

Minutes

City Council/Public Financing Authority Special Meeting City of Huntington Beach

Tuesday, September 23, 2025
4:00 PM — Council Chambers
Civic Center, 2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, California 92648

A video recording of the 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM portions of this meeting
is on file in the Office of the City Clerk, and archived at
<https://huntingtonbeach.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

4:00 PM — COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CALL TO ORDER SPECIAL MEETING — 4:00 PM

ROLL CALL

Present: Twining, Kennedy, McKeon, Burns, Gruel, and Williams
Absent: Van Der Mark

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE — Led by Assistant City Manager Marissa Sur

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS (Received After Agenda Distribution)
Pursuant to the Brown "Open Meetings" Act, City Clerk Lisa Lane Barnes announced supplemental communications received by her office following distribution of the Council Agenda packet which were all uploaded to the City's website and Councilmember iPads: *Councilmember Item #1 (11 email communications)*.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (1-Minute Time Limit set by Mayor Burns) — 14 Speakers
The number [hh:mm:ss] following the speakers' comments indicates their approximate starting time in the archived video located at <https://huntingtonbeach.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Unnamed Speaker, representing the Hospitality Community, commented on Council Member Item #1 (25-780) regarding discussion on the possibility of an Artistic Expression of Freedom and Free Speech Mural Memorializing Charlie Kirk. (00:05:49)

Unnamed Speaker commented on Council Member Item #1 (25-780) regarding discussion on the possibility of an Artistic Expression of Freedom and Free Speech Mural Memorializing Charlie Kirk. (00:06:56)

Amory Hanson commented on Council Member Item #1 (25-780) regarding discussion on the possibility of an Artistic Expression of Freedom and Free Speech Mural Memorializing Charlie Kirk. (00:07:32)

Unnamed Speaker commented on Council Member Item #1 (25-780) regarding discussion on the possibility of an Artistic Expression of Freedom and Free Speech Mural Memorializing Charlie Kirk. (00:08:10)

Unnamed Speaker commented on Council Member Item #1 (25-780) regarding discussion on the possibility of an Artistic Expression of Freedom and Free Speech Mural Memorializing Charlie Kirk. (00:08:51)

Kathey Haas commented on Council Member Item #1 (25-780) regarding discussion on the possibility of an Artistic Expression of Freedom and Free Speech Mural Memorializing Charlie Kirk. (00:09:55)

Unnamed Speaker commented on Council Member Item #1 (25-780) regarding discussion on the possibility of an Artistic Expression of Freedom and Free Speech Mural Memorializing Charlie Kirk. (00:10:59)

Unnamed Speaker commented on Council Member Item #1 (25-780) regarding discussion on the possibility of an Artistic Expression of Freedom and Free Speech Mural Memorializing Charlie Kirk. (00:11:58)

Unnamed Speaker commented on Council Member Item #1 (25-780) regarding discussion on the possibility of an Artistic Expression of Freedom and Free Speech Mural Memorializing Charlie Kirk. (00:12:54)

Unnamed Speaker commented on Council Member Item #1 (25-780) regarding discussion on the possibility of an Artistic Expression of Freedom and Free Speech Mural Memorializing Charlie Kirk. (00:14:03)

Wendy Rincon commented on Council Member Item #1 (25-780) regarding discussion on the possibility of an Artistic Expression of Freedom and Free Speech Mural Memorializing Charlie Kirk. (00:15:25)

Unnamed Speaker commented on Council Member Item #1 (25-780) regarding discussion on the possibility of an Artistic Expression of Freedom and Free Speech Mural Memorializing Charlie Kirk. (00:16:27)

Skywalker commented on Council Member Item #1 (25-780) regarding discussion on the possibility of an Artistic Expression of Freedom and Free Speech Mural Memorializing Charlie Kirk. (00:17:33)

Bethany Webb commented on Council Member Item #1 (25-780) regarding discussion on the possibility of an Artistic Expression of Freedom and Free Speech Mural Memorializing Charlie Kirk. (00:18:48)

COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS

1. (25-780) Approved Amended Item Submitted by Councilman Williams, Co-Sponsored by Mayor Burns and Councilman Gruel to Discuss the Possibility of an Artistic Expression of Freedom and Free Speech Mural Memorializing Charlie Kirk

Councilman Williams introduced this item by sharing some photos of a spontaneous vigil held in Huntington Beach to document the number of people in attendance. He described some of the abhorrent actions taken in other cultures around the world where people are not free to express themselves and where violence is used to suppress freedom. He added that he envisions a mural that is focused on the core American values of freedom and free speech, and a symbol that will stand against the use of violence. He also believes this effort in support of free speech will have educational and generational impact. He added it is important to leave something monumental behind to help people remember what happened on September 10, 2025.

Councilmembers Twining, Kennedy, Gruel and Mayor Pro Tem McKeon discussed Charlie Kirk's message of free speech, faith in God, patriotism through bold dialogue, ideas, and that young people have the power to shape the civic landscape; recognition of the concept that no one should destroy that with which they do not agree; a majority of public speakers for this meeting acknowledging the tragedy of Charlie Kirk's death; using only private funding for this project; consideration of media options other than a mural; consideration of both private and public locations; and the Ad Hoc Committee recommendation will return to City Council for final consideration.

A motion was made by Williams, second Burns to ***Work with Direct*** staff to explore the creation of a mural as an artistic expression honoring freedom and free speech, memorializing Charlie Kirk and form a City Council ad-hoc committee, ***comprised of Mayor Burns and Councilmembers Gruel and Williams***, authorized to identify a location, artist(s), and artwork for the mural, ***monument or plaque, and return to Council for a final vote.***

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Twining, Kennedy, McKeon, Burns, Gruel, and Williams
NOES: None
ABSENT: Van Der Mark

ADJOURNMENT — At 4:45 PM a motion was made by Mayor Burns, with a second by Williams, to adjourn to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Huntington Beach City Council/Public Financing Authority on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, in the Civic Center Council Chambers, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, California.

INTERNET ACCESS TO CITY COUNCIL/PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY AGENDA AND
STAFF REPORT MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE PRIOR TO CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AT
<http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov>

City Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the City Council
of the City of Huntington Beach and Secretary of
the Public Financing Authority of the City of
Huntington Beach, California

ATTEST:

City Clerk-Secretary

Mayor-Chair