

Irvine Voter Revolt

Thousands Sign Initiative & Two Recall Petitions!



Irvine volunteers have been fanning out across the City — to City parks, school sites, college campuses, libraries, shopping centers and sporting events — gathering signatures on initiative and recall petitions.



Publisher's Perspective

Fed Up!

Irvine voters are plainly fed up with (unelected) Mayor Christina Shea and (unelected) Councilman Michael Carroll and their developer-controlled Council majority. These angry voters are now employing the tools of direct democracy to put things back on track in Irvine.

The “Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery” citizens’ initiative petition — and the two recall petitions against Shea and Carroll — are in direct response to the latest Shea-Carroll corrupt scheme. Simply stated, Shea and Carroll, who are backed by billion-dollar developer FivePoint, continue their schemes to replace the long-planned Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park by giving control of 125 acres of parkland to FivePoint, along with permission to build massive office, commercial and industrial projects.

We at *Irvine Community News & Views* endorse and support the Irvine volunteers who are circulating petitions and enlisting their friends and neighbors in restoring our local Irvine democracy. For information — and to help with the Veterans Cemetery initiative and recall efforts — go to: BuildTheVeteransCemetery.org.

Franklin J. Lunding

Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor



For weeks, scores of Irvine volunteers have been circulating three official voter petitions: the “Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery” initiative petition and two recall petitions.

The recall petitions are aimed at Mayor Christina Shea and Councilman Michael Carroll.

Months ago, the Shea-Carroll duo, backed by developer FivePoint, managed to ignite a citywide Irvine voter revolt with their unpopular efforts to replace the long-planned Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park with office, commercial and industrial development.

An Open Letter

In an open letter to Irvine residents, Ed Pope, chair of the Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery committee, put it this way: “After enduring five years of Christina Shea’s deliberate delays and her

self-described ‘diversion’ schemes to defeat our long-planned Veterans Cemetery, Irvine citizens are finally gaining the upper hand in the fight to establish a beautiful Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery as part of our Great Park.”



Initiative

Pope cited the Veterans Cemetery initiative, authored by Larry Agran, former Mayor and public interest attorney. **If the initiative is adopted by Irvine voters, it will override any Council**

scheme to give control of the

City-owned, 125-acre “ARDA” site at edge of the Great Park to developer FivePoint for commercial and industrial development. The initiative will further guarantee that the property can only be used for a State-built, State-operated Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery.

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→ continued from page 1 → **Thousands Sign Petitions!**

Two Recalls

In his open letter, Pope further declared: "To ensure that the Veterans Cemetery actually gets built right away — *with no more political games to sabotage the project* — our committee to Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery is endorsing and supporting the citywide effort to recall (unelected) Mayor Christina Shea and her hand-picked (unelected) Councilman Michael Carroll."

To qualify the two recalls and the Veterans Cemetery initiative for the ballot later this year, petition circulators must gather nearly 15,000 Irvine voter signatures on each of the two recalls and the Veterans Cemetery initiative. [ICNV](#)

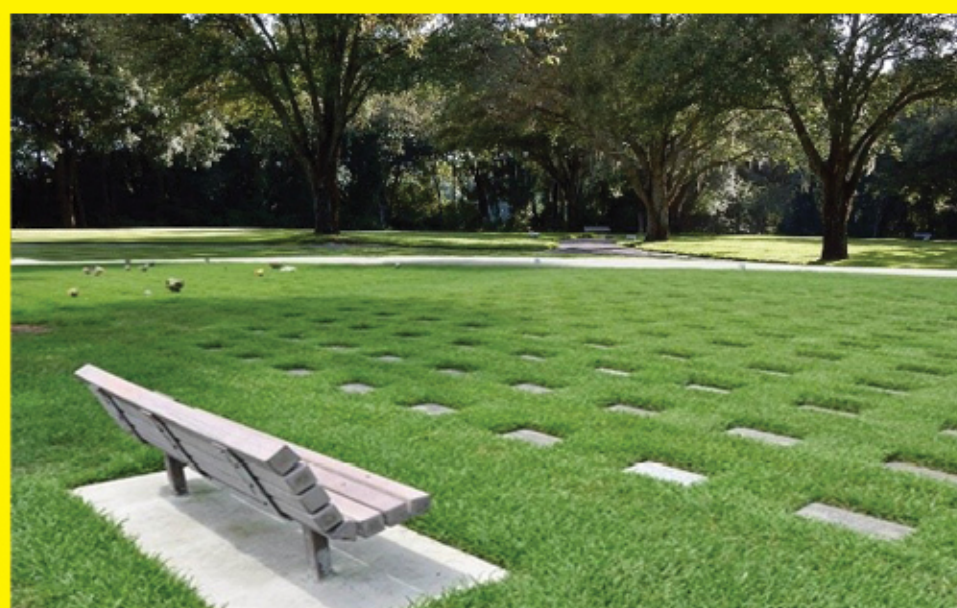
DO-IT-YOURSELF DEMOCRACY

Use your VOTER POWER, NOW! Here are three things you can do, using the tools of Direct Democracy:

1. Sign all 3 petitions — the Veterans Cemetery initiative and the Shea and Carroll recall petitions. Where? At the University Park Library (4512 Sandburg Way) or Heritage Park Regional Library (14361 Yale Avenue), any Saturday or Sunday from 11am to 3pm.
2. You can download the recall petitions and instructions, and instantly become a signer and a circulator:
RecallSheaAndCarroll.com
3. You can volunteer and donate at:
BuildTheVeteransCemetery.org



The signature-gathering effort has been strong at UCI, where Shea and Carroll are especially unpopular — not just because of their anti-Veterans Cemetery records, but because of their anti-immigrant statements, and their stance on civil rights, human rights and environmental issues, as well.



If you wish to volunteer or donate to help
Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery go to:
BuildTheVeteransCemetery.org

Ad paid for by Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery sponsored by Irvine Community News & Views, LLC. Committee major funding from Irvine Community News & Views, LLC
Larry Agran



CityWatch by Larry Agran

Taking Matters Into Our Own Hands

During the November and December holiday season (when they thought that nobody was paying attention) the Irvine City Council's two unelected members — Mayor Christina Shea and Councilman Michael Carroll — pushed ahead with yet one more corrupt land-use scheme. The two set out to derail and defeat the long-planned Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery at the Great Park "ARDA" site, and hand control of the valuable City-owned property to a billion-dollar commercial developer.

At the November 26, 2019 City Council meeting, two days before Thanksgiving, Shea and Carroll put forward their scheme to rezone the City-owned, 125-acre ARDA site at the Great Park. Their zoning ordinance replaced the long-planned, pastoral Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery with zoning for massive office, commercial and industrial development intended to net hundreds of millions of dollars for their favorite developer, FivePoint.

But wait a minute! Armed with the power of initiative, Irvine citizens don't have to accept this kind of local greed and corruption. In fact, we have the power to draw up our own zoning ordinance, gather enough initiative petition signatures, and put our own plan on the ballot for Irvine voters to approve.

And, that's exactly what we're doing. I am the author and official proponent of the "Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery" initiative — the people's zoning ordinance to once-and-for-all require that the 125-acre ARDA site be used solely and exclusively for a State-built and State-operated Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery. This initiative would override the Shea-Carroll-FivePoint rezoning and any other schemes intended to defeat the Veterans Cemetery project.

Of course, our initiative requires sustained public support to succeed — first to gather the necessary 15,000 Irvine voter signatures to qualify for the ballot, and then a majority of

Irvine voters saying YES at the ballot box in November.

So, let's join together in taking matters into our own hands. Let's urge every Irvine voter to support the initiative. Just say YES with a signature and by voting YES later this year.

A YES vote will not only override the Shea-Carroll-FivePoint rezoning scheme; it means that we can begin demolition and site cleanup this year — as the first step in a 30-month construction schedule for the beautiful State-built and State-operated Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery. YES, let's do it!

Get the latest Irvine news
online, at:
IrvineCommunityNews.org

Our Initiative Petition brings this to the Great Park...



The Shea-Carroll-FivePoint rezoning brings this...



To help build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery: BuildTheVeteransCemetery.org

Larry Agran served on the Irvine City Council for almost three decades — including ten years as Mayor. He led the fight to preserve Irvine Open Space and defeat an international airport at the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, creating the opportunity to build the Orange County Great Park and the Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery within the Great Park.



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WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

Family Movie Night

Heritage Park Library
Come out to a free screening of *The Lion King* at Heritage Park Library. Event is free and open to all ages!



January 22nd, 5:45-7:45pm
Info: 949-936-4040

Con Alyma y Fuego: A Celebration of Latin Jazz!

Irvine Barclay Theatre
A celebration of the groundbreaking music and artists of Latin Jazz



January 31st, 7:30pm
Info: www.theBarclay.org

Chinese New Year Celebration

Visit the Lakeview Senior Center for their Chinese New Year Luncheon.



February 5th, 10am-1pm
Info: 949-724-6900

Cartoon Drawing for Beginners

The Katie Wheeler Library will be hosting a cartoon drawing program for beginners presented by the Chuck Jones Center for Creativity. All materials will be provided, space is limited.



February 13th, 6-7:30pm
Info: 714-669-8753

Wilderness Hiking Day at Bommer Canyon

Enjoy access to the southern portion of Irvine's Open Space Preserve where the entire trail network will be open for self-guided hiking and biking.



March 21st, 8am-2pm
Info: LetsGoOutside.org

We are pleased to share a variety of local Irvine community events all year long on our website.

For more information on our daily featured events, visit:
IrvineCommunityNews.org

Be sure to sign up for our weekly email updates to get all the latest in Irvine news and events.
IrvineCommunityNews.org

If you have an event that you would like featured, contact us at:
Kerrie@Irvinecommunitynews.org



Adopt a Pet

In each issue of ICNV we feature one adoptable pet from the Irvine Animal Care Center. "Bates" is a neutered male brown and white Pit Bull Terrier. He is about 5 1/2 years old.

The Irvine Animal Care Center (IACC) is a progressive and innovative municipal animal shelter that continually strives to strengthen the human-animal bond and improve the welfare of animals by promoting their humane care and treatment. The Center's 3.73 acre, park-like facility cares for thousands of homeless, neglected, abused animals every year. All animals in their care receive veterinary care, high-quality food, soft bedding and daily socialization.

Increasingly, we have found that our choice for Pet of the Month is adopted shortly after press-time. For the most current list of adoptable pets at the IACC, visit their website at: cityofirvine.org/irvine-animal-care-center/adopt-pet or visit the Shelter in person.

The Irvine Animal Care Center is located at 6443 Oak Canyon, in Irvine.

For more information about the IACC, call 949-345-1106



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Senior Life — Youthful Lifestyle

An ICNV Feature Series On
Healthful Living As We Age

Volunteering = Better health ... at any age

by Harvey H. Liss, Ph.D.

Some people in their 80s and 70s — and sometimes even younger — claim they are too tired or too debilitated to participate in activities and volunteer for community causes. I recently interviewed three people for this article who believe otherwise — that it's just a matter of desire and will, and that the benefits of civic activism are great regardless of any mobility limits you may have.

Ed McNew, 87-year-old retiree

Ed McNew is an 87-year-old retired businessman, a U.S. Army veteran, and a 47-year resident of Irvine who now gets around with a walker that also can serve as a chair. He is the top signature gatherer for the "Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery" initiative petition. Ed spends about 6 hours each day, 6 or 7 days every week, sitting



Irvine resident Imelda Diaz signing Ed McNew's initiative petition at Woodbridge Village Center.

at a table, collecting the signatures of passersby at various locations throughout Irvine. He seems to be a natural at attracting people who stop to talk. Once stopped, Ed engages them in a brief conversation that often leads to their signing the petition; or, they just move on. Ed says, "I'd rather be out collecting signatures than be home sitting in front of the TV or reading. I'm extremely disappointed in our current City Council." Ed explained, "I feel strongly that we must have a Veterans Cemetery. And having been in the military, I want to support this cause to the best of my ability. **This gives me purpose, and it's something I look forward to every day.**"

Ed's wife of 60 years passed away two years ago, and he clearly finds fulfillment in his efforts. In fact, when Ed began collecting signatures, he was assigned a location every other day, thinking that to do more would be "too much." However, soon after he began collecting signatures, he insisted on being assigned a location every day. Either his daughter or another volunteer brings him, and then picks him up at the end of his day.

Joyce Kassouf, 81-year-old retired nurse

Joyce Kassouf, 81, is a retired nurse, a long-time resident of Irvine, and a long-time civic volunteer. She walks without aid and gets around, but has some mobility issues and limited stamina, so she takes advantage of available assistance, like a shopping cart,



Irvine resident Theresa Bundy signing Joyce Kassouf's petition as Roger Bundy looks on.

Jean Anne Turner, 75-year-old retired teacher

Jean Anne Turner, 75, is a beloved, retired IUSD teacher, and Irvine's only two-time Teacher-of-the-Year award winner. She was collecting signatures at Irvine's Veterans Day event when I spoke with her. She told me she is disgusted with the City Council and called "shameful and a cheap trick" the Council's refusal to begin



Jean Anne Turner (r.) collecting signatures at Col. Bill Barber Park on Veterans Day, 2019.

building the Veterans Cemetery at the original Great Park site. Jean Anne is the daughter of a World War II veteran and the wife of a U.S. Marine. Jean Anne has been on her homeowners association's Green Belt Committee for the past 20 years. She stays active and believes **"one must bloom where you're planted and improve the quality of life of your local community!"**

Ed, Joyce and Jean Anne are among our most prolific signature gatherers. They all believe strongly in the cause and clearly are helped in their outlook and state of mind by their meaningful civic activity. It's a terrific social activity that engages people, and the benefits they experience are not flukes. In striving to help our community they are engaging with hundreds of Irvine neighbors in ways that improve our community while improving their own physical health and outlook on life, as well.



Harvey H. Liss, 78, is a 43-year resident of Woodbridge. He was a Project Engineer for that iconic Irvine village during the late 1970s. A licensed Professional Civil Engineer in California, Dr. Liss received his B.C.E. from The Cooper Union, in New York City, and his Ph.D. in Applied Mechanics from NYU. Dr. Liss has had a lifelong interest in maintaining the most healthful lifestyle possible.

ATTENTION IRVINE VOTERS!

SUPPORT THE VETERANS CEMETERY INITIATIVE AND RECALL PETITIONS

Let’s start building the Veterans Memorial Park this year!

Q: What’s the purpose of the Great Park Veterans Cemetery Initiative?

A: The purpose of this Initiative is to facilitate transfer of the 125-acre City-owned property — known as the ARDA site at the Great Park — to the State of California for construction and operation of the Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery...at no cost to the City of Irvine.

Q: What will the Initiative actually do?

A: This Initiative puts on the ballot a City measure that rezones the original site (the ARDA site) for exclusive use as the State Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery. Historic structures, such as the iconic control tower and original aircraft hangars will remain so they can be restored as an Air Museum. The rezoned ARDA site will include trees, trails, and beautiful memorial gardens for the use and enjoyment of visitors.

So, the question for Irvine voters is this: Will the 125-acre ARDA site be developed as the Great Park Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery — as already approved and planned by the City, State (CalVet) and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (2014-2016)? Or, will developer FivePoint be given control of the site for its massive development projects?

Let Irvine voters decide! Say YES to the Great Park Veterans Cemetery Initiative!



Recall Mayor Shea and Councilmember Carroll

Official Grounds for Recalling Mayor Christina Shea:

Mayor Christina Shea serves her own interests and big developers, not Irvine residents. Recently, in a backroom political deal, then-Councilmember Shea became Irvine’s first *unelected* Mayor in the past 30 years, when former Mayor Donald Wagner resigned to become County Supervisor. In 2016, Shea benefitted from more than \$100,000 in outside campaign funding from developers to win election to the Council. Once elected, Shea promoted Measure B — the developer-backed scheme to *replace* the planned, designed, and CalVet-approved Veterans Cemetery on the City-owned “ARDA” site alongside the Great Park with office, industrial and other terrible traffic-inducing development. In 2018, Irvine voters overwhelmingly defeated Shea’s Measure B, 63% to 37%. Yet, Shea stubbornly refuses to accept the will of the people. As Irvine’s *unelected* Mayor, she remains determined to defeat the Veterans Cemetery at the ARDA site in favor of more unwanted development. To honor the will of the people, build the beautiful Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery at the ARDA site, and restore integrity to the Mayor’s office, Christina Shea must be recalled, removed from office, and replaced by an elected Mayor who puts the interests of Irvine residents first.

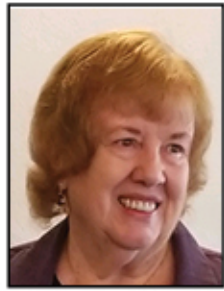
Official Grounds for Recalling Councilmember Michael Carroll:

In a backroom political deal, Christina Shea became Irvine’s *unelected* Mayor on April 3, 2019. Six weeks later, Shea voted to appoint Michael Carroll to fill her vacated seat on the City Council. This two-step maneuver enabled Michael Carroll to become an Irvine City Councilmember without Irvine voters having any say in the matter. Since his appointment to City Council, Carroll has worked to defeat the long-planned, designed, and CalVet-approved Veterans Cemetery, which would be State-built and State-operated on the City-owned “ARDA” site alongside the Great Park. Carroll ignores the will of the people, aligning himself with Shea and developers and their scheme to *replace* the planned Veterans Cemetery on the 125-acre ARDA site and pave the way for massive development and added traffic. Irvine residents deserve to have an elected Councilmember who is beholden to the people rather than beholden to an unelected Mayor and billion-dollar developers. If we ever expect to see the Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery at the ARDA site alongside the Great Park, we must recall and remove Michael Carroll from the City Council and replace him with an elected Councilmember who respects the will of the people.

We can do this! We can begin construction this year! Support the initiative and recall petitions!

If you want to volunteer or donate to help Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery, go to:
BuildTheVeteransCemetery.org

Or, make donations by check payable to: Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery, 6102 Sierra Siena Road, Irvine CA 92603

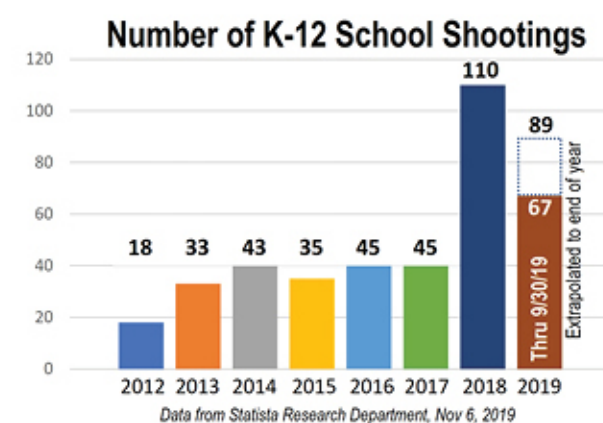


SchoolWatch: The New Normal: Accepting the Unacceptable?

by Carolyn Inmon

Last November 14th, yet another school shooting — this time at Saugus High School in Santa Clarita, just a two-hour drive up the I-5 — took the lives of three high school students, wounded three more, and traumatized the entire Santa Clarita community.

Do you remember that particular school shooting? Perhaps. But have you heard a follow-up news story about it recently? Probably not. It's not really "news" anymore. After all, the Saugus High School shooting "only" had 6 casualties, including the shooter, who took his own life; other school shootings have had many more killed and wounded.



The new normal

With America awash in guns and gun violence, the shocking fact is that school shootings have become the "new normal." In 2018 and 2019, the country has suffered through a combined, record-breaking total of more than 200 school shooting incidents.

For most of us not directly affected by a school shooting, it seems that the initial shock, anger, and sadness we experience lasts only a few days, and then we "move on." Apparently, as a society we have begun to accept the unacceptable, hoping that somehow "it won't happen here."

Our public schools were once thought to be the safest possible places for kids. We made sure that was the case. Here in California, we never hesitated to spend billions of dollars to ensure that school buildings are structurally sound so that students, teachers, and staff would remain safe in the event of earthquakes, fires, and other disasters.

The cost of improved security
Unfortunately, an upsurge in gun violence in public schools requires a new look at school safety. It requires us to consider expensive new security systems to improve protection against gun violence in our schools. New security measures should include installation of carefully designed checkpoints that are effective without being offensive; and the provision of comprehensive video surveillance systems that monitor school perimeters.

Enhanced school security also requires hiring additional School Resource Officers — these are Irvine police officers who are specially trained and assigned to school sites to patrol and otherwise protect the school community.

Of course, these measures are costly. They would require tens of millions of dollars over time...and the willingness of

Irvine taxpayers to pay for these important security improvements.

In California, school safety is a joint City-School District responsibility. I think it's time — in fact, it's past time — for the Irvine City Council and School Board to show some leadership, develop a bold



This image, from Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School, in Parkland, FL, should remind us of the urgent need to improve school security in Irvine.

school security action plan, and build public support for a voter-approved parcel tax or bond issue.

That's my opinion. What's yours? Take the Irvine Community Poll and let us know what you think?

Take the Irvine Community Poll What do YOU think?

Q: Should the City and School District place a bond issue or parcel tax on the 2020 ballot — at an average annual cost of about \$50 per household — to provide for school security improvements and additional School Resource Officers over the next 5 years?

Take the Poll: IrvineCommunityNews.org/SchoolSecurity



Help us take the pulse of the Irvine community!

Carolyn Inmon is a retired Irvine teacher. She taught at virtually every grade level, from K-12, as well as at the community college level.

Subscribe to ICNV online at: IrvineCommunityNews.org

Enough is enough! Recall Shea and Carroll!

by Dr. Kev Abazajian, Ph. D.

Underlined blue texts are links that appear on the online version of this article: IrvineCommunityNews.org/RecallSheaAndCarroll

As Irvine residents, **we have had enough!** **We have had enough** of the duplicity, the political games, and the disregard for our votes and even our right to vote. **We have had enough** of the corrupting influence of developer money that funds City Council candidates at exorbitant levels. **We have had enough** of the Shea-Carroll-FivePoint sleazy schemes to move the long-planned State Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery from the 125-acre Great Park ARDA site to anywhere else, so that billion-dollar developer FivePoint can control that City-owned land.

There is a long history of the effort to build the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park, beginning in 2014 with Orange County Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk Silva's introduction of Assembly Bill 1453, followed by then-Councilmember **Larry Agran's** resolution, adopted at the July 2014 Council meeting, designating the Great Park ARDA site for a State-built and State-operated Veterans Cemetery.

Regrettably, there is also a [long history](#) of Christina Shea's relentless effort to defeat the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park, beginning with her first NO vote on the project in 2014.

Shea's objective has always been to move the planned Veterans Cemetery away from the ARDA site in order to make room for massive FivePoint development. Along the way, FivePoint spent [\\$106,088](#) to promote Shea's 2016 reelection campaign for City Council.

FivePoint Takes Over City Council

So, how did Shea become our Mayor? Answer: The City Council majority, itself, changed the Municipal Code in January 2019, so that then-Councilmember Christina Shea would become Mayor if Mayor Donald Wagner were to resign. Wagner did, indeed, resign to become Supervisor after winning a March 2019 special election. Thus, Shea became Irvine's first unelected Mayor in 30 years, leaving her Council seat vacant.

Then, 6 weeks later, unelected Mayor Shea, with developer FivePoint's help, maneuvered to have Michael Carroll appointed by the Council majority to fill her vacated Council seat.

Interestingly, Michael Carroll's wife, Betty Carroll, received [\\$14,000](#) in campaign help from FivePoint's PAC for her successful 2016 Irvine School Board run.

In the summer of 2019, Mayor Shea and appointed Councilmember Carroll led the effort to eliminate the Veterans Cemetery at the ARDA site. They then pushed to rezone the site so FivePoint could use this Great Park property to build office, commercial and



industrial projects — making hundreds of millions of dollars in profits off of our **valuable parkland that was designated in 2014 for a Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery that should have been built and operational by now.** Shea later described this entire scheme as a ["diversion tactic."](#)

Not Our Values

In 1989, Shea first gained prominence and was later elected to our City Council when she bashed the LGBTQ+ community by leading a ballot measure campaign that successfully removed the LGBTQ+ community from protection under the City's non-discrimination ordinance. Shea told the *LA Times*, "I'm a mom with three kids and I don't want gay pride festivals or public sex in bathrooms in my city."

Flash forward 20 years. In June 2019, within weeks of becoming Mayor, Shea attended the annual meeting of the prestigious U.S. Conference of Mayors — where 226 U.S. mayors, on a bi-partisan basis, adopted consensus resolutions to deal with the challenges facing our cities, our country, and the world. Shea embarrassed herself and our entire City when she was one of just a half-dozen mayors to vote NO on four sensible resolutions to put cities in the forefront in combating climate change.



Dr. Kev Abazajian is Professor of Physics & Astronomy at UCI. His research on energy and the environment has led to policy initiatives for renewable energy.

Shea also voted NO on all seven resolutions calling for the dignified and humane treatment of asylum seekers and other immigrants seeking refuge in the United States. Irvine, once known for our leadership on environmental issues and our welcoming attitude toward immigrants, now finds itself led by a Mayor who rejects these long-held Irvine values.

In a further affront to Irvine citizens and values, Shea teamed up with Carroll (and Councilmember Anthony Kuo) to reject a simple, routine proposal to join with many other cities in flying the rainbow-colored "Pride Flag" at City Hall — in recognition of the past 50 years of progress in overcoming discrimination against gays, lesbians and others made to suffer because of their sexual orientation. Councilmember Carroll went so far as to condemn the Pride Flag as a "spectacle of divisiveness."

Shea and Carroll Get Personal

In responses to the ["grounds for recall"](#) on the petitions for the recall that I've been leading, both Shea and Carroll chose to attack my Armenian heritage by spelling out my full birth name, **Kevork Nazar Abazajian**, to highlight my non-Anglo-Saxon name. You may see that when you sign the recall petitions. Shea and Carroll may as well have put "unwanted immigrant" in front of my Armenian name. **I am proud of my name.** My family left the Soviet Union as political refugees when I was five years old. Now, I treasure being able to participate in our free political process.

I became "Kev" Abazajian growing up in Texas, and the nickname has stuck. I earned a Ph.D in astrophysics at the University of California, San Diego, in 2001, and I'm now a full Professor at UCI as well as Director of the Center for Cosmology.

Shea and Carroll Must Go

Christina Shea and Michael Carroll are not only unelected to their Council positions, they go out of their way to disrespect and offend Irvine voters and the values we share as a community. That's just plain wrong. **Enough is enough! Recall Shea and Carroll!**

OPEN FORUM

FREE SPEECH FOREVER!



Franklin J. Lunding
Publisher

At the end of 2019, a coalition of veterans, longtime Irvine residents, and university community members joined together to serve a "Notice of Intention" to circulate recall petitions to remove Mayor Christina Shea and Councilmember Michael Carroll from office for a variety of reasons. Neither Shea nor Carroll were elected to the positions they currently hold on the Irvine City Council. Both have angered Irvine voters with their relentless efforts to defeat the long-planned Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery at the original 125-acre, City-owned "ARDA" site in the Great Park. Moreover, Shea and Carroll have been working to enable developer FivePoint to gain control of the property for massive office, commercial, and industrial development, despite strong resident opposition.

For some weeks now, *Irvine Community News & Views* has been asking our readers to weigh-in on the proposed recall by participating in our online **Irvine Community Poll**.

When asked if they favor recalling and removing from office Mayor Christina Shea and Councilmember Michael Carroll, 500+ respondents expressed overwhelming support for the recall of the two: 90% said YES to recall Shea; 89% said YES to recall Carroll.

In addition to taking the poll, the community has been offering a surprising number of comments explaining why they support the recall. Only a handful of residents have opposed the recall and left a comment in support of Shea and Carroll. Below, are the results of our poll and a representative sampling of the comments we've received.

-FJL

Online Irvine Community Poll [Still open at: irvinecommunitynews.org/recall-poll]

Question #1:

Do you favor the recall and removal from office of Mayor Christina Shea?

Results: **Yes** 90%

No 10%

Question #2:

Do you favor the recall and removal from office of Councilmember Michael Carroll?

Results: **Yes** 89%

No 11%

Reader Comments

■ It is unconscionable that Shea has twice refused to honor the wishes of the people of Irvine who voted for, and won, the right to have the Veterans Cemetery built on the original "ARDA" proposed site. How many more times will we have to sign petitions to get her to acquiesce and do right by the people she supposedly serves? Shea should have been ousted last year. Let's get this done!
— A. Gill

■ Both Mayor Shea and Councilman Carroll have repeatedly abused the trust and the obvious will of their constituents. Further commercial development in Irvine is not only unnecessary, it is harmful to our Irvine community.
— Diane Greenberg

■ I cannot understand why Mayor Shea and Councilmember Carroll refuse to go along with the great majority of the people of Irvine. Couldn't they see this recall petition coming?
— William Tucker

■ I am so tired of officials ignoring what the people vote for. But, it is the people who have the real power! When officials turn their backs on us, let us show them the door.
— Judy Stephens

■ We need City officials who will carry out the will of the people, plain and simple. Shea and Carroll continue to blatantly disregard what we voters decided, as evidenced by the defeat of Measure B. They must be removed.
— Tony Rodriguez

■ Shea is a complete disgrace as a person and a Mayor. She must go. We must restore integrity, honor, and respect for the voice and vote of the people. The City deserves better.
— Randall B. Grunbaum (U.S. Army Ret.)

■ I am beyond appalled by FivePoint. Citizens are fed up with the power of money and corruption. Shame on our City Council for not respecting the will of the people. Recall is not my favorite approach, but corruption is an urgent matter. I certainly hope that the ARDA site is retained, not the undemocratic Councilmembers and those who supported their appointments.
— Luetie Forrest

■ Shea and Carroll fail to represent the citizens of Irvine. They pander to and are in the pocket of FivePoint. The bias in favor of aggressive development is obvious. They are not serving the people who elected them. The Veterans Cemetery site is a good example. They must go.
— Kathy Tahilramani

■ How many times do we need to reaffirm our decision and vote that the Veterans Memorial be in the Great Park? And now, two appointed Irvine representatives are ignoring and reversing the votes of the majority of Irvine residents. This is not right.
— Sue E. Martin

■ We need and want City officials who support the will of people! Recall both Shea and Carroll.
— Arnold Mendoza

■ These two have been ignoring the vote on the ARDA site and acting like dictators. Now they want to encroach on the proposed golf course leaving the ARDA site for developer FivePoint to make more money. This will affect the Irvine Boulevard traffic, making it much worse.
— Sanjay Dhar

■ It's about time action is being taken to remove those who have betrayed the people of Irvine and especially our veterans who so deserve the ARDA site that was first chosen for the Veterans Cemetery.
— Pat Wheeler

■ Can't happen soon enough! Politicians have to be held accountable.
— Patricia Ewers

■ It's disgraceful for people in office using the office to benefit themselves. Do they not understand the position they hold is to serve the City and community they are in?
— Kenan Chaballout

■ The sooner they're gone, the better! Christina Shea is a disgrace.
— David Proctor III

■ It is a shame that Mayor Shea and Councilman Carroll refuse to accept the majority of Irvine citizens who want to keep the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park. Over 60 % of Irvine voters voted for it last year.
— Richard Sarlitt

■ Neither Christina Shea nor Michael Carroll were elected to their positions on the City Council and they continue to ignore the people's mandate about the Veterans Cemetery. They must be recalled before they give away the ARDA site to the developers.
— Shawn Mela, Proud Marine Corps Veteran

■ Recall them!
— Steven Yang

■ This recall is long overdue! Christina Shea controls the Council meetings with no regard for the rule of law. She interrupts private citizens during public comments and calls out private citizens by name from the dais to shame them. She brings motions before the City Council from a developer who financially supported her last campaign, and she refuses to recuse herself from the vote.
— Dee Fox

■ I have lived in Irvine for over 45 years and was born and raised in Orange County, specifically Tustin. I vote in every election and actively follow informational media. I have never been so astonished and outraged at such blatant disregard of the voters' will regarding the Veterans Cemetery, beginning with the very first vote to create and establish it at the Great Park. Shea and Carroll must go. It's way past time.
— Cindy Eddleman



■ Why would they ignore the voters and try to put more development in this area? So, yes, we as voters should be able to remove them from office.
— Kevin Hoagland

■ I am a 79-year-old veteran who served as a Naval officer during the Vietnam War. This decision is clear. Honor our veterans and our nation, build the Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery.
— Grayson Sanders

■ Anyone that thinks they know better than the residents they represent do not belong in office. If we let them, they will "sell out" all of the property in the Great Park to FivePoint so they continue to get kickbacks in terms of campaign funding. Stop them now!
— Sheila Nyberg

■ The citizens of Orange County must be made aware of the rising corruption and malfeasance permeating our city and county officials. We demand unfettered transparency using outside forensic accounting on select communities and associated councilmembers and officials. They have violated their oath to serve the citizens of their respective cities and county.
— Michael Yawn

■ First...The Mayor does not have the right to go against public sentiment. Second... Solve the existing traffic problems in the city before you think of expansion!
— Ramadevi

■ Unfortunately, I am not a resident of your great community anymore, so I cannot vote. It is with great sadness that Irvine has to deal with this issue. My wonderful Navy pilot friend (45-year resident of Irvine) and his dear wife are still sitting on their daughter's fireplace mantle waiting for your victory. God bless you and your commitment.
— Mary Bossy

Comments Opposing the Recall

■ Leave them alone. I respect and honor Mayor Christina Shea and support all her decisions for the good of the Irvine community.
— Edgardo Abalos

■ Christina and Michael do the right job. The Veterans Cemetery should be located in some other place.
— Nikolas (no last name)

■ I am a Great Park resident and I do not want a Veterans Cemetery in my neighborhood!
— Name Withheld

■ I don't want a Veterans Cemetery!
— Name Withheld

What do YOU think?

Our online **IRVINE COMMUNITY POLL** is still open.
Do you favor the recall and removal from office of Mayor Christina Shea and Councilmember Michael Carroll?

Go to: IrvineCommunityNews.org/recall-poll

ATTENTION IRVINE VOTERS!

Edward S. Pope
Irvine, CA

Dear Irvine Voters –

After enduring five years of Mayor Christina Shea's deliberate delays and her self-described "diversion" schemes to defeat our long-planned Veterans Cemetery, Irvine citizens are finally gaining the upper hand in the fight to establish a beautiful Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery as part of our Great Park.

Hundreds of Irvine volunteers have been gathering thousands of signatures to qualify our official "Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery" initiative for the ballot. With Irvine voter approval later this year, our initiative will once again designate the original 125-acre site (the ARDA site) at the Great Park as Irvine's choice for a State-built and State-operated Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery.

And, to ensure that the Veterans Cemetery actually gets built right away — *with no more political games to sabotage the project* — our committee to Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery is endorsing and supporting the citywide effort to RECALL (unelected) Mayor Christina Shea and her hand-picked (unelected) Councilman Mike Carroll. They need to be removed from office and replaced with a Mayor and Councilmember who will implement — not defy — the will of the people.

To volunteer or to donate to help us succeed with the initiative and the recall petitions, go to: BuildTheVeteransCemetery.org. Donations by check should be mailed and payable to: Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery, 6102 Sierra Siena Road, Irvine CA 92603.

Thank you!

Ed Pope

Ed Pope
Chair
Committee to Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery



If you wish to volunteer or donate to help
Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery, go to:
BuildTheVeteransCemetery.org

Donations by check may be mailed to: Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery, 6102 Sierra Siena Road, Irvine CA 92603.

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