



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

March 24, 2026
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 March 24, 2026, 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

1. CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Melching announced the following Closed Session items:

- 1.1 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Government Code § 54956.8) – Property: 510 Technology Drive; Agency Negotiators: Sean Crumby, City Manager; Pete Carmichael, Assistant City Manager; Jeffrey Melching, City Attorney; Negotiating Parties: City of Irvine; Jeff Shaw, Vice President of Leasing, The Irvine Company; Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment**

- 1.2 **CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Government Code § 54956.8) - Property: 4242 Campus Drive, Irvine, CA 92612; Agency Negotiators: Sean Crumby, City Manager; Michelle Grettenberg, Assistant City Manager; Jeffrey Melching, City Attorney; Negotiating Parties: UC Regents; Under Negotiation: Lease Renewal**

- 1.3 **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION: Initiation of litigation (Government Code section 54956.9(d)(4)): One case**

There were no requests to speak.

RECESS

Mayor Agran recessed the City Council meeting to Closed Session at 4:11 p.m.

RECONVENE TO THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Agran reconvened the City Council meeting at 5:20 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 Martinez Franco led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Rabbi Yisroel Ciner from Beth Jacob Congregation of Irvine, Senior Pastor Reverend Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano from Irvine United Congregational Church, and Sheik Mohammed Faqih from the Islamic Center of Irvine, provided the invocation.

2. PRESENTATIONS

ACTION: Moved by Councilmember Liu, seconded by Vice Mayor Mai, and unanimously carried to proclaim April 12-18, 2026, as “National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.”

- 2.1 **Proclaim April 12-18, 2026, as "National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week"**

Mayor Agran introduced members of the Irvine Police Department’s and Orange County Fire Authority’s Communications Bureaus, and presented a proclamation recognizing April 12-18, 2026, as “National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.”

PUBLIC COMMENTS - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

John Albritton spoke in opposition to the Irvine Company's (TIC) proposed 50-acre nature park in Oak Creek and associated discussion at both a recent Planning Commission meeting and TIC event.

Susan Sayre, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to certain City Council decision-making processes and in support of recusal on agenda items in the event of a conflict of interest; and suggested decision-making by City Councilmembers based on the best interest of constituents.

Daryl Gale spoke in support of "make polluters pay" (MPP) legislation that would hold large polluters accountable, and legislation to ensure accountability for Southern California Edison at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station.

Maksim Egorov spoke in opposition to a recent Planning Commission vote related to the proposed nature park in Oak Creek associated plans to build housing adjacent to the site; noted a recent challenge to the citizen initiative; and spoke in support of submitting the matter to the voters.

Joanne Slobodien, representing Protect Irvine Open Space, spoke in support of protecting open space at Oak Creek and submitting the matter to the voters; and spoke in opposition to incomplete information provided at a recent Planning Commission meeting.

Judith Gass, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to the proceedings at a recent Planning Commission meeting and in support of submitting the matter of open space protection in Oak Creek to the voters.

Heidi spoke in opposition to messaging related to the proposed nature park at a recent Planning Commission meeting; questioned the credibility of community feedback on the nature park website; and noted the original omission and subsequent addition of Orange Tree and The Ranch on the TIC nature park website list of communities invited to participate in providing feedback.

Jason Garshfield, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to use of the term "vehicular violence" during the recent State of the City Address in reference to traffic fatalities; spoke in support of measures to address a line of sight issue at Cross Creek Apartments; spoke in opposition to noise created by Waste Management vehicles early on morning weekends; and spoke in support of loosened restrictions on bars and alcohol-serving establishments, affordability in home ownership, and making green space at Oak Creek into a park open to the public.

Holland Davenport, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to a violation notice she and her husband were issued for a loud or unruly party while they hosted a small family gathering; and spoke in support of clearly defined quiet hours, measurable and objective standards, and safeguards for consistent enforcement.

Rima Nashashibi, Orange County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls At-Large Alternate Commissioner, noted the completion of the commission's inaugural report and shared statistics from that report.

Jaime Aclander noted the City's high park system ranking by the Trust for Public Land, expressed disappointment regarding a recent decision by the Planning Commission, and spoke in opposition to TIC's proposed rezoning and development of housing in Oak Creek.

Eric Neshanian, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to Vice Mayor Mai's slogan of "people over politics" and Councilmember Go's operation as a principal or employee for businesses without a business license; referenced a Irvine Watchdog article; and spoke in support of voter consideration of open space protection in Oak Creek.

Alice McNally spoke in support of moving waste from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station to a safer location on higher ground.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT

Michael Kent, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police, noted that there had been no recent immigration enforcement activity in the City since his prior update.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Agran

- Mayor Agran congratulated Katelyn, Nour, and Jayden, students who won third prize in the High School West Division of the 2026 C-SPAN StudentCam documentary competition for their video titled "The Key to a Healthy Democracy," which discusses how the legacy of the Declaration of Independence inspires youth community service and how that service strengthens communities through civic engagement. To view the list of prize-winning entries, visit studentcam.org.
- Mayor Agran and City Manager Sean Crumby recently met with University of California, Irvine (UCI), Assistant Vice Chancellor Sherry Main to discuss the partnership between the City and UCI and accept a check from UCI for City-provided services. This marks the fourth year of UCI's voluntary support for City services. In addition, UCI has supported a range of City programs and initiatives over the past year, bringing its overall contribution to \$1.6 million.
- The Venta Spur Trail Crossings Improvement Project will evaluate street crossings along the trail that do not currently have traffic signals. Members of the public are invited to participate in the process of improving safety and accessibility along the trail by completing a brief survey and attending a meeting on March 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Northwood Community Center to learn about the improvement project, ask questions, and connect with the project team. For more information and to take the survey, visit cityofirvine.org/TransportationStudies.

- The Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee is holding a Baby Gift Drive from March 29 through April 21. Members of the public can help support Irvine's adopted 2/11 Marine Battalion by donating new and unopened baby care items. Donations such as new baby clothes, swaddle blankets, and newborn toiletries, can be dropped off at Irvine City Hall, the Irvine Police Department (IPD), and the Great Park Visitors Center. All donations go to families in the 2/11 Marine Battalion at Camp Pendleton. For more information, visit Irvine211Marines.org.
- The Irvine Police Department will host an Open House on Saturday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Irvine Civic Center piazza and parking lot. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet Irvine Police officers and view police and fire vehicles, along with skill demonstrations from K-9 and motorcycle officers. There will also be games, opportunities to take photos, and special giveaways while supplies last. Food will be available for purchase. Parking will be available off-site, and free shuttles will be provided from Creekside High School, Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Park, and Free Chapel. For more information, visit irvinepd.org.

Councilmember Martinez Franco

- Councilmember Martinez Franco noted recent allegations against Cesar Chavez and expressed her support for a City proclamation to rename Cesar Chavez Day to Farmworkers Day.
- Earlier in the month, Councilmember Martinez Franco's office welcomed nearly 140 Irvine residents to a town hall to discuss concerns about the University Park Library and Irvine Public Library Master Plan; and expressed appreciation to City Librarian Julie Zeoli, staff, and Mayor Agran for taking time to share their expertise with the community. Details related to an upcoming meeting will be shared soon.
- Councilmember Martinez Franco recently participated in the City's first Women's Conference and expressed appreciation to attendees and staff for their behind-the-scenes work to make the event a success.
- Councilmember Martinez Franco's office partnered with Tree of New America to distribute free food to 112 individual attendees, representing 280 household members, with 100% of those impacted being Irvine residents. Of the individuals represented, 48% were seniors, 43% were children, and nine attendees used Irvine Connect to access the event.
- The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) recently held its Annual Open House. In addition, Councilmember Martinez Franco expressed appreciation to OCFA for its rapid response in saving two family households from a fire.

Councilmember Go

- Councilmember Go recently held the next installment in his Monthly District 2 Virtual Town Hall Series. This month's edition featured Luis Estevez, Director of Public Works & Sustainability, who discussed projects including the Jeffrey Open Space Trail pedestrian footbridge, Irvine Fieldhouse, and Great Park build-out.
- Councilmember Go attended the Great Park Library Planning Community Meeting, where community members were able to ask questions and receive an updated timeline for the library. The next meeting will take place on April 7 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Civic Center West.
- The Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors directed staff to recover consultant overbillings, enhance review of allowances, and strengthen requirements for timesheets; and approved the 2026 Long-Range Transportation Plan, which will expand multimodal capacity, improve operations, enhance accessibility, and add system resilience.
- The Transportation Corridor Agencies Board of Directors extended its partnership with California State University, Fullerton's, Center for Demographic Research to provide data on building footprint studies, traffic modeling, 2030 Census demographics, and more; and authorized a contract to provide pre-construction baseline traffic construction analysis for the 241/91 Express Connector.

Councilmember Liu

- Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District inspectors have diligently checked standing water sources to prevent the spread of *aedes aegypti*, also known as the ankle biter mosquito.
- On March 11, the Orange County Sanitation District's Administration Committee reviewed the cost-of-service rates study, fleet equipment replacement, and disposal agreement with OC Waste & Recycling.
- On March 17, the Hotel Improvement District Committee discussed FIFA World Cup hotel readiness following the United States Men's National Soccer Team base camp announcement.
- On March 21, Councilmember Liu served as a guest speaker for University High School's Model United Nations, and provided advice and words of encouragement for students in attendance.
- Councilmember Liu's office will host a Domestic Violence Awareness Town Hall on April 7 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Portola Springs Community Center, which will include a discussion on recognizing the signs and red flags of domestic violence and relationship education.

- Councilmember Liu noted the importance of proper decorum and spoke in support of cordial discussion without the use of racial slurs.

Vice Mayor Mai

- Vice Mayor Mai noted Orange County Power Authority's (OCPA) existing rates and the potential for relief in the future; and also noted the ability for customers to opt out on the OCPA website. OCPA successfully completed its first renewable energy prepayment bond transaction, which is expected to deliver an estimated 12.45% discount on wholesale energy costs, generating approximately \$25.3 million in total savings over the initial five-year period. As a result, OCPA customers can expect greater long-term stability and lower electricity costs in the future.
- OCPA recently launched its renter energy-efficiency program, which provides a free portable air-conditioning unit and portable battery that can be used to charge other utilities for anyone in Irvine. The items are valued at approximately \$1,500 but are provided at no cost to program recipients, without requiring landlord approval or home modifications. Priority will be given to individuals enrolled in California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE), Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA), and Medical Baseline programs. The program is open through April 5, 2026.
- OCPA initiated a \$325,000 loan repayment, which represents its second payment to the City of Irvine.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

3.7

Pamela, Irvine resident, expressed concern about the lack of acutely low- or extremely low-income units completed since 2022; and spoke in support of housing for the hearing impaired and prioritization of inclusionary housing funds for extremely low- and very low-income households.

Ghada Alaghwani and Ibrahim Abouseeda noted the difficulty in finding affordable housing in the City.

3.8

Joanne Slobodien spoke in support of voter consideration in the event there is interest in amending the general plan to allow for building on protected open space in Oak Creek and placing the citizen’s initiative on the November 2026 ballot; and also in support of correcting a known scrivener’s error involving the driving range overlay.

3.9

Doug Elliott, Irvine resident and Community & Library Services Commissioner, spoke in support of a detailed discussion related to the overall Wall of Recognition (WOR) nomination process.

Harvey Liss, Irvine resident, spoke in support of the nomination of Ed McNew to the WOR.

Dee Fox, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to the nomination of Ann Hwu to the WOR.

Moved by Mayor Agran, seconded by Councilmember Carroll, and unanimously carried to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 3.1 through 3.6 and 3.8 through 3.12, and Consent Calendar Item No. 3.9 as amended per the errata memo dated March 23, 2026. Consent Calendar Item No. 3.7 was removed for separate discussion.

3.1 MINUTES

ACTION:

Approved the minutes of an adjourned regular meeting of the City Council held on February 24, 2026.

3.2 PROCLAMATIONS

ACTION:

Proclaimed April and May 2026, as “Orange County Affordable and Fair Housing Months.”

3.3 WARRANT AND WIRE TRANSFER RESOLUTION

ACTION:

Adopted RESOLUTION NO. 26-25 – 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 AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR NORTHERN SECTOR DEMOLITION PHASE 2, CIP 372417

ACTION:

Awarded a construction contract in the amount of \$6,747,894.16 for the Northern Sector Demolition Phase 2, CIP 372417, to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Miller Environmental, Inc. **(Contract No. 22709)**

(Unless otherwise directed by a member of the City Council, the vote on this matter will reflect the prior action of each Councilmember when he or she sat and voted as a member of the Board of Directors of the Great Park Corporation. However, if a Councilmember is not present at the City Council meeting, his or her vote will be reflected as absent.)

Approved 7-0.

3.5 SECOND AMENDMENT TO FARMING LEASE WITH OC PRODUCE, LLC AND GEM-PACK BERRIES, LLC

ACTION:

Approved the Second Amendment to Farming Lease with Orange County Produce, LLC and Gem-Pack Berries, LLC and authorize execution by the City Manager. **(Contract No. 9004B)**

3.6 AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TARGET TRANSPORT, INC.

ACTION:

Approved Amendment No. 2 to License Agreement with Target Transport, Inc. and authorized execution by the City Manager. **(Contract No. 11579B)**

3.7 2025 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE CITY OF IRVINE HOUSING ELEMENT

This item was removed for separate discussion at the request of Councilmember Martinez Franco, who inquired about available affordable housing units, goals for the number of those units for future Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) numbers, and possible solutions for the issue.

Stephanie Frady, Director of Community Development, presented the staff report and responded to questions.

City Council discussion included: clarifying information provided in the progress report; noted the City's efforts related to increasing affordable housing; noted the presence of school children in the City in acutely low- and extremely low-income households; referenced lists of homeless students maintained by school districts; noted a partnership agreement with TIC to make apartment units on a two-year grant system available and opportunities for participation by families of homeless students; and questioned whether the submitted report included home ownership.

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

- 1) Receive and file the 2025 Housing Element Annual Progress Report for the City of Irvine.
- 2) Direct staff to submit the 2025 Annual Progress Report to the California Department of Housing and Community Development and the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation.

3.8 2025 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE CITY OF IRVINE GENERAL PLAN

ACTION:

- 1) Received and filed the 2025 General Plan Annual Progress Report for the City of Irvine General Plan.
- 2) Directed staff to submit the 2025 Annual Progress Report to the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation.

3.9 WALL OF RECOGNITION NOMINATIONS

ACTION:

Approved nominations for inclusion on the Wall of Recognition.

3.10 REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF MEASURE M2 GRANT FUNDS FOR JEFFREY ROAD AT BARRANCA PARKWAY INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, CIP 312209

ACTION:

Authorized the City Engineer to submit a request to Orange County Transportation Authority to extend the expenditure deadline for Measure M2 grant funds in the amount of \$926,065 to Fiscal Year 2027-28, for the construction phase of the Jeffrey Road at Barranca Parkway Intersection Improvement Project, CIP 312209.

3.11 SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 26-06 LEVYING SPECIAL TAXES WITHIN IMPROVEMENT AREA NO. 20 OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2013-3(B) (GREAT PARK)

ACTION:

Read by title only, second reading and adoption of ORDINANCE NO. 26-06 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, ACTING AS THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE CITY OF IRVINE COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2013-3(B) (GREAT PARK), LEVYING SPECIAL TAXES WITHIN IMPROVEMENT AREA NO. 20 OF THE CITY OF IRVINE COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2013-3(B) (GREAT PARK)

(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.

3.12 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND GRANT NOMINATIONS

ACTION:

- 1) Approved Councilmember Carroll's request for Community Partnership Fund Grant Nomination to Irvine Children's Fund in the amount of \$2,000 in support of program costs. **(Contract No. 13084)**
- 2) Authorized the City Manager to prepare and sign a funding agreement for the organization listed above.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

4.1 CITY VACANCIES AND RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION EFFORTS IN COMPLIANCE WITH ASSEMBLY BILL 2561

Mayor Agran opened the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

Wendy Brown, Deputy Director of Human Resources, presented the staff report and responded to questions. Gladys Chavez, Senior Human Resources Analyst, was also available for questions.

There were no requests to speak.

City Council discussion included: inquiring about whether the report was the first annual report of its kind; questioned whether the report would be submitted annually; and suggested that the next report include a comparison to the current report.

ACTION: Moved by Mayor Agran, seconded by Councilmember Liu, and unanimously carried to close the public hearing at 7:22 p.m.

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

5. COUNCIL BUSINESS

5.1 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY VICE MAYOR MAI TO DISCUSS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ANNUAL IRVINE NON-PROFIT WEEK PROGRAM

This item was agendaized at the request of Vice Mayor Mai, who asked for City Council consideration to discuss the establishment of an annual Irvine Non-Profit Week program.

Sean Crumby, City Manager, and Heather Dion, Director of Health & Wellness, responded to questions.

City Council discussion included: suggesting a compilation of all annual events for consideration during the budget adoption process to assess which events would be one-time or annual, and which ones would have costs offset by sponsorships; suggested adding a line item in the budget to include events and gatherings; inquired about the cost of last year's Non-Profit Week event and Healthy Living Expo, and the potential to combine both events into one; questioned the ability to secure sponsorships if a Non-Profit Week event were held annually; questioned whether any events included allocations from individual Councilmember budgets; and inquired about the possibility of deferring this year's Non-Profit Week to November.

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

- 1) Formally establish Irvine Nonprofit Week as an annual event to ensure ongoing recognition of the City's nonprofit community, provide a consistent forum for collaboration and capacity-building, and reinforce Irvine's commitment to a more equitable and thriving city.

- 2) Direct the City Manager to develop plans for the 2026 Irvine Nonprofit Week and subsequent years, including appropriate timing, programming, and resources to accommodate growing participation.

5.2 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY COUNCILMEMBERS GO AND TRESEDER TO DISCUSS UTILIZING THE FORMER SPECTRUMOTION FACILITY AT THE IRVINE TRANSPORTATION CENTER FOR A TEMPORARY POP-UP BICYCLE MAINTENANCE FACILITY

This item was agendized at the request of Councilmembers Go and Treseder, who asked for City Council consideration to discuss utilizing the former Spectrumotion facility at the Irvine Transportation Center for a temporary pop-up bicycle maintenance facility.

Sean Crumby, City Manager, and Luis Estevez, Director of Public Works & Sustainability, responded to questions.

Jay Bruce spoke in support of the intent of the item but noted the possibility of different operators for the permanent mobility hub and temporary pop-up facility due to separate Requests for Proposals (RFPs).

The following individuals spoke in support of the proposed temporary pop-up bicycle maintenance facility:

- Bill Sellin, Bicycle Club of Irvine founder and ride coordinator
- James Hwang, Irvine resident
- Thi Truong, Irvine resident and Transportation Commissioner

City Council discussion included: inquiring about a similarly-related memorandum in July 2025 and subsequent action taken by the City Council; questioned if and when a completed analysis would return to the City Council for consideration; inquired about the approximate timeline for the temporary pop-up facility; questioned whether the temporary pop-up facility would require funding from the mobility hub; inquired about potential plans to conduct an RFP process; questioned the potential for revenue generation; suggested directing staff prepare an implementation plan for City Council consideration; inquired about staff oversight; discussed potential review by the Planning Commission; suggested deferring approval pending the completion of further analysis suggested limiting the scope to be “as is” to preserve the character of the permanent mobility hub; suggested including a preview facility in connection with the RFP; and inquired about the length of time to produce the RFP.

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

Direct the City Manager to create a Request for Proposals to allow the utilization of the former Spectrumotion office for a temporary pop-up use for a bicycle maintenance facility.

The motion carried as follows:

AYES: 5 COUNCILMEMBERS: Carroll, Go, Liu, Mai, and Treseder

NOES: 2 COUNCILMEMBERS: Martinez Franco and Agran

ABSENT: 0 COUNCILMEMBERS: None

ABSTAIN: 0 COUNCILMEMBERS: None

5.3 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY COUNCILMEMBER LIU TO DISCUSS A CITY TOURISM READINESS AND COMPETITIVENESS ASSESSMENT

This item was agendized at the request of Councilmember Liu, who asked for City Council direction to discuss a City tourism readiness and competitiveness assessment.

Susan Sayre, Irvine resident, spoke in support of the need for access to local and statewide public transportation to support the City's readiness for future national and international sporting events.

Marina, representing the Irvine Marriott, spoke in support of the proposed assessment to cover upcoming large events and a period following completion; and in opposition to a minimum wage increase to \$30 per hour.

Sid Ramani, Hotel Improvement District Committee Vice Chair and local hotel operator, and Yuni Hunter, AC Hotel Irvine General Manager, spoke in support of the proposed assessment.

Sinan B. Bayar, Virscend University Director of Strategic Partnerships, spoke in support of development of a comprehensive five-year tourism master plan.

City Council discussion included: inquiring about the inclusion of labor unions in the assessment; noted the importance of assisting the hotelier community; noted the need for comprehensive economic data; suggested the inclusion of improvements to the Irvine Transportation Center lobby, including Amtrak ticketing staff and other measures such as signage; questioned roles and responsibilities of the University of California, Irvine; and inquired about the translation of academic expertise into practicable actions and recommendations.

ACTION: Moved by Councilmember Liu, seconded by Councilmember Go, and unanimously carried to:

- 1) Direct the City Manager to begin formal discussions with the University of California, Irvine to conduct a comprehensive "Tourism Readiness and Competitiveness Assessment," which will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a) Assess Irvine's current infrastructure, public transportation, economics, workforce readiness, marketing, and hospitality capacity in preparation for the influx of tourism;
 - b) Collaborate with regional partners to ensure relevant industry data is integrated into the assessment;
 - c) Conduct a cost-benefit analysis detailing expected tax and business revenue during these events, including an economic analysis of local businesses' competitiveness; and
 - d) Identify potential impacts on residential quality of life, including traffic congestion, public safety strain, and other relevant aspects that affect our community.
- 2) Return to the City Council with a proposed scope of work, timeline, and an estimated budget source for the assessment within 90 days.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councilmember Liu, seconded by Councilmember Carroll, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.



 CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF IRVINE



 MAYOR OF THE CITY OF IRVINE

April 28, 2026