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### **Newport Beach “City Hall in the Park” Ballot Initiative Upheld**

NEWPORT BEACH, Ca. -- An Orange County Superior Court judge’s ruling has upheld a successful local ballot initiative that determined the location of a new City Hall and a park for the City of Newport Beach.

The initiative, designated as Measure B on the ballot, was approved by 53 percent of voters in the February 2008 municipal election. The measure amended the City Charter to place City Hall on a 12.8-acre site adjacent to the Newport Beach Central Library on Avocado Avenue.

Local resident Allan Beek filed a lawsuit in November 2007 to stop the initiative from going to the voters. When the Court ruled that the lawsuit had been filed too late, Beek was told to wait until after the election. He amended the lawsuit in April 2008 alleging, among a variety of reasons, that the City Charter amendment was not the proper subject of a ballot initiative.

Superior Court Judge Peter Polos disagreed with Beek’s legal stance and issued a final ruling earlier this week dismissing Beek’s lawsuit.

Planning for the new City Hall and park is underway with a design competition that drew more than 50 applicants from across the nation to develop concept plans for the park and City Hall. The City Council selected five firms to receive stipends and to work over the summer on their competing concepts. The concepts will be presented to the public on Saturday, September 27. For more information about the project, please visit [www.city.newport-beach.ca.us](http://www.city.newport-beach.ca.us) and select the City Hall Design & Master Plan button located on the home page.