

Memo

To: Grace Luong, Acting City Manager
From: Jeffrey Lalloway, Councilmember
cc: City Council
Date: June 12, 2018
Re: Veterans Cemetery

On June 5th, Irvine voters spoke loudly and clearly when they overwhelmingly rejected Measure B — a referendum on developer FivePoint’s proposed zone change, land-swap and development plan previously approved by three members of the City Council on October 10, 2017.

In the Spring of 2017, Governor Jerry Brown, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, and Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva visited Irvine to express their continuing support for a Southern California Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery, to be located in the City of Irvine. Governor Brown noted that the precise location of the Veterans Cemetery — whether on the 125-acre Great Park ARDA site or at the Bake Parkway/I-5 site — was a matter to be decided locally. According to the Governor, Speaker Rendon and Assembly Member Quirk-Silva, whatever the decision of the people of Irvine, we could count on the State’s continuing support for the project, including major funding, in order to get the Veterans Cemetery built and operational quickly. Under State law, the Southern California Veterans Cemetery would then be operated and maintained in perpetuity by the State at no cost to the City of Irvine.

With the June 5th vote on Measure B, the people of Irvine have now decided: The Southern California Veterans Cemetery should be located at the originally approved Great Park ARDA site, not at the Bake Parkway/I-5 site.

The purpose of this memo is to chart a clear course and timeline for moving forward. With the submission of this memo, I am requesting and reserving ample time at the June 26th Council meeting to address the Veterans Cemetery issue as a specific agenda item.

At the June 26th meeting, I intend to introduce a motion/resolution to do the following:

First, have the City Council officially recognize the June 5th decision of Irvine voters, rejecting Measure B and thereby once again reaffirming the City Council's 2014 decision designating the Great Park ARDA site for the Southern California Veterans Cemetery.

Second, direct the Irvine City Manager and staff, in consultation with CalVet, to establish a demolition, cleanup and preliminary site preparation plan for immediate implementation at the Great Park Veterans Cemetery site, consistent with the 333-page CalVet Great Park Veterans Cemetery Concept Plan approved in 2016.

Third, direct the City Manager and staff to establish a schedule and budget for the construction of Phase I of the Great Park Veterans Cemetery, noting that "up-front" funding is available from the City's Great Park Development Fund (Fund 180) — a Fund which will eventually contain nearly \$300 million (including State Redevelopment settlement funds). To be clear, Fund 180 is separate and apart from the City's General Fund. It is expected that any up-front expenditures from the Great Park Development Fund would be largely or wholly reimbursed and augmented by State and Federal funds.

Fourth, direct the City Manager and City Attorney to reaffirm that, once built, the State of California will, by law, be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park in perpetuity, at no cost to the City of Irvine.

Fifth, establish a two-member Veterans Cemetery implementation committee, (consisting of Mayor Wagner and me), to lead the effort to gain maximum cooperation and assistance from Governor Brown, CalVet and others in Sacramento, in furtherance of our goal to have Phase I of the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park operational by Veterans Day, November 11, 2020.

I hereby request that this matter be placed on the June 26, 2018, City Council agenda as a specific item, to be taken up at a time certain — I suggest 7 p.m. — to facilitate maximum citizen participation at the Council meeting.