



# NEWPORT BEACH

## City Council Staff Report

May 12, 2026  
Agenda Item No. 16

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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**TITLE:** Resolution No. 2026-29: Dissolving the Newport Beach Police  
Headquarters Assessment Committee and Creating the Newport  
Beach Police Headquarters Advisory Committee

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### **ABSTRACT:**

For the City Council's consideration is the adoption of a resolution to dissolve the Newport Beach Police Headquarters Assessment Committee and to create the Newport Beach Police Headquarters Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee). If approved, the Advisory Committee, consisting of three Councilmembers and four resident members, will evaluate and assess the feasibility of the Civic Center campus as a potential site for the new Newport Beach Police Department (NBPD) headquarters facility, while recognizing that other previously identified sites remain under consideration as information is developed. The Advisory Committee will ultimately provide recommendations to the City Council.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- a) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA guidelines because this action will not result in a direct or indirect physical change to the environment; and
- b) Adopt Resolution No. 2026-29, *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, Dissolving the Newport Beach Police Headquarters Assessment Committee, and Creating the Newport Beach Police Headquarters Advisory Committee.*

### **DISCUSSION:**

On September 23, 2025, the City Council unanimously supported an A-1 item introduced by then-Mayor Joe Stapleton to initiate a comprehensive evaluation of potential sites and the feasibility, cost and design considerations for a new NBPD headquarters building. The action was in response to long-term facility needs at the current headquarters (870 Santa Barbara Drive), which was constructed in 1973 and now faces functional and capacity constraints related to modern policing, training, technology and community service demands.

A recent use survey and needs assessment, prepared at the direction of the Public Works Department, indicated the existing headquarters building totals approximately 49,284 gross square feet, while a replacement facility should be at least 73,000 square feet to accommodate operational needs, including adequate Patrol Division space and an appropriately designed firearms training and shooting range.

On October 14, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2025-65, creating the Newport Beach Police Headquarters Assessment Committee, an ad hoc committee comprised of Mayor Pro Tem Noah Blom and Councilmembers Michelle Barto and Sara J. Weber, to evaluate potential locations and assess the feasibility, cost and design of a new NBPD headquarters facility (Assessment Committee).

On January 31, 2026, City staff presented an update to the City Council on upcoming public works and capital improvement programs, including a preview of the research underway by the Assessment Committee, which identified potential locations for a new NBPD headquarters facility, including its current location on Santa Barbara Drive, 1201 Dove Street, the Civic Center area, and a portion of City-owned property adjacent to City Hall (Civic Center campus).

On March 10, 2026, the City Council held a study session to discuss the research of the Assessment Committee, including the four potential locations for a new NBPD headquarters facility, and feasibility and costs associated with each location. Of the locations identified, the City Council directed further evaluation of the Civic Center campus to better understand its feasibility, while maintaining the other locations for future consideration.

The Assessment Committee recognizes that meaningful community engagement and public input are essential to evaluating the location, feasibility, and community benefits of a new Police Headquarters facility. Accordingly, the Assessment Committee recommends that the City Council transition from the existing internal Assessment Committee to a broader Advisory Committee that includes members of the public and incorporates a more robust community engagement process.

As outlined in the draft resolution dissolving the Assessment Committee and establishing the Advisory Committee, the new committee would function as an ad hoc advisory body subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act. Its purpose and responsibilities would include evaluating and assessing the feasibility of the Civic Center campus as a potential site for a new Police Headquarters facility, while recognizing that other previously identified sites remain under consideration. The Advisory Committee would also assess the cost and design considerations associated with developing a new facility and provide recommendations to the City Council.

The Advisory Committee will be composed of three City Councilmembers and four resident members. Details related to member terms, qualifications and responsibilities are defined in the resolution and its incorporated attachment.

Should the City Council adopt the resolution, the City Clerk will issue the public application notice for the four resident seats. Mayor Lauren Kleiman will form an ad hoc appointments

committee that will bring forward recommended appointments to the Mayor for consideration and eventual confirmation by the City Council.

Once seated, the Advisory Committee will convene to finalize its work plan and schedule, coordinate with City staff and consultants as needed, and return with interim updates and a final set of recommendations for the City Council consideration.

The Advisory Committee would expire upon making its recommendations to the entire City Council at a noticed public meeting, or on December 31, 2029, whichever is earlier.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact related to the item.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:**

Staff recommends the City Council find this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonable foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and Section 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in a direct or indirect physical change to the environment.

**NOTICING:**

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

**ATTACHMENT:**

Attachment A – Resolution No. 2026-29