

My Contract with the Residents of Newport Beach

Our city is on the wrong track. To restore trust in city government and restore respect for residents, I propose to undertake the following within 90 days of taking office:

1. Remove the Civic Center Park location from consideration for the new police station, direct the Police Station Advisory Committee to immediately begin efforts to identify an alternative and lower cost site and to suspend the \$1.5 million in consultant and public relations contracts being spent on the park site.
2. Terminate the agreement with OCTA obligating the city to acquire property and build a new transit center at city expense. This will avoid a total cost estimated to be \$30 million and we will terminate the \$11.5 million escrow to acquire a property at the airport currently owned by a major donor to our opponents. This will end the \$9,000 per month payments to the property owner for the escrow option.
3. Terminate legal efforts to block voters from considering the three qualified initiatives regarding transparency, term limits and district elections. Demand an immediate audit of legal fees and election costs expended to date. Schedule the elections at the soonest possible date.
4. Eliminate all three-member secret Ad Hoc Committees, designed to avoid open meeting, public comment, and public minutes requirements except in very limited litigation or employee relations issues. Require minutes be taken and published for all committee meetings, require all committees to receive public comments.
5. Repeal 2026 changes to the Finance Committee to restore representation from each council district and to restore more public members to the committee. Require that all issues with major financial implications be reviewed by the Finance Committee.
6. Enact prohibitions to selling irreplaceable city property in Newport Center for high-rise, high-density development. Block the plan to put a 300 ft. apartment tower on the current police station location.
7. Reschedule council meetings to start after business hours so that the public can attend and there is available parking when they do.
8. Enact protections for the residents right to vote on General Plan, development, debt and charter amendments from being undermined by the city council on multiple occasions by this council.
9. Undertake an independent analysis of the civil disruption during the Fourth of July and put in place safeguards to prevent it from happening again.
10. Instill respect and civility at council meetings by limiting cell phone use by council members and prohibiting the consumption of alcoholic beverages by council members during meetings and closed session.