I call upon the Mayor to convene a special meeting of the Irvine City Council to publicly ask the so-far unanswered questions about Councilman Carroll's taxpayer-funded mailings; to acknowledge any wrongdoing that is found; and to insist on restitution of any and all misappropriated Irvine taxpayer funds." 

Former Irvine Mayor Larry Agran — who is currently challenging Carroll for a seat on the Council — issued a statement, weighing-in on the growing City Hall scandal: "By using taxpayer funds for unauthorized self-promotional letters, Mike Carroll has clearly violated multiple policies and procedures that the City has long had in place. Carroll appears to have also violated State law that protects Irvine citizens from misappropriation of their taxpayer dollars. He should be held to account."

Addressing the apparent stall by Shea, Agran added: "This is the kind of corruption at City Hall that the Mayor and City Council should be publicly addressing without delay. The fact that the Mayor and Council are not confronting this matter publicly is in itself a form of corruption and an indication of a cover-up by Shea and Carroll in advance of the Nov. 3rd election."

Lauren Johnson-Norris, an attorney running for Council and — along with Agran — endorsed by *Irvine*



OPEN FORUM

FREE SPEECH FOREVER!

Irvine Voters Beware! "Dark Money" is funding Shea, Carroll, O'Malley & Park!

by Franklin J. Lunding

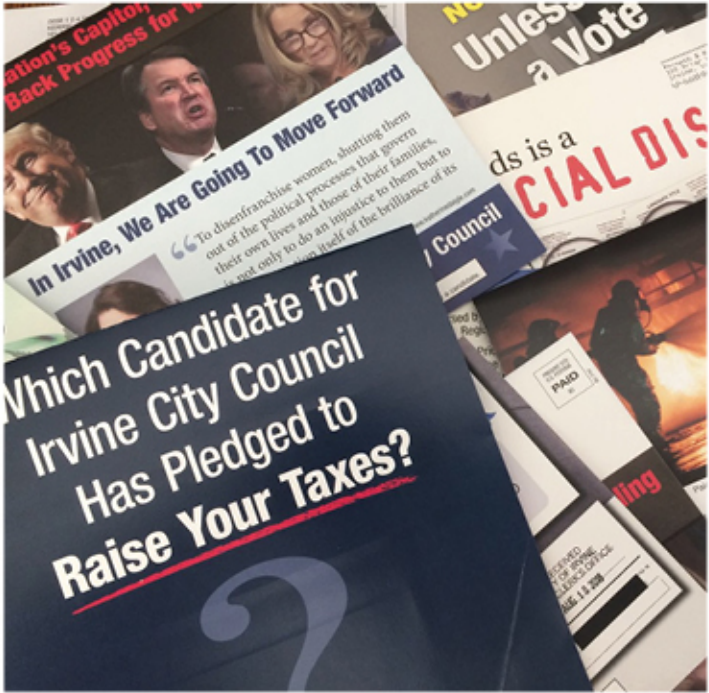
It's election season in Irvine and all across America...and you know what that means: Your mailbox is likely to be full of political campaign mailers. Some of the mailers will be positive, coming from legitimate campaign committees. But more and more of the political mail you receive will be negative, so-called "hit pieces" that come from groups and committees you never heard of, targeting certain candidates with a calculated campaign of lies, smears, and character assassination. Welcome to the world of "dark money" and dirty politics. Here are some questions and answers to help you understand what's going on.

Question: How is it that certain Mayor and Irvine City Council candidates fund \$300,000 or \$400,000 campaigns promoting themselves and viciously attacking their opponents, when they have only managed to raise \$25,000 or \$35,000?

Answer: The answer is "dark money." Here's how the deal works in Irvine: Developer-friendly candidates let it be known that they sure would appreciate some "outside help" for their campaigns — to evade Irvine's campaign contribution limits. With a wink-and-a-nod, certain developers and their allies oblige by donating hundreds of thousands of dollars through layers and layers of political action committees that then spend the money promoting pro-developer candidates — and viciously attacking their opponents in the mail, on TV and online.

Question: Why is it called "dark money?"

Answer: It's called "dark money" because it's very difficult to trace where it's coming from, especially in the middle of a campaign. And it's hidden behind nice-sounding committee names like Friends of the Great Park or California Homeowners Association or Orange County Freedom Fund or Greater Irvine Education Fund or California Taxpayer Protection Association. But make no mistake about it, the dark money in Irvine originates mainly from big developers and big corporations that, of course, expect to be rewarded for their "help" when they put their multi-million-dollar projects in front of grateful



A small sample of dark money mail in Irvine.

Councilmembers who got elected because of the huge dark-money expenditures made on their behalf.

Question: Do all Irvine candidates take dark money?

Answer: No. In fact, in the current race for Mayor and City Council, a number of good candidates run their campaigns the old-fashioned way, staying within the strict campaign contribution limits prescribed by the City of Irvine — limiting what an individual donor can give to just \$530 per candidate for Mayor or City Council. Here, below, is a side-by-side listing of leading candidates for Mayor and City Council. The candidates in the left column are "clean money" candidates — they don't accept dark-money help in their campaigns. The candidates in the right column are "dark money" candidates — they do accept dark money in their campaigns. And lots of it! My advice? Do *not* vote for dark money candidates. They are bought by developers and other special interests that are undermining our local Irvine democracy.

Irvine Voters: Know the Difference!

CLEAN MONEY CANDIDATES

Farrah Khan for Mayor

For City Council

Larry Agran
Tammy Kim
Lauren Johnson-Norris

DARK MONEY CANDIDATES

Christina Shea for Mayor

For City Council

Mike Carroll
Carrie O'Malley
John Park

Source: Campaign finance reports, State of California, Secretary of State, and City of Irvine, since 2016



Franklin J. Lunding is publisher of *Irvine Community News & Views*. He was Chair of the Irvine Transportation Commission and served as an Irvine Planning Commissioner in the 1980s. As an experienced elections attorney, in the 1970s and 1980s, Lunding served as a member and Chair of the Illinois State Board of Elections, charged with administering and enforcing campaign finance and election laws.

Agran and Johnson-Norris Call for New City Council to Adopt Two Priority Action Plans:

1

City-Led Strategy to Combat COVID-19

2

Build the Veterans Cemetery NOW!

Take a moment to fast-forward from this frantic campaign season to Election Day, Nov. 3. Imagine the election of a new Irvine Mayor and new City Council that includes **Larry Agran**, himself a former Irvine Mayor and City Councilmember, and **Lauren Johnson-Norris**, a skilled attorney and Irvine City Commissioner. Then, fast-forward again to January 12, 2021, the first business meeting of the newly seated Mayor and City Council. According to Agran, “If I’m elected to the City Council, joined by Lauren Johnson-Norris, I will put two priority Resolutions on the agenda for Council action.” Agran continued: “The first will be to create a strong, City-led response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Irvine. And the second item will be to commence, within 20 days, demolition, cleanup, and construction of the Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery at the ARDA site in the Great Park.

Agran, a Harvard Law School honors graduate, long-time public interest attorney and former chief legal counsel with the California State Senate Health Committee, drafted the two formal City Council Resolutions, below. The Resolutions include specific directives (indicated in red brackets) that he and Johnson-Norris intend to put at the top of the business agenda for the newly seated Mayor and City Council on January 12, 2021. The Resolutions are published here for public scrutiny and comment. In fact, *Irvine Community News & Views* invites our readers to respond to our online **Irvine Community Poll** to let us know whether you support or oppose adoption of Agran’s two City Council Resolutions. [ICNV](#)

Take the Irvine Community Poll
irvinecommunitynews.org/resolutions-poll

To Be Introduced by Larry Agran and Lauren Johnson-Norris — January 12, 2021

□

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION (NO. 21-01) TO ORGANIZE AND IMPLEMENT A CITY-LED RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

□

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION (NO. 21-02) TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK & CEMETERY AT THE CITY-OWNED GREAT PARK “ARDA” SITE

Whereas, since January of 2020, it has been evident that the emergence and spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) posed a worldwide threat to public health that would require an emergency response at every level of government to control; and,

Whereas, when the COVID-19 pandemic inexorably came to the United States — appearing first on the West Coast and, soon after, on the East Coast — the United States Government was unprepared, lacking a comprehensive strategic national plan to combat the pandemic; and,

Whereas, the City of Irvine was also unprepared, lacking a strategic City plan to protect Irvine’s 300,000 residents and the additional 200,000 daytime workers from COVID-19 through a comprehensive program of testing, tracing, isolating and treating; and,

Whereas, the City has so far failed to use its authority and resources to organize and coordinate a City-led response to the COVID-19 pandemic in concert with UCI, major businesses, School Districts, and County and State agencies to ensure comprehensive programming to control the pandemic in Irvine.

Therefore, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Irvine does hereby direct the City Manager to prepare and publish, within 20-days, a Strategic Plan which shall include the organization of three new emergency offices, under his/her control:

First, a City Office of Public Health, headed by a Chief Health Officer, which shall include a City public health workforce composed of public health nurses, school nurses, and other health professionals charged with implementing a comprehensive program of COVID-19 testing, tracing, isolating and treatment of residents and workers in the City of Irvine; and,

Second, an Office of Small Business Assistance, providing financial assistance, protective equipment, and instruction in achieving the highest standards of health and safety in the workplace and in all areas of business open to the public; and,

Third, an Office of Emergency Housing Assistance to help prevent foreclosures on owner-occupied housing and to otherwise assist homeowners and renters in avoiding evictions and homelessness.

Be it further resolved that 10 million dollars (\$10,000,000) shall be made available from the City’s \$53 million “Rainy Day” Contingency Fund to begin immediate implementation of the provisions of this Resolution.

Whereas, beginning in 2014, the people of the City of Irvine have repeatedly and consistently expressed their overwhelming approval and their determination to expedite construction of the Southern California Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery at the City-owned 125-acre ARDA site at the northern edge of the Great Park; and,

Whereas, the will of the people was manifest most recently with adoption of the **Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery Initiative** — an official citizens’ initiative petition signed by 19,790 Irvine residents — which zones the City-owned ARDA site at the Great Park as the exclusive location for the Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery; and,

Whereas, the Initiative further provides for inclusion of certain features as part of the Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery — preservation of historic structures, such as the aircraft control tower and airplane hangars, and creation of a 2.5-mile perimeter system of trees, trails and memorial gardens to surround the entire ARDA site; and,

Whereas, the features prescribed in the Initiative have been incorporated in the **Build It NOW! Plan**, a plan which calls for expedited construction of the Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery, beginning with City-ordered demolition, cleanup and clearance of the ARDA site, preservation of historic features, and creation of the perimeter system of trees, trails and memorial gardens — with costs to be reimbursed by the State.

Therefore, be it resolved — as a first step in implementing the **Build It NOW! Plan** — that the City Council of the City of Irvine does hereby direct the City Manager to return to the Council within 20 days with a demolition, cleanup and site clearance plan for the ARDA site, including a start-date for on-site demolition to commence on or before January 31, 2021.

Be it further resolved that the City-incurred costs to implement the **Build It NOW! Plan**, estimated at \$15 million, shall be paid from the City’s Great Park Development Fund (Account No. 180), to be reimbursed by the State as part of the negotiated ARDA Site Transfer Agreement with the State of California to complete construction and commence operation by Veterans Day (November 11, 2023) of what will be the State-owned, State-operated and State-funded Southern California Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery.



Child Health & Safety:

COVID-19 – Wrong from the start! Now, let's get it right!

by Phyllis Agran, M.D.

My entire professional life in public health and as a pediatrician has been dedicated to the *prevention* of disease wherever possible, and to delivering appropriate medical interventions whenever necessary. For me, diagnosing and treating an individual patient for a disease is very rewarding. But, even more rewarding — and the real payoff for society — is when we institute policies and organize our resources to prevent the spread of disease.

Failure

Mindful of the paramount importance of *prevention* in any public health strategy, I find it difficult to express in words just how appalled I am by the utter failure of our current political “leaders.” At both the national and local levels — including right here in Orange County and Irvine — we’ve witnessed a catastrophic failure to prepare for the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, compounded by a failure to take the essential measures to contain and control the virus.

The human and economic cost of this top-to-bottom failure of leadership is almost beyond comprehension. COVID-19 has already killed more than 200,000 Americans. Here in Orange County, we are well beyond 50,000 confirmed cases and more than 1,300 deaths. In Irvine, confirmed cases recently reached more than 1,700. (Unconfirmed cases — many of them asymptomatic “spreaders” of the virus — are estimated at 5,000 or more in Irvine). Mercifully, by the end of September, “only” 12 Irvine residents had died from COVID-19.

According to reliable projections, these horrific numbers in Orange County and in Irvine are likely to double by early next year, unless there is a radical change of public health policy, including the rapid ramping-up of public health resources to implement the changes.

Change begins with frankly acknowledging the failures of the past and charting a new path. Here in Irvine, this means doing now what should have been done in February and March.

The biggest failure in Irvine is a continuing one. Even with months of warning, the City has never developed a credible Strategic Plan for effectively combating the Coronavirus. Irvine is now among the top 100 largest cities in America — 300,000 people live here, and our workday population swells to 500,000.



We are fortunate to have outstanding, world-class institutions in Irvine, including UCI and major biomedical corporations. Yet, our Mayor and City Council have completely failed to organize these community partners to develop a clear, coordinated strategy to protect Irvine residents and workers from contracting and spreading COVID-19.

What could be done

The City itself has failed to invest available resources to create an Office of Public Health, headed by a Chief Health Officer, and staffed with public health nurses, school nurses, and other health professionals to implement all the programs essential to extinguishing the virus. A winning strategy begins with instituting a program of repeated testing at major workplaces, including at all Irvine schools, coupled with careful contact-tracing. Those afflicted with COVID-19 then, of course, need to be quarantined and treated for the disease, and given whatever social and financial support may be necessary.

So, what do we do right now, as a first step? Our City, blessed with resources, needs to take the lead and hire school nurses to help our Irvine schools as they struggle to reopen — and stay open — for in-person learning. These school nurses, in turn, should put in place a surveillance system that includes in-school testing to proactively identify COVID-19 cases and intervene to prevent spread of the virus.

As I’ve emphasized many times before, school nurses have the unique knowledge and skills to manage the COVID-19 pandemic in the school community. It is shameful that even in the midst of this continuing emergency, Irvine schools fail to meet the national standard of having one nurse on-site at each school. The City could remedy this needless deficit by immediately offering to hire and pay for two dozen school nurses to help both Irvine Unified School District and Tustin Unified School District as well—costing about \$5 million over the course of the next two years.

Where would the money come from?

From the City’s “Rainy Day Contingency Fund,” which now has a balance of over \$50 million. In case our City officials haven’t noticed, it’s “raining.” And it’s time to deploy our rainy-day tax dollars — right now! — for the benefit of our school community and for the benefit of our entire Irvine community.

Phyllis Agran is a practicing Orange County pediatrician, Professor Emeritus at the UC Irvine School of Medicine, and past president of the Orange County Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She was named 2020 “Physician of the Year” by the Orange County chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Agran is a recognized national expert in pediatric injury control and prevention. She is also a member of the Irvine Unified School District’s Medical Advisory Committee. Dr. Agran can be reached at phyllis@irvinecommunitynews.org



Dark Money Hit Pieces in Irvine Mailboxes

by Franklin J. Lunding

As a former Chairman of the Illinois State Board of Elections, I have had a lifelong interest in the nefarious ways that special interests subvert our democracy with lies and misrepresentations. Currently, dark money political committees are spending huge amounts of money in a continuing effort to discredit former Mayor and current Council candidate Larry Agran’s leadership in building the Orange County Great Park. Below is the sordid story.

Shea’s fraudulent \$1.7 million Great Park audit

In 2013, then-Councilmember Christina Shea launched a two-year, politically motivated audit of the Great Park, spending \$1.7 million of Irvine taxpayers’ money to discredit Larry Agran.

Fraudulent report

Under Shea’s direction, the accounting firm that performed the audit — HSNO — produced a report in 2014 that was covered by the L.A. Times and other media, but two years later the State found the report to be fraudulent.

State Investigation

Serious complaints about the audit’s veracity triggered a full investigation by the California State Auditor (CSA)* and the California Board of Accountancy (CBA).** In 2016, the State Auditor concluded that the purpose of the fraudulent Great Park audit was “to affect an election.” It did. Larry Agran was narrowly defeated in his re-election bid in 2014.

The Great Park construction and operations under Agran’s leadership were found to be free of financial improprieties. The State’s investigations ended on Jan 17, 2020, when the California Board of Accountancy ordered HSNO, the auditors that produced the fraudulent report, to surrender their accountancy license and pay \$550,000 in costs and penalties for having “failed to comply with professional standards, engaged in numerous acts of negligence, and disseminated false and misleading information” in performing the Great Park audit.



Under former Mayor Larry Agran’s leadership, the Great Park was founded, and dozens of its remarkable features were designed and built...on time and on budget.

*California State Auditor Report 2015-116, August 2016:
auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2015-116.pdf

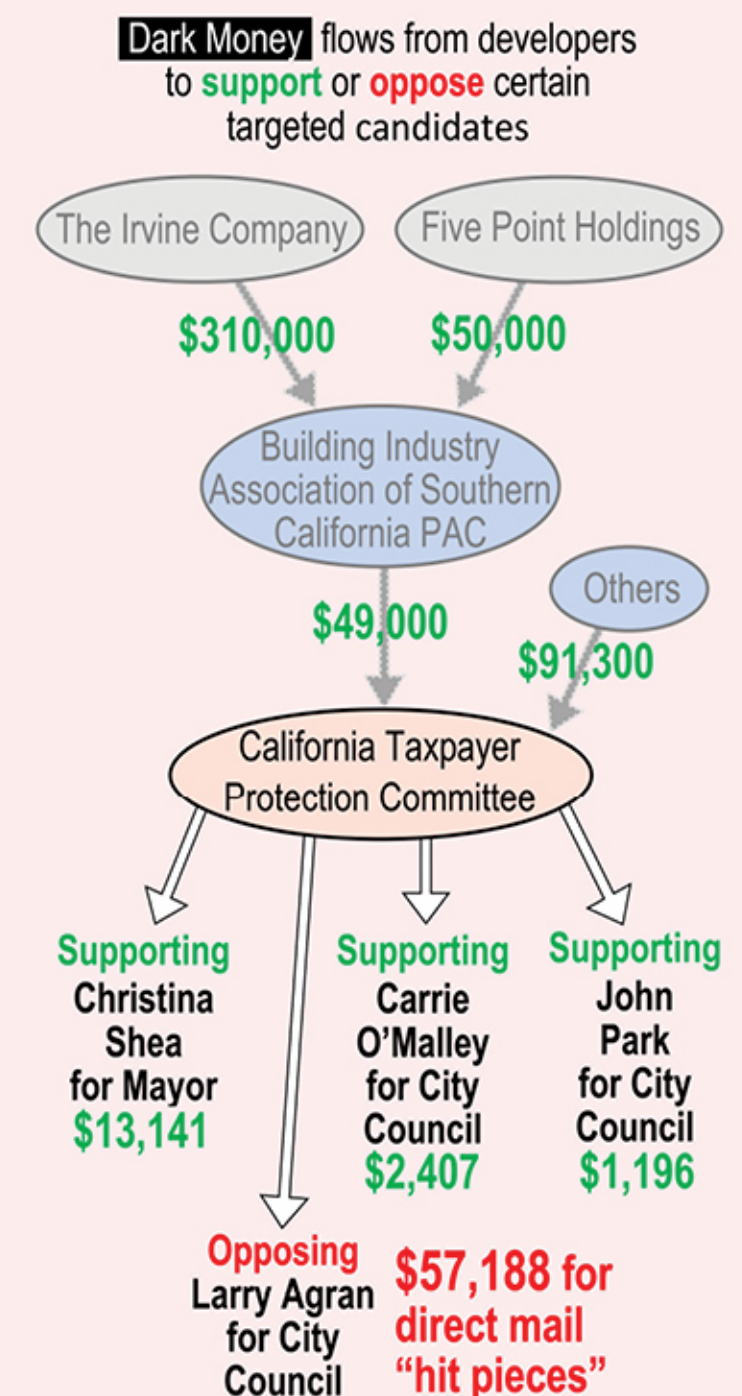
**California Board of Accountancy, License Revocation Order/Accusations, Jan 17, 2020:
dca.ca.gov/cba/discipline/actions/decision_and_order_ac-2017-79.pdf

The Real Scandal was Shea’s

The State Auditor found* that Shea had abused her power and misused public funds, wasting \$1.7 million on a political witch hunt targeting Larry Agran.

Who is paying for the recent attack mailers targeting Agran...and why?

Larry Agran has a long history as an Irvine Mayor and Councilmember who always demanded that developers provide parks, open space, and traffic mitigation as conditions of any project approvals. That’s why developers don’t want Agran elected.



Source: California Secretary of State website, cal-access.sos.ca.gov from filings between 7/31/2019 and 10/4/2020

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everyone's vote to count!**

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***Irvine Community News & Views* — Irvine's largest
independent community newspaper — has endorsed these
outstanding candidates for Irvine Mayor and City Council.**

(Remember, you have 1 vote for Mayor and 3 votes for City Council.)

Mayor: [Farrah Khan](#)

City Council: [Larry Agran](#)

[Tammy Kim](#)

[Lauren Johnson-Norris](#)

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