



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

October 14, 2025
City Council Chamber
1 Civic Center Plaza
Irvine, CA 92606

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Irvine City Council was called to order at 4:05 p.m. on October 14, 2025, in the City Council Chamber, Irvine Civic Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, California; Mayor Agran presiding.

ROLL CALL

| | | |
|------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Present: 7 | Councilmember: | Mike Carroll* |
| | Councilmember: | William Go |
| | Councilmember: | Melinda Liu |
| | Councilmember: | Betty Martinez Franco |
| | Councilmember: | Kathleen Treseder |
| | Vice Mayor: | James Mai |
| | Mayor: | Larry Agran |

*Councilmember Carroll arrived at 5 p.m.

1. CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Melching announced the following Closed Session items:

- 1.1 **CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Government Code § 54956.8) – Property: APN 590-17-101 and APN 590-17-404; Agency Negotiators: Sean Crumby, City Manager; Pete Carmichael, Assistant City Manager; Jeffrey Melching, City Attorney; Negotiating Parties: City of Irvine, Heritage Fields El Toro, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, Dan Hedigan, representative: Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment**

- 1.2 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION: Significant Exposure to Litigation (Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) and (3)): One Case**
- 1.3 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION – Government Code Section 54957 - Title: Interim City Manager**
- 1.4 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT - Government Code Section 54957 - Title: City Manager**

Prior to recessing to Closed Session, the following individual spoke on the following:

1.3 and 1.4

Sylvia Walker, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to a lack of transparency in the process of evaluating the Interim City Manager and the appointment of a new City Manager; and spoke in support of a search for candidates outside of current City staff to fill the position.

RECESS

Mayor Agran recessed the City Council meeting to Closed Session at 4:12 p.m.

RECONVENE TO THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Agran reconvened the City Council meeting at 5:10 p.m. City Attorney Melching, on behalf of the City Council, announced that no reportable action was taken in Closed Session.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Treseder led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Mariachi Orgullo de UC Irvine, comprised of Brendaitzel Torres, Teddy Douglas, Angie Marquez, Giovanni Ponce-Lucatero, Rafael Perez, Sabalyn Castillo, and Rafael Salazar, performed “Los Laureles” and “El Relámpago.”

2. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 *Employee Recognition – 20 and 30 Years of Service*

Mayor Agran introduced and recognized the following individuals, and presented Certificates of Recognition and a milestone numeral for 20 and 30 years of public service to the City of Irvine:

20 Years of Service

- Michelle Riske, Director of Human Resources
- Yvonne Prado, Public Safety Dispatcher II

30 Years of Service

- Lynn Biarnesen, Public Safety Assistant

2.2 *Irvine Unified School District*

Mayor Agran introduced Stan Machesky, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, Irvine Unified School District (IUSD), who provided a brief overview of the organization’s mission and programs through its partnership with the City of Irvine.

Anita Bhat, Irvine resident, inquired about a point of contact at IUSD with whom she could address the matter of school overpopulation.

City Council discussion included: noting the different school districts operating in Irvine and IUSD’s size in relation to the others; noted funding levels from the state; commended IUSD staff for its dedication, efficiency, and effectiveness; and noted IUSD’s inclusiveness.

By consensus, received and filed.

2.3 *Library System Update*

Chris Slama, Director of Community & Library Services, and Julie Zeoli, Deputy Director of Community & Library Services/City Librarian, provided a brief update regarding the Irvine Public Library system and responded to questions.

The following individuals spoke in support of prioritizing a main library at the Great Park:

- Raj Bhatia, Irvine resident and Planning Commission Vice Chair
- Jennifer Curry, Irvine resident
- Catherine Maita, Irvine resident
- Ameet Modi, Irvine resident

Lee Handy spoke in support of expanding the feasibility study to include consideration of smaller libraries, leasing of commercial space, and a facility in University Park.

Allison Walter, Irvine resident, spoke in support of a library expansion in the unused portion of University Community Park, rewriting the existing University Park Library land lease for documentation in the feasibility study, and noted the community and schools served by that facility.

Victory Allan, Irvine resident, spoke in support of a library in University Park.

Michaela Gonzalez Montaner, Irvine resident, spoke in support of the library master planning process, striking a balance between facilities and programming, a hybrid model instead of a focus on large libraries, and a review of the University Park Library lease among other options to meet the need for libraries.

Anita Bhat, Irvine resident and Community & Library Services Commissioner, expressed appreciation to the City Council and staff for launching the Irvine Public Library system and listening to community feedback.

Lucy Lu, Irvine resident, spoke in support of expediting the building of a new main library and noted her efforts to establish a new Friends of the Library organization.

Jay Bruce expressed appreciation to library staff for its community outreach efforts.

Chirag Mehta, Irvine resident, spoke in support of the expansion of library services and prioritizing a new main library at the Great Park.

Eric Neshanian, Irvine resident, spoke in support of the Dewey Decimal System, a library feasibility study, and the implementation of a poet laureate program.

City Council discussion included: referencing Spanish-language story time programs at University Park Library; noted continuing library outreach efforts; suggested the leasing of space as a short-term option; questioned the potential for certain financial mechanisms and bond issuances; discussed the potential investment and design of a Great Park Main Library; noted the role of the Community & Library Services Commission in the exploration and outreach process; and inquired about a timetable for the next progress report.

By consensus, received and filed.

Following Presentation Item No. 2.3, Mayor Agran reordered the agenda to consider the City Manager's Report, Announcement/Committee Reports/Council Reports, and Additions and Deletions prior to public comments on non-agendized items.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT

City Manager Crumby introduced the following individuals:

- Melissa Haley, Director of Communications & Engagement, who provided a brief recap of the recent Irvine Global Village Festival;
- Michael Kent, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police, who provided an update on recent immigration enforcement activity; and
- Heather Dion, Director of Health & Wellness, who provided a brief recap of Irvine Nonprofit Week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Liu

- As a member of the Orange County Sanitation (OC San) District Board of Directors, Councilmember Liu reported that OC San's capital improvement program invested over \$245 million in sustainable infrastructure projects across the County, including Irvine. For more information, visit ocsan.gov.
- On October 11, Councilmember Liu visited the open house at Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) Station 26 to learn more about OCFA's public safety efforts.
- Assembly Bill 424 was recently signed into law by Governor Newsom, which requires a 10-day notification of investigation reports by the California Department of Health Care Services to anyone who files a complaint regarding licensed and unlicensed alcohol or drug treatment facilities in California.

- Assembly Bill 91, also known as the MENA Inclusion Act, was also recently signed into law by Governor Newsom, which will ensure proper representation in data collection pertaining to residents of Middle Eastern and North African descent.
- On Friday, September 3, Councilmember Liu's office held its first annual youth conference, which was tailored to local community college students interested in exploring college and career opportunities.

Councilmember Martinez Franco

- Due to the approaching conclusion of Hispanic Heritage Month, Councilmember Martinez Franco recognized the contributions of the Latino community; and expressed appreciation to California State University Fullerton, the Consulate of Mexico, the City of Irvine, and all staff who helped celebrate the month.
- Councilmember Martinez Franco attended the opening of the Orange County Fire Authority Girls Empowerment Camp, a free two-day program for teens ages 14-18 that provides a hands-on look at what it is like to be a firefighter. The camp builds confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills while introducing participants to public safety careers.
- Councilmember Martinez Franco's office recently joined Olympic medalist, Tony Cruz, for an e-bike ride from City Hall to Woodbridge and explored potential bike dock locations for the upcoming bike share pilot program.
- Councilmember Martinez Franco recently attended the League of California Cities Annual Conference with some of her City Council colleagues and City staff. The event provided an opportunity to exchange ideas, meet leaders from across the State, and learn about innovative ways that cities are improving services.
- On Saturday, October 18, Councilmember Martinez Franco's office will host its next Health and Wellness Talk, which provides her with an opportunity to connect with residents, listen to community concerns, and share helpful local resources. In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Human Options has been invited to participate and share information on prevention and support. The event will begin at City Hall and proceed to Einstein Bros. Bagels. Those interested in attending are asked to RSVP.
- Members of the public are invited to register via email or Councilmember Martinez Franco's social media for Citywide and Council District 5 updates.

Councilmember Go

- On November 22, members of the public are invited to attend the Healthy for the Holidays event at the Palm Court Arts Complex in the Great Park. The free event includes family-friendly wellness activities with cooking demos, pickleball, open play every thirty minutes, community raffles, and much more. Details regarding the event will be announced in the coming weeks. For more information, follow @williamgoirvine on Instagram.

Vice Mayor Mai

- At the recent League of California Cities Annual Conference, Vice Mayor Mai was installed as a Large City Representative on the 2025-26 Orange County Division Board of Directors. The event featured keynote speakers, informative sessions addressing key issues affecting local governments, and valuable opportunities to exchange ideas and best practices with city officials from across California.
- Vice Mayor Mai expressed his appreciation to staff from Health & Wellness, Communications & Engagement, and Community & Library Services for their efforts related to Irvine Nonprofit Week, noting that the opening reception, conference, and Health Expo were well attended.
- As the City's representatives to the Orange County Power Authority (OCPA), Vice Mayor Mai, along with Councilmember Go, agreed to immediate repayment of the City's outstanding loan to OCPA, which included a negotiated \$1 million within 30 days; and OCPA's offer not to adjust or amend the joint powers authority agreement with the City. Negotiations also continued with the bank. A date for repayment commencement is forthcoming, which should be no longer than 30 days.

Mayor Agran

- Members of the public are invited to help shape the future of the Irvine Public Library by providing input on services, programs, collections, and spaces, either by taking a survey or attending an upcoming meeting. The survey is available online through Sunday, November 16. Community meetings will be held:
 - Thursday, October 23, 6:30 p.m., at Quail Hill Community Center; or
 - Wednesday, November 12, 6:30 p.m., at Portola Springs Community Center

Feedback will be combined with research and analysis to identify priorities for Irvine Public Library collections, programs, services, and spaces. For more information and to take the survey, visit irvinepubliclibrary.org.

- Members of the public are invited to the Halloween Monster Splash event, which will take place on Saturday, October 25, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the William Woollett Jr. Aquatics Center. Attendees can enjoy trick-or-treating around the pool decks, a floating pumpkin patch, stations for decorating pumpkins, photo booths to capture memorable moments, recreational swimming, or navigating an inflatable obstacle course. Food will be available for purchase and registration is required. For more information, visit cityofirvine.org/monstersplash.
- The City offers free grocery food boxes to residents in need, serving hundreds of families and individuals each month, made possible by dedicated volunteers. Members of the public looking for a meaningful way to give back and connect with their community are invited to volunteer. Specifically, volunteers are needed to:
 - Package food boxes;
 - Unload food items from delivery trucks;
 - Support food distribution events; and
 - Deliver food boxes to homebound residents.

Volunteer opportunities are open to anyone age 18 and older. For more information, visit cityofirvine.org/foodvolunteer.

- Members of the public are invited to experience a new exhibition at the Great Park Gallery celebrating the 25th anniversary of UC Irvine's Beall Center for Art + Technology. Since opening in 2000, the Beall Center has been dedicated to supporting research, exhibitions, and public programs that promote connections between the arts, sciences, and engineering. This special anniversary exhibition celebrates the Beall Center's legacy by highlighting the artists, installations, and exhibitions that have helped shape the center over the past 25 years. The exhibition runs from Sunday, October 26, to Sunday, December 28, with the opening reception taking place on October 26 from 1 to 3 p.m. Admission and parking are free. For more information, visit artsinirvine.org/greatpark.
- Members of the public are invited to attend Mornings with the Mayor on Saturday, October 25, from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Heritage Park Library Community Room. The event will provide opportunities for attendees to connect, share their thoughts, and ask questions about the City.
- On Thursday, October 30, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., a Wildfire Ready Irvine: Protecting Our Homes and Community event will be held at City Hall. Division Chief Nick Freeman and fire prevention specialists from the Orange County Fire Authority, along with Mayor Agran, will share the latest information on wildfire risks; provide information on fire prevention measures; and discuss the matter of insurance.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Alice, Crean Lutheran High School student, spoke in support of education, student engagement, and enforcement related to recycling.

Saurin Mody and Jayden, co-founders of the California Chapter of Vern Initiatives, spoke in support of the placement of a homeless shelter at the Great Park.

Debra Ashby, on behalf of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), provided information regarding AQMD programs that were open for applications.

Mike Rough and Vicki Johnson spoke in support of the City's withdrawal from the Orange County Power Authority.

Michelle, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to gentrification, hate crimes, and religious persecution.

Eric Neshanian, Irvine resident, noted the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Alex Odeh in Orange County and spoke in opposition to genocide denial.

Dee Fox, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to the Orange County Power Authority's greenhouse gas emissions levels.

Alan Meyerson, Irvine resident, expressed appreciation for the successful Irvine Global Village Festival and spoke in support of transparency related to private conversations on the dais.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Prior to adoption of the Consent Calendar, the following individuals spoke on the following:

3.5

Jay Bruce and Eric Neshanian, Irvine resident, spoke in support of referring the item to one of the City's commissions to discuss the proposed removal of restrictions on alcohol and gambling sponsorships.

3.7

Jimmy Elrod, representing the Western States Regional Council of Carpenters, spoke in support of the use of contractors for the proposed project that includes paying prevailing wages, hiring locally when possible, and utilization of apprentices from state-certified training programs.

Moved by Councilmember Liu, seconded by Vice Mayor Mai, and unanimously carried to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 3.1 through 3.4, and 3.6 through 3.8. Consent Calendar Item No. 3.5 was removed for separate discussion.

3.1 MINUTES

ACTION:

- 1) Approved the minutes of a special meeting of the City Council held on September 9, 2025.
- 2) Approved the minutes of an adjourned regular meeting of the City Council held on September 9, 2025.

3.2 PROCLAMATIONS

ACTION:

Proclaimed October 23-31, 2025, as “Red Ribbon Week.”

3.3 WARRANT AND WIRE TRANSFER RESOLUTION

ACTION:

Adopted RESOLUTION NO. 25-104 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, ALLOWING CERTAIN CLAIMS AND DEMANDS AND SPECIFYING THE FUNDS OUT OF WHICH THE SAME ARE TO BE PAID

3.4 CONTRACT AWARD FOR A NEW ENTERPRISE ASSET MANAGEMENT (EAM) SOLUTION AND IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES

ACTION:

- 1) Approved and authorized the Mayor to execute an agreement with KloudGin, for Enterprise Asset Management software subscription licensing and implementation services and contingency for a ten-year period not to exceed \$5,153,548. **(Contract Nos. 22395 and 22514)**

- 2) Approved the appropriation and transfer of \$1,090,335 for Fiscal Year 2025-26 and \$1,277,514 for Fiscal Year 2026-27 from the Asset Management Plan (Fund 002) to the Strategic Technology Plan (Fund 579) for Enterprise Asset Management software subscription, support, and contingency.
- 3) Delegated authority to the City Manager to approve and effectuate any necessary amendments and change orders.

3.5 SPONSORSHIP AND ADVERTISING POLICY UPDATE

This item was removed for separate discussion at the request of Mayor Agran, who inquired about the allowance of alcohol and gambling sponsorships under the proposed policy.

Melissa Haley, Director of Communications & Engagement, presented the staff report and responded to questions. Cory Hilderbrand, Manager of Community & Library Services, also responded to questions.

City Council discussion included: inquiring about the imminence of alcohol and gambling sponsorships under the proposed policy and whether such entities requested inclusion; questioned the urgency of City Council action regarding the matter and suggested deferral to a future City Council meeting; inquired about whether the Community & Library Services Commission considered the matter; questioned other types of sponsorship opportunities; discussed the potential for a case-by-case basis that considers certain locations and target audiences; and noted the selling of alcohol at certain Great Park Live events and the potential for missed sponsorship opportunities.

ACTION: Moved by Mayor Agran, seconded by Councilmember Carroll, to:

Continue the item to a future City Council meeting at the discretion of the City Manager for a greater in-depth discussion.

The motion carried as follows:

AYES: 4 COUNCILMEMBERS: Carroll, Liu, Mai, and Agran

NOES: 3 COUNCILMEMBERS: Go, Martinez Franco, and Treseder

ABSENT: 0 COUNCILMEMBERS: None

ABSTAIN: 0 COUNCILMEMBERS: None

3.6 AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR JAMBOREE/MAIN INTERSECTION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (CIP 312103)

ACTION:

- 1) Awarded a construction contract in the amount of \$4,231,208.82 for the Jamboree/Main Intersection Enhancement Project, CIP 312103, to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Aster Construction Services. **(Contract No. 22369)**
- 2) Approved the budget adjustment appropriating \$1,050,000 in System Development Charge – Circulation Fund and \$148,500 to be reimbursed by Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD), to the Jamboree/Main Intersection Enhancement Project, CIP 312103.

3.7 SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NOS. 25-24 AND 25-25 REGARDING ZONE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR A 2,500-UNIT RESIDENTIAL PROJECT IN PLANNING AREA 25 (UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARK)

ACTION:

- 1) Read by title only, second reading and adoption of ORDINANCE NO. 25-24 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING ZONE CHANGE 00920016-PZC TO REZONE LAND FROM 5.5 MEDICAL AND SCIENCE TO 3.1I MULTI-USE AND AMEND SECTIONS 3-3-1, 3-37-17, AND CHAPTER 9-25 OF THE IRVINE ZONING ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM RESIDENTIAL UNIT CAP OF 2,500 DWELLING UNITS, ADD DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS RELATIVE TO RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND CREATE LAND USE REGULATIONS FOR THE 3.1I MULTI-USE ZONE FOR PLANNING AREA 25 (UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARK); FILED BY IRVINE COMPANY
- 2) Read by title only, second reading and adoption of ORDINANCE NO. 25-25 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT 00948649-PDA TO ESTABLISH PUBLIC BENEFITS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF 2,500 DWELLING UNITS WITHIN PLANNING AREA 25 (UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARK); FILED BY IRVINE COMPANY

(Unless otherwise directed by a Member of the City Council, the vote at second reading will reflect the same vote as at first reading. However, if a Councilmember was absent at first reading, his or her vote cast at second reading will be reflected. If a Councilmember is not present at the second reading/adoption, the vote will be reflected as absent.)

Approved 7-0.

3.8 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND GRANT NOMINATIONS

ACTION:

- 1) Approved Councilmember Liu's request for Community Partnership Fund Grant Nomination to Orange County Iranian American Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$1,000 to support adults with disabilities in exploring a variety of creative opportunities. **(Contract No. 13010)**
- 2) Approved Councilmember Carroll's request for Community Partnership Fund Grant Nomination to the following organizations in support of program costs:
 - a. Families Forward (\$5,000) **(Contract No. 13012)**
 - b. Irvine Public Schools Foundation (\$5,000) **(Contract No. 13011)**
 - c. Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation (\$2,500) **(Contract No. 13025)**
- 3) Approved Councilmember Martinez Franco's request for Community Partnership Fund Grant Nomination to Tree of New America in the amount of \$550 in support of program costs.
- 4) Approved Vice Mayor Mai's request for Community Partnership Fund Grant Nomination to Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation in the amount of \$2,500 in support of program costs. **(Contract No. 13025)**
- 5) Authorized the City Manager to prepare and sign funding agreements for the organizations listed above.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

4.1 FEE RECOMMENDATION FOR PASSPORT PHOTO SERVICES

Mayor Agran opened the public hearing at 7:56 p.m.

Justin Equina, Senior Management Analyst, presented the staff report and responded to questions. Daniel Kim, Municipal Records Administrator, was also available for questions.

Eric Neshanian, Irvine resident, spoke in support of the proposed Passport Services Program and noted an Irvine location that also offers the service.

City Council discussion included: expressing appreciation to staff for pursuing a passport services program; and concurred with the proposed fee as it compared to others who offer similar services.

ACTION: Moved by Councilmember Carroll, seconded by Councilmember Liu, and unanimously carried to close the public hearing at 8:04 p.m.

ACTION: Moved by Mayor Agran, seconded by Vice Mayor Mai, and unanimously carried to:

Adopt RESOLUTION NO. 25-105 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING A FEE FOR PASSPORT PHOTO SERVICES

5. COUNCIL BUSINESS

5.1 URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN

Alex Salazar, Acting Director of Public Works & Sustainability, presented the staff report and responded to questions. Aaron Reece, City Arborist, also responded to questions.

Stanley Shaw, University of California, Irvine, student, spoke in support of adopting the proposed plan and suggested City assistance in promoting creation of a homegrown tree-planting group.

Eric Neshanian, Irvine resident, spoke in support of the City posting a tree map online, and spoke in opposition to eucalyptus and jacaranda trees.

Sylvia Walker, Irvine resident, spoke in support of planting additional trees in the Irvine Business Complex (IBC) and the inclusion of fruit trees on the planting list.

City Council discussion included: noting the environmental benefits of trees; suggested the addition of trees in the IBC; discussed the exclusion of eucalyptus trees; inquired about the fiscal impact of rebuilding sidewalks; questioned the potential of in-lieu fees; inquired about the number of City arborists; questioned tree placement in the Quail Hill open space; inquired about mustard plant mitigation plans; discussed the incorporation of climate projections, including impact on jacaranda trees; and questioned replacement plans for pine trees along Culver Drive in the event of their deaths.

ACTION: Moved by Mayor Agran, seconded by Councilmember Treseder, and unanimously carried to:

- 1) Adopt the Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP).
- 2) Direct staff to begin updating the Urban Forestry Ordinance and other urban forestry related policies and documents aligning with UFMP recommendations.

5.2 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY COUNCILMEMBER LIU TO DISCUSS A NITROUS OXIDE ORDINANCE

This item was agendaized at the request of Councilmember Liu, who asked for City Council consideration to discuss a nitrous oxide ordinance.

Jeff Melching, City Attorney, responded to questions.

The following individuals also presented information related to their areas of expertise as it relates to nitrous oxide, and responded to questions:

- Michael Kent, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police
- Nick Freeman, Orange County Fire Authority Division 2 Chief
- Ryan Sherman, Legislative Counsel for the California Narcotic Officers' Association

Dee Fox and Eric Neshanian, Irvine residents, spoke in opposition to the drafting of a local nitrous oxide ordinance.

City Council discussion included: questioning whether any report generated as a result of City Council direction would need to return for consideration; inquired about City and state jurisdiction over nitrous oxide; questioned social media trends and the policing of such trends; inquired about requirements for purchase, including online purchasing; questioned the number of facilities in the City that sell nitrous oxide; inquired about incorporation into the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program; questioned the approximate valuation of each drug;

inquired about the County's areas of enforcement; questioned related efforts by other cities within Orange County; inquired about the adequacy of state law, existing penalties, and any potential legal gaps; questioned the effectiveness of education programs; inquired about canister types; questioned smoke shop locations in the City; and inquired about the reach of the proposed ordinance.

ACTION: Moved by Councilmember Liu, seconded by Councilmember Treseder, to:

Direct the City Manager, City Attorney, and City Staff to propose a Nitrous Oxide Ordinance within the City of Irvine with the following elements:

- 1) Outlining definitions and authority over the discretion of the Nitrous Oxide ordinance.
- 2) Establishing standards for civil and criminal penalties for violations, for both individual and business entities, including but not limited to, the revocation of business licenses, that sell, attempt to sell, offer, distribute, or otherwise provide any device that contains any quality or administers Nitrous Oxide for personal and/or recreational use.
- 3) Defining clear exemptions to this ordinance for specific wholesale capacity retailers for dentistry applications, food production in a commercial kitchen, commercial sale for the purpose of producing food products for commercial use, vehicle performance applications, medical or dental care, sale, attempt to sell, or distribute pharmaceutical-related products, and other circumstances permitted under state and federal laws.

ACTION: A friendly amendment was made by Mayor Agran, accepted by Councilmember Liu as the maker and Councilmember Treseder as the seconder, to:

Direct the City Manager, City Attorney, and City Staff to draft a Nitrous Oxide Ordinance within the City of Irvine with the following elements:

- 1) Outlining definitions and authority over the discretion of the Nitrous Oxide ordinance.
- 2) Establishing standards for civil and criminal penalties for violations, for both individual and business entities, including but not limited to, the revocation of business licenses, that sell, attempt to sell, offer, distribute, or otherwise provide any device that contains any quality or administers Nitrous Oxide for personal and/or recreational use.

- 3) Defining clear exemptions to this ordinance for specific wholesale capacity retailers for dentistry applications, food production in a commercial kitchen, commercial sale for the purpose of producing food products for commercial use, vehicle performance applications, medical or dental care, sale, attempt to sell, or distribute pharmaceutical-related products, and other circumstances permitted under state and federal laws.

The motion failed as follows:

AYES: 3 COUNCILMEMBERS: Go, Liu, and Treseder

NOES: 4 COUNCILMEMBERS: Carroll, Mai, Martinez Franco, and Agran

ABSENT: 0 COUNCILMEMBERS: None

ABSTAIN: 0 COUNCILMEMBERS: None

No additional action was taken.

5.3 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY COUNCILMEMBER LIU TO DISCUSS AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING AND/OR RESTRICTING THE SALE, POSSESSION, OR DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM

This item was agendized at the request of Councilmember Liu, who asked for City Council consideration to discuss an ordinance prohibiting and/or restricting the sale, possession, or distribution of kratom.

Ryan Sherman, Legislative Counsel for the California Narcotic Officers' Association, spoke in support of a proposed ordinance.

Jordan Richard spoke in support of the allowance of kratom and a ban on 7-Hydroxymitragynine (7-OH).

The following individuals spoke in support of kratom regulation in lieu of prohibition:

- Madie
- Stephen McIntosh
- Jenn
- Anthony, California resident
- Bekkah Morris
- Dylan
- Drea

- Allison Smith, Director of Government Affairs for the Global Kratom Coalition
- Mike
- Matthew Chavira
- Jennifer Gillis
- Misty Brown
- Christopher Deaney
- Lora Romney
- Simmy, Irvine native
- Venus Usher

Eric Neshanian and Dee Fox, Irvine residents, spoke in opposition to a local kratom ordinance.

Susan Eppard spoke in support of a ban on all forms of kratom.

City Council discussion included: suggesting City Council consideration at a later date based on any action taken by the state, or lack thereof; and noted certain efforts made by other local jurisdictions.

ACTION: Moved by Councilmember Liu to:

Direct the City Manager and City Attorney to draft an ordinance that includes:

- 1) Prohibiting the sale or distribution of items containing 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) with the level of 7-OH that is greater than 2% of the total kratom alkaloid in the product by individuals, businesses, or other entities.
- 2) Prohibiting the sale of or distribution of kratom or 7-OH products to any person under the age of 21.
- 3) Requiring individuals, businesses, or entities that sell, offer, or distribute kratom or 7-OH products to conduct age verification to ensure compliance.
- 4) Establishing a standard for civil and criminal penalties for violations applicable to both individual and business entities including, but not limited to, the revocation of business licenses for those who sell, attempt to sell, offer, or distribute or otherwise, directly or indirectly, as outlined in the ordinance.

The motion failed for lack of second.

No additional action was taken.

Following consideration of Council Business Item No. 5.3, Mayor Agran reordered the agenda to consider Council Business Item No. 5.5 prior to Council Business Item No. 5.4 at the request of Councilmember Treseder.

5.5 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY COUNCILMEMBER TRESEDER TO RECOGNIZE JANUARY 30TH OF EACH YEAR AS FRED KOREMATSU DAY OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE CONSTITUTION

This item was agendized at the request of Councilmember Treseder, who asked for City Council consideration to discuss annual recognition of January 30 as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution.

The following individuals spoke in support of recognizing January 30 as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution:

- Doug Elliott, Irvine resident and Community & Library Services Commissioner
- Robert Chang, University of California, Irvine, professor and Executive Director of the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality
- Eric Neshanian, Irvine resident

Dee Fox, Irvine resident, expressed concern that approval of this item may set a precedent for other similar recognitions.

City Council discussion included: expressing similar concerns raised by Ms. Fox; questioned the redundancy of the request based on existing state recognition; and requested clarification regarding a proposed resolution in lieu of proclamation.

ACTION: Moved by Councilmember Treseder, seconded by Councilmember Martinez Franco, and unanimously carried to:

Adopt RESOLUTION NO. 25-121 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, RECOGNIZING JANUARY 30, 2026, AS “FRED KOREMATSU DAY OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE CONSTITUTION”

5.4 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY COUNCILMEMBER TRESEDER TO DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POLICY ON COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AND SPEAKING ROLES AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

This item was agendaized at the request of Councilmember Treseder, who asked for City Council consideration to discuss the development of a policy on Council representation and speaking roles at community events.

Alan Meyerson, Irvine resident, spoke in support of accommodating Councilmembers who wish to speak at community events, and noted Councilmember Treseder's lack of attendance at certain events.

Eric Neshanian, Irvine resident, spoke in support of all Councilmembers having the right to speak and noted Councilmember Treseder's lack of attendance at previous community events.

City Council discussion included: discussing potential options based on the type of event and/or their respective locations within districts, with management and time limitations imposed by staff; suggested providing speaking opportunities to all interested members of the City Council; noted current efforts by the City Council Policy Subcommittee to develop a policy for City Council consideration, which includes research of similar practices of surrounding jurisdictions; and noted the existing by-district and at-large composition of the City Council.

ACTION: Moved by Councilmember Treseder, seconded by Vice Mayor Mai, and unanimously carried to:

Refer the matter to the City Council Policy Subcommittee to draft a proposal for a policy considering the comments and suggestions made at the dais, and return to the City Council at the November 12, 2025, meeting.

5.6 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY COUNCILMEMBER TRESEDER TO CREATE AN LGBTQIA+ RESOURCE CENTER WITHIN THE CENTER FOR HEALTHY LIVING

This item was continued to the October 28, 2025, City Council meeting at the request of Councilmember Treseder.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Vice Mayor Mai, seconded by Mayor Agran, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 p.m.


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF IRVINE


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF IRVINE

November 12, 2025