



Publisher's Perspective

We endorse these Four for Irvine! 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 1 vote for Mayor and 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 **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!**



Farrah Khan

→ **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 — 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.

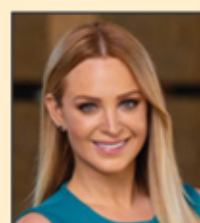


Tammy Kim

Let’s put a stop to this sort of legalized corruption right now! Vote for Khan for Mayor [FarrahForIrvine.com]. And Agran [LarryAgran.com], Kim [TammyKim.com] and Johnson-Norris [LaurenForIrvine.com] for City Council.



Larry Agran



Lauren
Johnson-Norris

Franklin J. Lunding

Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor



Shea & Carroll campaigns now relying on developers’ “dark money” — \$551,000!



Developers’ dark money threatens City election

It all started as a four-step backroom political deal — a deal that was orchestrated by billion-dollar developer FivePoint and then-Councilmember Christina Shea.

Step 1: When Irvine Mayor Don Wagner was elected to the Board of Supervisors in March of 2019, then-Councilmember (and Mayor Pro Tem) Christina Shea would become Mayor of Irvine in an unusual self-appointment process approved by the City Attorney.

Step 2: Shea’s vacated Council seat would be filled by appointing Irvine attorney Mike Carroll, hand-picked for the job by Shea and developer FivePoint.

Step 3: Once seated, the Shea-Carroll duo would push through developer FivePoint’s land-grab plan — a scheme to replace the long-promised, voter-approved Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park with zoning for office, commercial and industrial development that would be controlled by FivePoint.

Step 4: The Shea-Carroll duo would prepare to run as incumbents in the November 2020 City election, expecting to hold onto their appointed positions. That’s because their campaigns

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Vote by Nov 3!

If you are 18 years of age and a U.S. resident, you can still register and vote in-person at a Vote Center near you from Oct 30 to Nov 3. For information, go to:

OCVOTE.COM

→ continued from page 1 → **Shea & Carroll campaigns ...**

would be backed by hundreds of thousands of dollars in "dark money" expenditures by developers.

The developer-backed, double-appointment scheme worked for a while. Shea became the appointed Mayor in April 2019, and then weeks later pushed Carroll's appointment through the City Council. But there was widespread community opposition to the appointment of Carroll rather than holding a special election to fill the vacancy, as provided by law.

Backlash

Community resentment grew further in the summer of 2019 when Shea and Carroll pushed through the FivePoint land-grab to replace the planned and voter-approved Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park with zoning for office, commercial and industrial development that would bring thousands of added cars and trucks to Irvine streets every day. The full-blown backlash against the Shea-Carroll scheme took the form of a citywide initiative campaign, led by former Irvine Mayor Larry Agran, to reinstate zoning for the Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery at the Great Park. A record-breaking 19,790 signatures were gathered by Irvine volunteers, who told signers that the initiative was necessary because of Shea and Carroll, who favored the commercial interests of developer FivePoint over the interests of veterans and their families.

"Dark Money" tilts 2020 campaign

Flash forward to summer and fall of 2020. Shea and Carroll are on the City ballot. (Shea is running as "Appointed Mayor of Irvine" and Carroll is claiming the title "Vice Mayor.") According to campaign finance reports filed with the City and the State, Shea and Carroll are backed by a whopping \$551,000 (so far) in developer "dark money" — money that is spent by developer-controlled committees to promote Shea and Carroll, and to viciously attack their opponents.

Although there are 18 candidates running — 4 for Mayor and 14 for City Council — the Irvine campaign has basically been a battle between two teams. The pro-developer team of Shea and Carroll is being challenged by a pro-resident team consisting of current Councilmember Farrah Khan who is running for Mayor, and Larry Agran, Tammy Kim and Lauren Johnson-Norris who are running for City Council. (Irvine voters will be casting one vote for Mayor and three votes for City Council.)

Council candidate Larry Agran, asked to comment on the race, said, "Voters will have to decide. Do they want to elect developer-backed candidates for Mayor and Council, and get traffic-crushing development instead of the Veterans Cemetery? Or do they want to elect grassroots candidates who are loyal to the people, not the big developers?"

City Hall "Mailgate" scandal

A problem for the Shea-Carroll team has been the growing City Hall mailroom scandal — dubbed "Mailgate" by City Hall watchdogs. The scandal involves Councilman Carroll's unauthorized spending of taxpayer money — \$72,000 — on recent self-promotional political mass-mailings to Irvine residents. Shea has tried to keep a lid on the matter by stalling investigations into Carroll's apparent misappropriation of public funds — a serious crime in California.

All of this adds up to uncertain prospects for Shea and Carroll on Election Day. One thing seems certain, however: Win or lose, Shea and Carroll will have to publicly account for their apparent misconduct in connection with Mailgate, including the City Hall foot-dragging and cover-up now underway ... and now under investigation by independent authorities. **ICNV**

The Agran Plan: Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery

On Election Day the future of the 125-acre ARDA site at the Great Park is at stake.

Vote for candidates who will bring us:

← **this** **not this** →

The Shea-Carroll Plan: Office & Commercial Development



Developers spend \$551,120 on ads and mailers (so far) to elect Shea and Carroll...and defeat Agran and Kim!

by Franklin J. Lunding

A vote for Shea or Carroll is a vote for continued developer control of the Irvine City Council

Unelected Mayor Christina Shea and unelected Vice Mayor Michael Carroll are beholden to developers to the tune of \$551,120. This is the amount spent by developers to produce ads and mailers that either praise Shea and Carroll or viciously attack former Mayor Larry Agran and Finance Commissioner Tammy Kim with false accusations and outright lies. Both Agran and Kim are running for City Council.

According to reports filed with the California Secretary of State and the City of Irvine, Shea and Carroll have raised very little money for their own campaigns. In effect, they have outsourced and turned over their campaigns to developers and other special interests.

In recent weeks voters have had to endure an avalanche of developer-funded "hit pieces" mostly aimed at Agran and Kim. Here are just a few examples:

- ✓ One attack mailer claims Agran caused the horrendous traffic congestion (pre-COVID-19) in Irvine. This is ridiculous. Agran has not even been on the City Council since 2014.
- ✓ Another mailer attacks Agran with charges of financial mismanagement of the Great Park when, in fact, the California State Auditor later found that it was Shea, not Agran, who wasted \$1.7 million of taxpayer funds on a fraudulent political witch hunt, later dubbed the "fraudit." In January of this year, Shea's no-bid, hand-picked auditing firm had its accountancy license revoked. The firm was also ordered to pay \$550,000 in costs and penalties for having "disseminated false and misleading information."
- ✓ One unmistakably racist mailer attacks Council candidate Tammy Kim for her progressive values and friendships with other Asian-American politicians in Los Angeles and San Francisco.
- ✓ Among several glossy mailers designed to make Councilman Mike Carroll look good, one asks voters to "Re-Elect" Mike Carroll when he was never elected in the first place! Carroll was appointed in a backroom deal to fill Shea's vacated Council seat when Shea, herself, was appointed Mayor.

How does "Dark Money" influence an election?

"Dark Money" is money not directly contributed to a candidate's own campaign but is used independently of the candidate's campaign to produce mailers and ads that support the candidate's campaign or attack the candidate's opponents. These pieces have nothing to do with facts or truth.

For example, during Irvine's current election season, at least \$500,000 of this Dark Money (see table) originated with developer contributions to the Building Industry Association of Southern California PAC. The BIA PAC, in turn, funds multiple "independent expenditure" committees with friendly-sounding names such as California Homeowners Association, Greater Irvine Education Guide, Taxpayers for Ethical Government, and California Taxpayer Protection Committee. Despite their friendly names, these committees do the dirty work of producing vicious attack mailers — typically filled with false accusations and outright lies — that are stuffed in Irvine residents' mailboxes.



Dark Money to SUPPORT		Dark Money to OPPOSE	
Christina Shea	\$149,638	Larry Agran	\$105,941
Michael Carroll	\$188,832	Tammy Kim	\$106,699
To Support =	\$338,470	To Oppose =	\$212,640

Source: City of Irvine and California Secretary of State campaign reports.

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

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□

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:

by Phyllis Agran, M.D.

COVID-19 Update: Major medical journal weighs in – and condemns failure

Readers in the scientific community are increasingly giving voice to what most Americans feel as we witness the non-stop failure of our elected officials — from the White House right on down to City Hall — to deal effectively with the Coronavirus pandemic. *The New England Journal of Medicine* is among the most highly regarded medical and scientific journals in the world. It is not a political publication. That's why an October 8th editorial, authored by The Editors, landed with extraordinary force. Titled "Dying in a Leadership Vacuum," the editorial was a powerful indictment of America's political leaders, concluding with these words: "When it comes to the response to the largest public health crisis of our time, our current political leaders have demonstrated that they are dangerously incompetent. We should not abet them and enable the deaths of thousands more Americans by allowing them to keep their jobs." Translation: Elect a new President. And, locally, I would add, it is time for Irvine voters to elect a new Mayor and City Council.

Local Failure

As I have written before, nationally and locally we have 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 225,000 Americans. Here in Orange County, we are approaching 60,000 confirmed cases and 1,500 deaths. In Irvine, confirmed cases stand at nearly 2,000. (Unconfirmed cases — many of them asymptomatic "spreaders" of the virus — are estimated at 5,000 or more in Irvine.) Mercifully, as of mid-October "only" 13 Irvine residents have 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 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 should 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 controlling and 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, must be quarantined and treated, and provided whatever social and financial support may be necessary.

So, what do we do right now, as a first step? Our City, which has ample resources, should immediately 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, followed-up by contact tracing — an essential intervention to prevent the further spread of the virus in our City.

As I've emphasized many times before, school nurses have the unique knowledge and skills to help manage the COVID-19 pandemic in the school community and in the larger Irvine 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.

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

An Open Letter to My Irvine Neighbors...

LARRY AGRAN
Irvine, California

Irvine Neighbors –

Whether you are voting by mail or in-person, I take this opportunity to thank you for your civic participation ... and to ask for your vote. I am running for a seat on the Irvine City Council to redeem Irvine's once-proud reputation for excellent master-planning and good government.

A while back, when I last served on the City Council and as Mayor, we did some amazing things together. We preserved thousands of acres of open space. We built a beautiful community park system. We defeated the County's dangerous plan to put an international airport right here in Irvine and, instead, we began building our 1,300-acre Great Park at the former El Toro Marine Corps Airbase.

But in the past eight years, we've watched the Mayor and City Council abandon good planning. They continue to rubber-stamp massive development schemes that bring terrible traffic to Irvine. And they refuse to begin building our voter-approved Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery at the Great Park.

Meanwhile, they have neglected our public health and safety, leaving us unprepared to effectively combat the COVID-19 pandemic here in Irvine. Our City — now 300,000 people — still has no Office of Public Health, no Chief Health Officer, and we lack a public health workforce that includes school nurses and other public health professionals. With an upsurge in COVID-19 expected this winter, our City is still without a comprehensive strategy to safeguard Irvine residents, schools and businesses from the Coronavirus.

If I am elected to the Irvine City Council, I pledge to work every day to change these things...for the better...and fast. Again, I ask for your vote.

Thank you!

Larry Agran

Larry Agran

To learn more, visit: LarryAgran.com

PAID FOR BY LARRY AGRAN FOR IRVINE CITY COUNCIL 2020

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and we want everyone's vote to count!**

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and Tuesday, Nov 3, 7am - 8pm.

For all info go to: [OCVOTE.COM](https://ocvote.com)

IMPORTANT! If you are a U.S. citizen 18 years of age or older and not yet registered to vote, you can still register and vote in-person October 30 to November 3 at Irvine City Hall or any Orange County Vote Center.

Irvine Community News & Views — Irvine's largest independent community newspaper — has endorsed these outstanding candidates:
(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](#)

SOC CCD Trustee, Area 1: [Carolyn Inmon](#)

IUSD Trustee, Area 3: [Cyril Yu](#)

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