

RECEIVED ON: January 19, 2024

From: [Omar Rivera Barrientos](#)
To: [Rigo Garcia](#)
Subject: Opposition to Removal of Trees in Uptown Whittier
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024 8:26:49 PM

[**NOTICE:** This message originated outside of City of Whittier -- **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear Mr. Garcia,

I am writing to express my **staunch** and **wholehearted opposition** to the planned removal of 113 trees along Greenleaf Avenue in Uptown Whittier.

The trees on Greenleaf Avenue in the heart of Uptown are iconic symbols and an integral part of Uptown's character. They not only have functional utility by providing shade and reducing carbon emissions, but they provide immense aesthetic value to the neighborhood and, by extension, the City as a whole and as a "brand". When people think of Whittier, they think of Uptown and of the iconic canopy-lined Greenleaf Avenue and the lush greenery of the other trees that comprise the 113 trees the City proposes to remove. Indeed, a simple Google search of "Whittier, CA" returns dozens of images of Greenleaf Avenue and its iconic tree line.

The idea that removing fully grown and beautiful trees as part of a beautification plan is ill-advised. Greenleaf Avenue is one of the most beautiful streets in the entire city. Efforts and funds would be better used in other neighborhoods to bring the same level of aesthetic value that Uptown and Greenleaf Avenue enjoy.

As a real estate developer working at a community development corporation, I speak from professional experience when I say that many neighborhoods can only dream of enjoying the beauty and benefits that the 113 trees along Greenleaf Avenue bring to Uptown and to the entire City of Whittier. What we have now is a treasure that should be valued and protected, not removed.

It is absolutely a mistake to remove these trees and I am directly opposed to the City doing so. I urge the City Council to change their planned course of action.

Respectfully,
Omar Rivera