

State of the City
Irvine Mayor Larry Agran
January 27, 2004

I.

Mayor Pro Tem Beth Krom, City Councilmembers Mike Ward, Chris Mears and Christina Shea, our City staff, and Irvine citizens — whether here tonight or joining us at home:

As Mayor, it is my honor and privilege to be presenting this annual State of the City report. For those unfamiliar with our State of the City tradition in Irvine, let me take a moment to explain. At the beginning of a new year, we gather together at City Hall for presentation of a comprehensive yet frank assessment of our progress in municipal governance. We take stock of the challenges we've faced and the challenges yet to come. And we take the time, even if only measured in minutes, to celebrate some of our noteworthy community achievements.

Taking place here at City Hall, in this beautiful Council Chamber, there is a certain formality and decorum that we've come to expect with the Mayor's State of the City remarks. But part of what we celebrate

tonight is American Democracy itself. And I've been a participant in this matter of local self-government long enough to know that not everything I say will necessarily meet with unanimous acclaim. Therefore, just so you know, expressions of mild discontent such as grumbling or even booing — within reasonable bounds — are legally and constitutionally protected, although I hasten to add that such conduct is generally frowned upon and definitely *not* to be encouraged. Much preferred, of course, are expressions of pleasure at what you hear — genuine smiles and even laughter at the right times . . . and applause at just about any time.

Trust me – you'll see how this works.

Last year my State of the City remarks were comprehensive indeed — taking nearly an hour. This year, although our achievements are of even greater scope, my remarks may be somewhat shorter.

A year ago, I described the state of our City as good, and in some respects excellent. But I also noted the fiscal disarray of our federal and state governments — fiscal disarray that could threaten our progress here in Irvine. This year, I describe the state of our City as not just good, but very good, and not just excellent in some respects but excellent in many respects.

This is all the more remarkable because in 2003 the fiscal mess in Washington and Sacramento degenerated into a sea of red ink that threatens — and, indeed, is already hurting — every city and town in California, including Irvine. Moreover, it has now become clear that Washington and Sacramento are failing to live up to their promises and responsibilities in the federal-state-local partnership that is important to the success of modern municipal government.

II.

I'll have more to say about fiscal matters later. But for now, I wish to turn to a number of major local accomplishments that should be a source of pride for us all.

On January 14, 2004 — just 13 days ago — it became official and final: The former El

Toro Marine Corps Air Station was annexed into the City of Irvine. With this historic annexation, our City grew to 55 square miles. Irvine is now the largest city in Orange County.

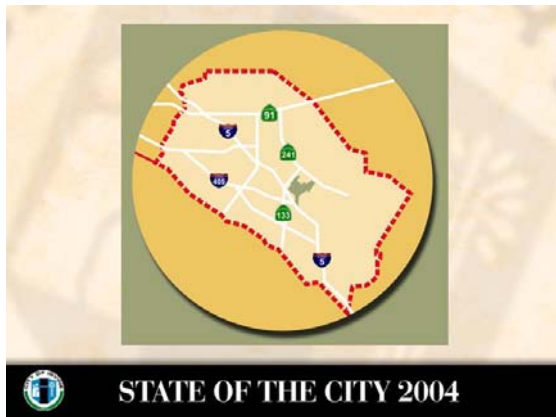


But far more important than our impressive geographic size is the largeness of our vision. Now that it is under our land-use jurisdiction, we can declare with confidence that the El Toro property will never be used for aviation purposes. Instead, with our continued focus and perseverance, this newly annexed land will soon become the site of one of America's most beautiful metropolitan parks — the Orange County Great Park.

When I find it difficult to know how to describe the way in which something as large and beautiful — and complicated — as the Great Park will come to pass, I think of what Jane Addams, a Nobel laureate and perhaps America's greatest social worker,

wrote of her experiences 100 years ago. “People don’t want to hear about simple things,” she said, “They want to hear about great things, simply told.” So let me try to tell you about this great thing — the Orange County Great Park — in an uncomplicated way.

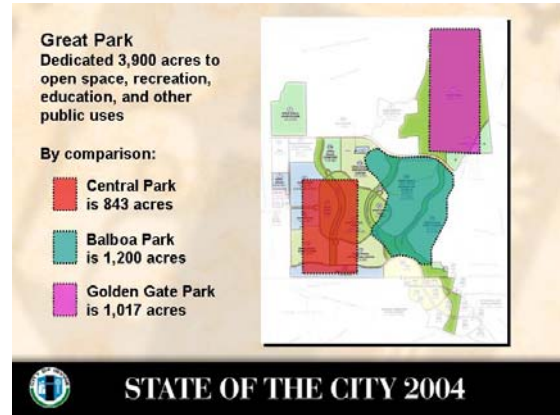
First, as a matter of geography, the Great Park will be located in the center of Orange County and easily reachable — especially on weekends — by car or bus, or by bicycle or train, from just about anyplace in the County in 30 minutes or less.



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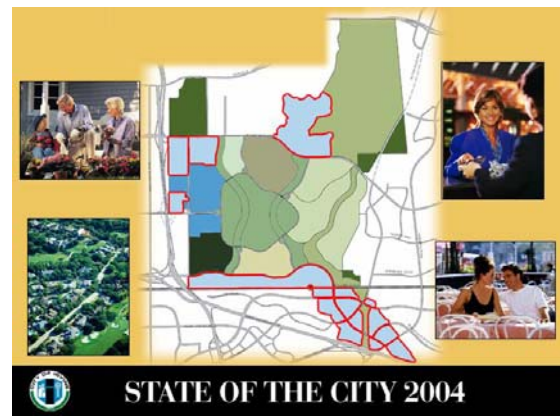
Just how big will our Great Park be? Perhaps you remember from your own experience the sense of vastness and wonder when you first set foot in a great metropolitan park. Was it New York’s Central Park? Or San Diego’s Balboa Park? Or San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park? Well, our Orange County Great Park will be larger than all three of these metropolitan

parks combined — and there will be hundreds of acres left for additional public uses.



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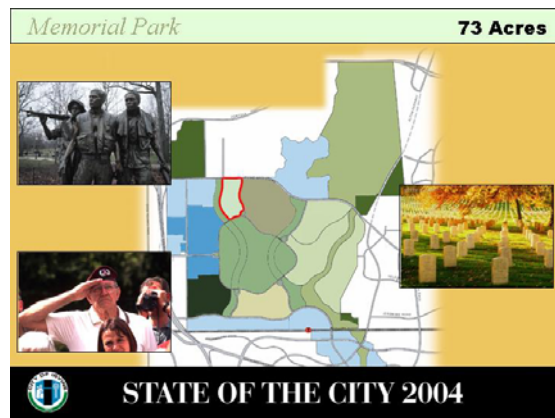
The chief economic engine for the Orange County Great Park will be the private development of 800 acres of land at the edges of the El Toro property. Known as the Great Park Communities, this very valuable property will be suitable for residential and business parks that are at once helping to meet countywide needs while being entirely compatible with the Great Park.



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The remaining 3900 acres — or about six square miles — will be comprised of what most people will think of as the Great Park. In point of fact, we are planning for a Great Park that will include nine parks that are at once distinct and yet seamlessly blended in an overarching design.

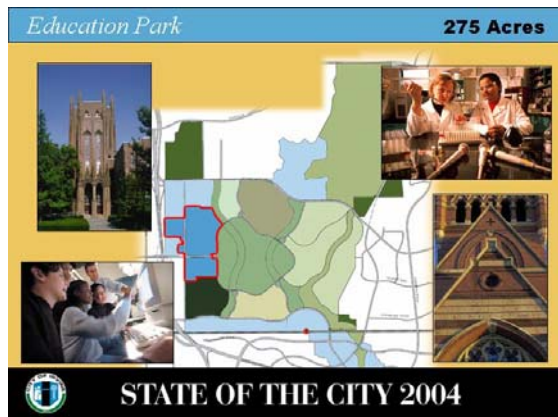
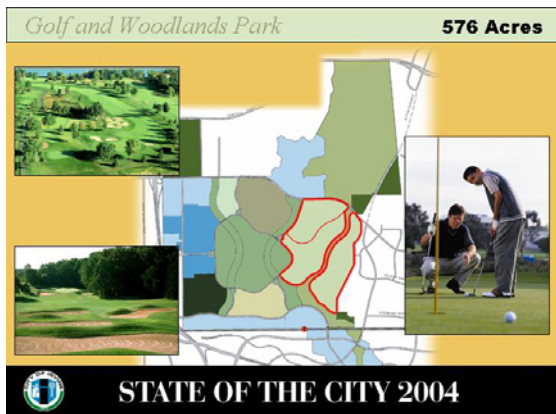
- There will also be a Memorial Park and cemetery. It will include beautiful trees and gardens and special recognition of servicemen and women who passed our way — many of them serving at El Toro — in times of war and peace.



Five of these parks — about 1400 acres all together — will be created on privately owned land that's open to public use.

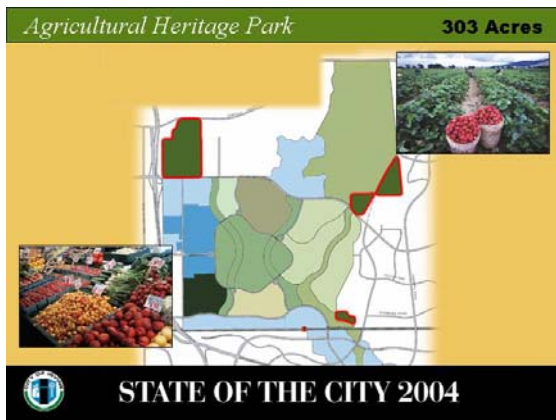
- There will be a Golf and Woodlands Park with 45 holes of golf. It will be bordered by magnificent woodlands with thousands of trees.

- Our Great Park will include an Education Park with 275 acres devoted to public and private colleges, universities, and world-class technical institutes.

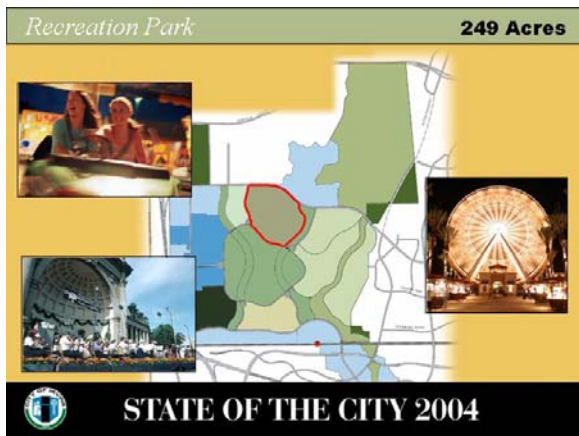


- It will also include an Agricultural Heritage Park with more than 300

acres devoted to permanent agricultural operations — nurseries, row crops, even orange groves, as well as associated community gardens, farmers markets, and an agricultural heritage museum so that all generations will appreciate the continuing role of agriculture in Orange County’s future.



- There will be a 249-acre Recreation Park — large enough to accommodate equestrian facilities, a working ranch, exposition areas, performing arts venues, and even a small amusement park.



In addition to these five parks, there will be 2500 acres of publicly owned land — most of it owned by the City of Irvine — that will be divided into four parks.

- The largest of these publicly owned parks will be the Wilderness Park. With more than 1150 acres of wildlife corridors and native wilderness areas and protected hillside habitat, this parkland will nevertheless be accessible through appropriate trail systems, nature centers, and carefully designed lookout points.

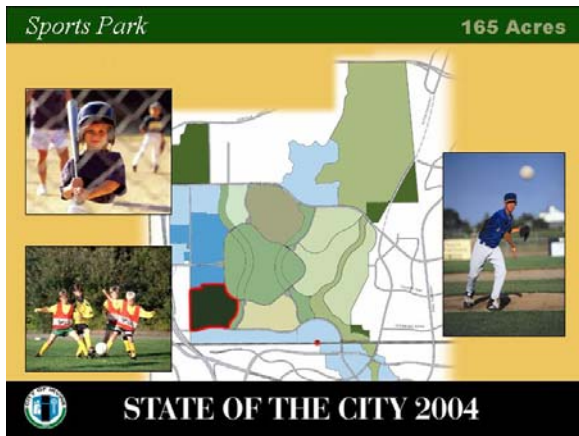


- Another publicly owned park will be the centrally located Meadows and Riverlands Park, with its associated natural streams and ponds. At about 600 acres, the Meadows and Riverlands Park alone will be nearly three-quarters the size of New York’s Central Park — and it will be

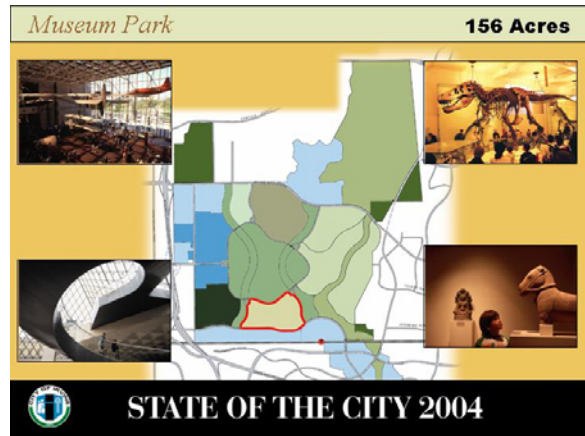
rich with trees and grass and wildflowers, with picnic areas, and with bikeways and walking paths for all to enjoy.



- Yet one more publicly owned park will be the Sports Park. At 165 acres, the Sports Park will be large enough to accommodate 50 to 100 soccer fields, football fields, and softball and baseball diamonds, as well as racquet sports, gymnasiums, and youth and amateur athletic facilities of all kinds.



- The last of the publicly owned parks will be the Museum Park. At 156 acres, it will be four times the size of the magnificent museum district in San Diego's Balboa Park. With the help of the philanthropic community, our Museum Park could soon be home to art and history and science museums that rival some of the finest museums elsewhere in the United States.



I think you'll agree: This is a remarkable vision of a Great Park worthy of our highest aspirations.

But what we have is more than an ethereal vision. It's a working plan that — with continued focus, focus, focus — will become on-the-ground reality in a very short period of time.

Here's how: The Department of the Navy is scheduled to sell the El Toro property at an

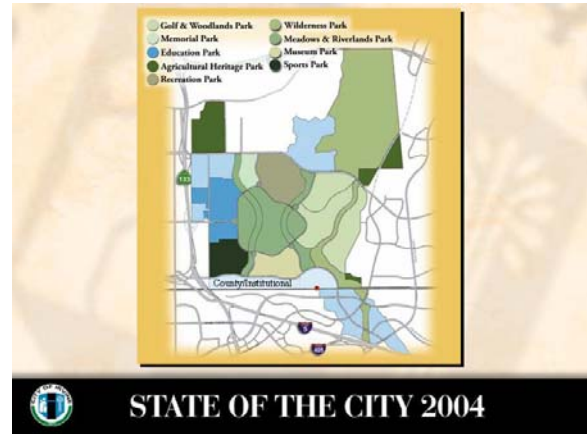
on-line auction by mid-summer. The actual transfer of the land from federal to local ownership is expected to take place sometime in the fall of this year. As a condition of the sale, the purchaser or purchasers of the property will be required to donate vast tracts of land to the City of Irvine. In turn, this land will be dedicated to the creation of our publicly owned parks — portions of the Wilderness Park, and the Meadows and Riverlands Park, the Sports Park and the Museum Park.

In addition, the purchaser of the El Toro property must agree to abide by our Great Park land-use plan for any privately developed portions of the property. This guarantees early development and public use of the privately owned parks.

Finally — and this is very important: The purchaser of the El Toro property will be required to pay to the City of Irvine \$200 million and assume at least \$153 million in assessment district financing for early installation of infrastructure for the entire Great Park.

Let me sum it all up this way: With the land conveyed from federal to local ownership, and with more than \$350 million in hand, by the end of this year you can all expect to be

invited to the historic groundbreaking for the Orange County Great Park.



Moreover, the groundbreaking will be more than symbolic. It will mark the beginning of the actual development of the Great Park. Our current timetable is highly compressed. If we remain focused, you can expect that within three years after groundbreaking, thousands of Orange County families and children will be playing on sports fields at the Sports Park, and enjoying the first phase of the beautiful Meadows and Riverlands Park. At the same time, the Wilderness Park and related corridors, including critical linkages and trail systems and nature centers, will be in place for public use.

In turn, this means that the thousands of acres of coastal open space resources and thousands of acres of inland open space resources — augmented by yet thousands of additional acres of open space wilderness areas donated by Donald Bren — will be

connected through the Great Park. The significance of this linkage cannot be overstated. The amazing reality is that it will soon be possible to hike from Crystal Cove Park and Laguna Beach through the Laguna Canyon Wilderness Park, on into the Great Park, up into Limestone Canyon, then into the Cleveland National Forest, and south all the way to the Mexican border — in what will be the largest interconnected metropolitan open space preserve in the entire United States of America.



Sign me up for that hike...at least for the first five miles!

Our Park development plan calls for most key elements of the Great Park to be landscaped within five years of groundbreaking — and all of the Great Park to be fully landscaped within seven years of groundbreaking. By any standard, this is a breathtakingly ambitious schedule. So, the months and several years immediately ahead appear destined to be times of extraordinary

progress in translating our Great Park plan into on-the-ground reality.

But we know from experience that nothing can be taken for granted. We cannot rest on our laurels. We cannot rest at all. We must maintain an undiminished focus and determination that sustains the momentum we've created and propels us from this point forward — to the groundbreaking later this year, and onward to the design, development and grand opening of the Orange County Great Park.

To help us in this remarkable civic undertaking, we have created the non-profit Orange County Great Park Corporation, which is governed by a nine-member board of directors consisting of the five members of our City Council and four distinguished independent directors. Two of these directors, Dick Sim and Walkie Ray, are with us this evening. The Corporation will have the responsibility of seeing to it that the Great Park is designed and built on time, within budget, and operated without need for any additional cost to Irvine and Orange County taxpayers.

Fortunately, our Great Park Corporation board will be able to turn to the Great Park Conservancy, the leading foundation

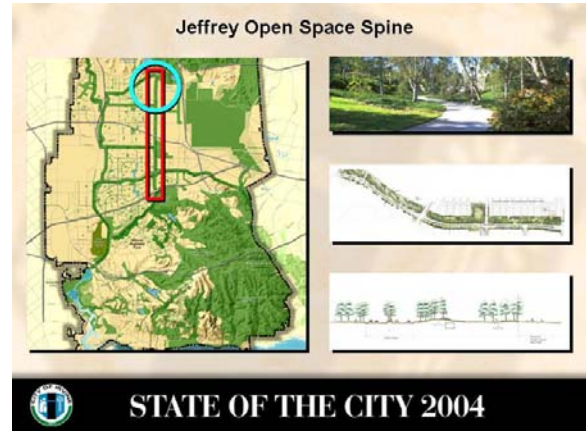
promoting the Orange County Great Park. With its Advisory Council of more than 50 outstanding business and civic leaders, and with its 10,000 Orange County supporters, the Great Park Conservancy will help us bring hundreds and even thousands of citizens — from all parts of Orange County — into the planning process. With us tonight from the Great Park Conservancy are Executive Director Carol Simon and Conservancy President Michael Ray.

There should be no mistake about it: Citizen participation will be essential to the success of our Great Park. Remember, that's how we've planned and built Irvine — America's largest, most successful master-planned city; and that's how we'll plan and build the Orange County Great Park — America's largest and most beautiful metropolitan park.

III.

Believe it or not, your City Council and City government have also been hard at work on matters other than the Great Park. And that hard work is now paying off. Dating back to the 1980s, when we forged our historic voter-approved Open Space Preservation Plan, Irvine Councilmembers and planners have dreamed of a broad and beautiful

cross-town pedestrian corridor along Jeffrey Road. This corridor would be of special benefit to residents in the central and northern parts of our city.



Now, at long last, after hundreds of citizens played a leading role in the planning process, the first link of the Jeffrey Open Space Spine — a one-mile stretch between Trabuco Road and Irvine Boulevard — is under construction. Averaging more than 200 feet in width — with trees and benches, and attractive rest areas — we expect thousands of people of all ages will soon begin enjoying this wonderful open space amenity.

This first segment of the Jeffrey Open Space Spine will serve two practical purposes: First, it will be a magnificent open space resource where we need it most — in the northern part of our City where so much residential growth and development has taken place. And, second, the Jeffrey Open Space Spine will connect every Irvine

resident to the northern open space preserves and — with east-west trail connections — to the Great Park and to the great outdoors. This initial segment of the Jeffrey Open Space Spine also serves to underscore the importance of the land-planning partnership forged between The Irvine Company, the City of Irvine and, of course, Irvine citizens.

There is other good progress and good news to report regarding the newer, northern and western parts of our City. Because of good planning and good cooperation with our City building and public safety staff, Hicks Canyon Elementary School, serving Northpark and Northpark Square, will open this September. Beckman High School, serving Northpark, Northpark Square, and West Irvine, will also open this September, becoming Irvine's fifth high school.



Councilmember Krom and I recently had the pleasure of touring Beckman High School. Named in honor of scientist and

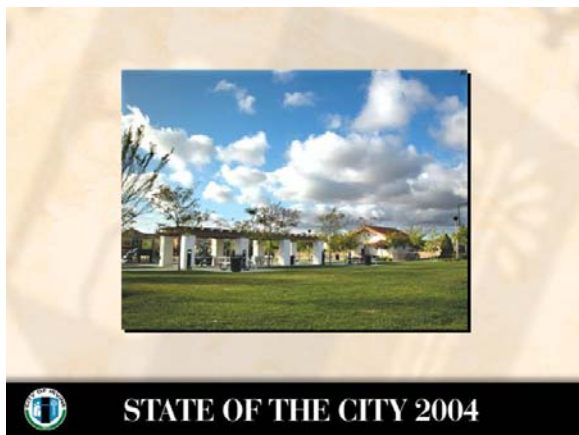
entrepreneur Arnold Beckman, this high school is expected to have an especially strong curriculum in science and mathematics. Beckman High School also includes a magnificent theater complex that will benefit not only students but our entire Irvine community. While Hicks Canyon Elementary and Beckman High School, along with the existing Myford Elementary and Pioneer Middle School, will be administered by the Tustin Unified School District, there is no question that these beautiful, modern, state-of-the-art facilities will be Irvine schools in every respect, especially in terms of educational excellence.

A little known fact is that for some time now — even in these harder times — the City of Irvine has been allocating about \$3 million annually to assist Irvine schools and school children. This is not something that we're required to do; in fact, no other Orange County city does as much as we do to provide programs, services, and even cash grants to our schools. We do this not because of any legal obligation — there is none — but because we understand that if Irvine is to remain in the forefront of American cities, our schools must continue to be centers of educational excellence.

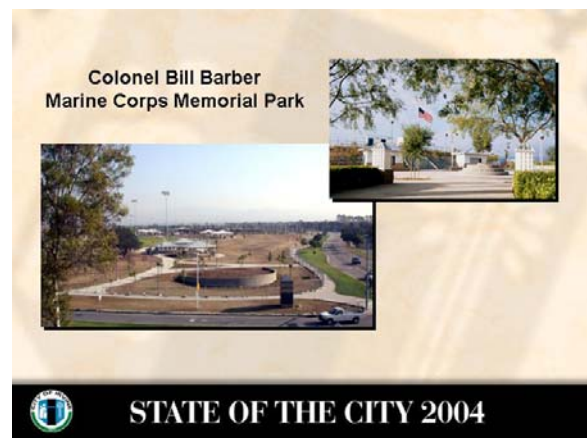


So, tonight, I call on my Council colleagues to pledge that even as we face a tough budget year ahead, we will maintain — and even add to — our support for all of Irvine’s schools, including Irvine schools in Northpark, Northpark Square, and West Irvine.

This past year we continued to make rapid progress toward completing and upgrading our community park system. Not long ago, we opened and fully staffed the 11.7-acre Oak Creek Community Park, which now serves the families and children of Oak Creek Village and other nearby residential communities.



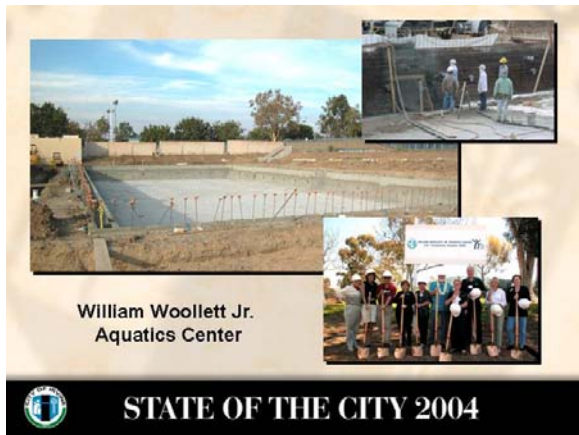
Meanwhile, from my office here at City Hall in the Village of Westpark, I have a view of the day-to-day progress we’re making in completing our Civic Center Park, known officially as Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Park. When the current phase is completed this summer, this will be the largest of our community parks — 47 acres.



The existing ballfields and child care center and playground areas will be augmented by a variety of more passive and reflective areas — a memorial to all the military services, colorful gardens, walkways, trees and rest areas, gathering places for parties and even weddings, and, in time, a “wall of service” to honor City employees and other citizens who have worked to make Irvine the outstanding community that it is.

In September, we expect to finish work renovating the Heritage Park Aquatics Complex — to be renamed the William

Woollett Jr. Aquatics Center — in honor of Irvine’s first City Manager and continuing active resident, Bill Woollett. This \$13.4 million improvement project will provide badly needed swimming opportunities for recreational and competitive swimmers alike.



IV.

These new facilities, as well as improvements of older City facilities, are being undertaken and completed out of current funds on a pay-as-we-go basis. We are not resorting to bonded indebtedness that would burden our children and grandchildren. This pay-as-we-go financing would not be possible, of course, unless we exercised extraordinary fiscal discipline at a time of continuing sluggish economic growth and in the face of broken promises and even deep cutbacks in federal and state support for localities.

So how do we manage to keep moving forward in this generally bleak fiscal environment? Well, for the past three years we’ve been preparing for these difficult days by fortifying our Reserve for Economic Uncertainty, which now stands at about \$10 million. We’ve also adopted a Council policy to draw down on that rainy day reserve fund, as necessary, over the next year or two if the economy continues to falter and the state continues to cut its support of cities.

Just as last year, I want you to know that our primary line of fiscal defense is our outstanding professional staff, which is working harder and smarter than ever before. I know this to be the case. I’ve watched as employees routinely come in early, work through lunch, work into the night, and even come in on holidays and weekends to make sure the job gets done.

If you have any doubt about the productivity of our workforce — *your* City of Irvine workforce — I want you to look at the “gold standard” we use for measuring these things. Over the past four years, year-by-year, we have managed to reduce the per capita cost of providing the high-quality public services that Irvine residents and business owners have come to expect. The bottom-line fact

is that we've managed to maintain and even enhance our public services while actually cutting the per capita cost to Irvine taxpayers from \$632 in Fiscal Year 2000-2001 to just \$573 in the current Fiscal Year 2003-2004.

**City of Irvine
Per Capita Costs**

FISCAL YEAR	POPULATION	OPERATING BUDGET *	PER CAPITA COST
2000-2001	141,200	\$89.2 million	\$632
2001-2002	148,000	\$91.4 million	\$617
2002-2003	157,000	\$95.8 million	\$611
2003-2004	164,900	\$94.5 million	\$573

* Adjusted for inflation



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This is a remarkable 9.3 percent cut in per capita costs — an almost unheard of record in local government that, at the very least, deserves our public recognition and gratitude. Please join me now in giving these outstanding public servants — some of whom are with us tonight — a richly deserved round of applause.

Let me tell you a little more about our \$95 million per year municipal budget — and the people who make our City government such an efficient, exemplary organization.

More than one-third of our \$95 million annual budget is for police and public safety. These are dollars well spent, indeed.

According to official data collected to measure serious crime, Irvine continues to rank as one of the safest cities in America. In fact, I'm pleased to report that serious crime in Irvine fell further during the most recent reporting period. But we're determined to do better still. The geo-policing program, first initiated by former Irvine Police Chief Michael Berkow, is now in place and working well. By dividing our City into three geographic areas and decentralizing our patrols and police services, we're able to more efficiently deploy resources in our neighborhoods, where Irvine residents and police officers work in genuine partnership.

Geo-Policing - the Wave of the Future, Right Here in Irvine!



University Area
(949) 724-7059

Portola Area
(949) 724-7296

Crossroads Area
(949) 724-7156



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Let's face it: Good police and crime-prevention services are costly. And I'd be remiss if I failed to report to you that federal support for local police — the so-called COPS program — is being sharply cut. And the long-promised Homeland Security funds for first responders — dollars supposedly

earmarked for local police and firefighters — have failed to materialize. These funds were supposed to be sent to cities to defray the costs of training, equipment, and improved communications in order to cope with — and possibly prevent — future terrorist attacks. In fact, to this point — nearly two-and-a-half years since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 — the total federal assistance received for what I call Irvine “hometown” security amounts to a pitiful \$76,000. I’ll have more to say in the future about this continuing failure of promised federal support.

But for now, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the fine police officers and support personnel in our Public Safety Department, and to acknowledge the outstanding leadership that we’ve already seen from our new Chief of Police, Dave Maggard.

Twenty percent of your Irvine tax dollars go to public works, most notably our road system. In case you haven’t noticed, Irvine’s roads and traffic control systems are among the finest in the United States of America. Our goal, as always, is a safe, user-friendly, and pothole-free City. I hope you agree that our entire transportation and public works staff is doing an excellent job.

Let me tell you about other public services paid for by your Irvine tax dollars. With the help of scores of volunteers, Irvine’s professional animal control and animal care services are among the finest in America. I encourage individuals and families to visit our state-of-the-art Animal Care Center — on Oak Canyon, just off Sand Canyon Road. Whether you’re persuaded to adopt an animal or not, your heart will be warmed when you see the loving care that is given to wayward animals in your City.



We know how important it is to keep Irvine safe and clean. That’s why we spend lots of time and allocate millions of your tax dollars to sweep streets, plant and trim trees, and maintain the most attractive drought-tolerant streetscapes in all of Orange County. Do you remember last winter’s windstorm — with 70 mile-per-hour winds and downed trees from one end of town to the other? You may have forgotten all about it because Irvine’s dedicated workers, laboring under

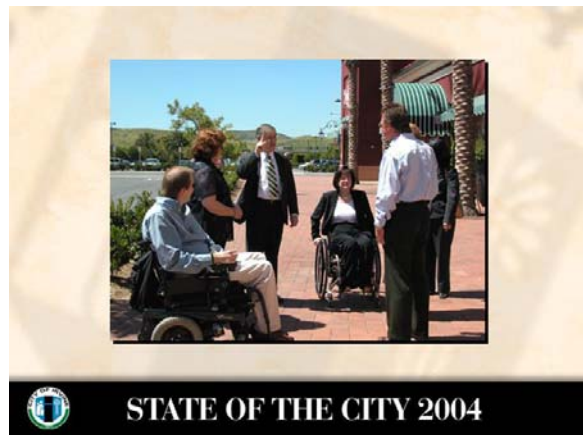
emergency conditions, managed to restore safety and clean up most of the citywide mess within 24 hours.



By the way, *you* can help keep Irvine clean and safe — and beautiful — and *you* can help keep our costs down by reporting graffiti, potholes, or any maintenance issues right away. Call these numbers and our staff will get right on top of the problem. And in the very unlikely event that you don't get a quick, satisfactory response, just e-mail or call me or my Council colleagues at City Hall. I'll be sure to send my Council colleagues out to fill the pothole, remove the graffiti, and do whatever needs to be done — right away. They've promised that no matter what, they'll certainly take care of the problem faster than it takes the Mayor to give his State of the City speech!

More than 5 percent of every Irvine tax dollar is spent directly on planning and development. There's a reason that Irvine homes grow in value faster than homes

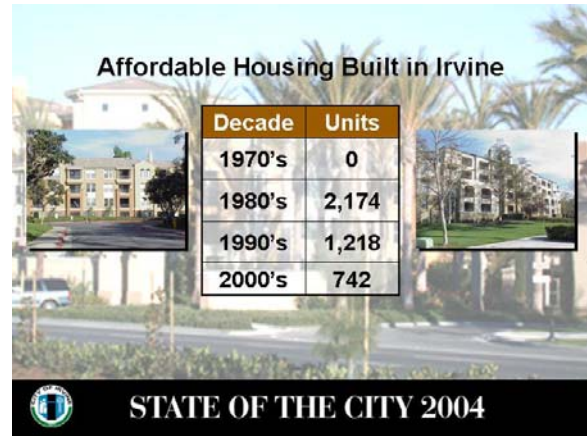
elsewhere in Orange County. It's because planning works. Planning creates real neighborhoods with a real sense of community. This translates into what we call quality of life. And the quality of life in Irvine is excellent. But it's not enough to build a community that works for the richest and the most capable among us. A real community needs to work for all of us. That's why I'm so pleased that last year Irvine was awarded the coveted Accessible America award. The National Organization on Disability awarded Irvine \$25,000 for being the country's leading city in providing wheelchair access to our sidewalks, to our parks and recreation facilities, and in new housing with the introduction of sensible universal design features — such as step-free entrances, wider doorways, easily reachable light switches, and more spacious bathrooms and kitchen areas.



Isn't it just common sense to build more homes and apartments with these features?

Well, that's exactly what we're doing. I want to take a moment to recognize four outstanding leaders who have been instrumental in our progress in accessible housing: our Chief Building Inspector and Acting Director of Community Development, Eric Tolles; former Planning Commissioner, Anthony Dragun (who couldn't be here this evening); our City's accessibility compliance consultant, Phyllis Collier; and Julie Inman, a long-time leader with the Irvine Residents with Disabilities Advisory Board.

Our planning and development staff is also pursuing Council policy to provide more affordable housing. I'm pleased to report that this City Council has reinforced Irvine's historic policy of providing that 15 percent of all new housing will meet affordability standards. What does this mean? It means that people who work in Irvine — your child's teacher or child care worker, the neighborhood bank teller or grocery clerk, police officers, nurses, the school custodian — will be able to live in Irvine and be a part of our community, not just during the workday but every day. It also means that our own grown children, as well as our aging parents and grandparents will be able to afford to live in Irvine.



Since the 1980s, we've been putting hundreds and then thousands of affordable units on the ground. These are widely dispersed throughout Irvine and are every bit as attractive as so-called market-rate housing. Last year, in adopting a master plan for affordable housing; and in funding an expanded first-time homebuyers program; and in now considering Councilmember Ward's workforce housing proposal, this City Council has guaranteed that we'll continue to lead the county throughout this decade in the provision of affordable housing. And we'll honor the promise we made to ourselves in our General Plan to provide a full range of housing opportunities in Irvine.

Another one-fifth of Irvine's City budget is devoted to parks and recreation and community services programs. Our superb staff provides award-winning programs for youngsters, senior citizens, and families in need of real support. This year, with City

Council authorization and direction, our Community Services Department will be taking on a new challenge — overseeing the preparation of an Irvine Strategic Plan for Families and Children. With a six percent poverty rate among Irvine’s children and a similar poverty rate among Irvine’s senior citizens, we clearly have some work to do. We want every child and every family — indeed, we want every Irvine citizen to have every reasonable chance to succeed.

We believe there are concrete steps that our City can take to help thousands of people. I’ll have more to report on this matter in the near future. But meanwhile, I want you to know that we have many wonderful volunteers and non-profit organizations that are already hard at work every day to improve the prospects for Irvine families and children. Here tonight, — and deserving of our gratitude — are Margie Wakeham, Executive Director of Families Forward; Laura Archuleta, President of Jamboree Housing; and Julie Hudash, Executive Director of Kids Helping Kids.

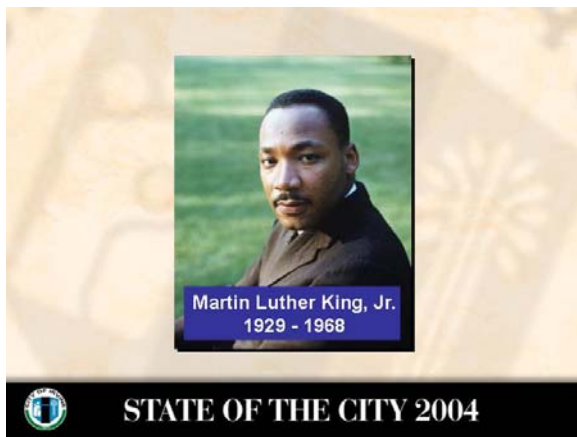
Let me say an added word about Julie Hudash, whose program is inspiring. It recently included gathering truck-loads of supplies and assistance for San Bernardino victims of last fall’s wildfires. In her work

with children, Julie has discovered something simple yet profound: In survey after survey of children’s likes and dislikes, at the very top of the list kids reported that they liked to help other people and that they especially liked to help people who are really struggling. If children can see the value of genuine human compassion, can’t we as grownups? And shouldn’t our institutions — including our City government — reflect this priority? In an older, simpler time, helping others was called being a good neighbor. Well, it’s still about being a good neighbor. But in our more complicated world, we’ve learned that helping others is also about good government working in partnership with effective non-profit organizations. Please join me now in giving all of Irvine’s outstanding volunteers, community leaders and public servants one more richly deserved round of applause.

V.

In keeping with our Irvine State of the City tradition, it’s my privilege to join with others in honoring the memory and contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year, which marks Dr. King’s 75th birthday, also begins a series of 50-year

remembrances of important civil rights milestones. This spring will mark the 50th anniversary of the famous Supreme Court decision in *Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. On May 17, 1954, after years of heroic lawyering by Thurgood Marshall and other civil rights attorneys, the Supreme Court held in a 9 to 0 decision that public school segregation on the basis of race is an unconstitutional denial of equal protection. With that decision, the modern civil rights movement finally emerged in a way that would transfigure American life. Just a year later — in 1955 — Dr. King, at only 26 years of age, stepped forward as a local and national leader because of the role he played in the historic Montgomery bus boycott.



While those early civil rights struggles were played out in black and white, even in the 1950s Dr. King understood that the civil rights movement was ultimately about much more than a clash between white oppressors

and oppressed black citizens. It was about human liberation and the inherent equality and dignity of all people everywhere. This required — as a moral imperative — that we build and sustain fully *integrated* institutions.

Flash forward to Irvine 2004, where it is now self-evident that we are the fortunate beneficiaries of all the civil rights demonstrations and litigation and legislation, most of it in the 1960s — before Irvine was even a City. Look at Irvine’s schools, where young people of all colors and all backgrounds and all races and nationalities and beliefs are learning together. And their parents and families are living next door to one another in Irvine neighborhoods, and working together side-by-side in businesses and on civic projects.

Although never a man to let others indulge in self-satisfaction, I think Dr. King would understand if we took a moment to reflect on the kind of authentic community we’re building here in Irvine. It’s more than a diverse community. It’s a fully integrated community. Indeed, according to updated Census data, we’re among the most thoroughly integrated cities in the entire United States of America. Although individually we remain proud of our

heritage, we fundamentally understand that we are all far better off living and working and learning together.

To show you how this works, consider what's happening in Irvine right now: In this year, 2004, three new community centers will open their doors: the Islamic Center of Irvine, the South Coast Chinese Cultural Center, and the Jewish Community Center — and in each case the leaders in establishing these centers have made it clear that even as they dedicate themselves to honoring their own cultural identity, their new facilities will be open to the entire Irvine community. This is precisely what Dr. King had in mind. Let me introduce some of these leaders this evening: Sheikh Sadullah Khan with the Islamic Center, Diane Tang Lu with the Chinese Cultural Center, and Howard Haas, Principal of the Tarbut V'Torah Jewish school, which is adjacent to the Jewish Community Center now under construction.

Dr. King's universal, all-embracing vision of civil and human rights reached beyond America's borders. And so does the story of what we're achieving here. From all over the world, people are coming to Irvine. Last June, just as in 2002, we held our annual Multicultural Festival here at the Irvine

Civic Center. This signature event attracted more than 3000 residents and visitors, underscoring the fact that Irvine has emerged as an amazing international crossroads city. I want to recognize this year — as I have previously — the leadership role played by the Irvine Multicultural Association and its President, Philip Henderson.



People come to Irvine recognizing that there is both opportunity and strength in our diversity *and* integration. When immigrants come to Irvine, they bring stories of struggle — personal struggle and the struggle of their people. In this regard, I want to recognize yet two more individuals: The first of these is Sukhee Kang, an Irvine resident and businessman who has become my appointee to the City of Irvine Finance Commission. But beyond this civic service, Sukhee is a leader in the Korean American Coalition of Orange County — raising money for scholarships and raising consciousness about

the Korean experience in America. Just a few months ago, in this Council Chamber, Sukhee organized a showing of a remarkable documentary film, *Arirang*. It's a powerful yet beautifully told story of 100 years of Korean immigration in the United States. It's a story of the tandem struggle to build lives as Americans while also working to create a free and democratic nation of Korea. We are lucky to have Sukhee Kang and a growing Korean community as part of our larger Irvine community.

Likewise, we are lucky to count Mariam Khosravani among our friends and neighbors in Irvine. Mariam, whom I have introduced on other occasions, is a leader in the growing Persian community of more than 10,000 people in Irvine. But as my appointee to the City's Community Services Commission, Mariam understands the importance of helping all people, and not just in Irvine but around the world. When a terrible earthquake recently struck southeast Iran, killing more than 30,000 people in the ancient city of Bam and leaving tens of thousands more homeless, Mariam went to work. She helped to quickly organize relief efforts and raise more than \$1 million that has been guaranteed to reach the earthquake survivors despite the tense relations between the Iranian national government and our

United States government. In the tradition of Dr. King, Mariam sees community in the broadest sense. She understands, as we do, that community is not about where you came from or where you live; it's about our common humanity.

And now I'd like to close with the words that I wrote to Mariam a short while ago. In acknowledging her extraordinary efforts, I said: Your actions reflect the absolute best of each of us and the City of Irvine. We are a center of pluralism and inclusion, of educational excellence, of vibrant international commerce, and of course, simple heart-to-heart compassion for our neighbors...our neighbors next door, across town, across the state and country and throughout the global community that we all share.

Thank you, Mariam. Thank you all. Let's move forward, together.