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February 28, 2022

CITY OF WHITTIER
CITY CLERK

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To the City of Whittier City Council,

I am expressing my concern regarding the plan to develop the property at 9829 La Serna Dr. as Townhouses, Condominiums, and a dog park.

The structures do not conform with the existing single-family homes in the area.

I am concerned that the structures will impact access to the hospital and the other businesses nearby. The traffic will impede the usage of Janine Drive. This traffic will affect the safety of students going and coming to school.

Will the police and fire departments be able to respond and provide services to 42 units which could potentially house 168 people or more?

Where will the 84 trash cans be serviced? How long will the pick-up take and what impact will it have on accessing the street and hospital, not excluding the noise factor.

I am concerned that the extra cars from this structure will be parking on the single-family housing streets nearby; blocking driveways and taking up all the street parking, thus not allowing homeowners to access their properties.

The City of Whittier already has a car burglary problem. With the increase in cars, this development will exacerbate the situation.

I question the methodology of the City Council — it reached out to property owners who would be affected by this development. I believe that the City Council should have done more than the minimum at the start of this project to reach out to more nearby properties. I believe that the City Council ignored the wider impact of this project as the property does not sit on Whittier Blvd.

In the future, I suggest a monthly report on Nextdoor, like Chief Barr, and monthly report as Cathy Warner does in a local magazine or a monthly/quarterly mailed newsletter. The City Council should note that not everyone is on social media or has access to computers. Also, it is difficult to find the Zoom information to attend city council meetings.

In conclusion, I am opposed to the current proposed plan. I am strongly suggesting the City Council reconsider this development. Pursuant to 2.05.030 WMC, I request the city council review decisions and actions of the Design Review Board and Planning Commission.

Yours truly,

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Additional Resident Comments:

A COMMUNITY CENTER OR A PARK AT 9829 LA SERNA DRIVE WOULD BE A GOOD ALTERNATIVE TO THIS DEVELOPMENT AS A USE OF THE PARCEL.

Opposition to Development at 9829 La Serna Dr.

February 17, 2022

Dear City Council:

As a voter and resident of the City of Whittier, I oppose the housing project at 9829 La Serna Drive. The reasons I oppose it are:

- The quality of life in my neighborhood will diminish
- The high-density housing is near a high fire zone
- The project does not conform to the adjacent neighborhood
- There are no three-story high residential homes in the area
- The project's trashcans on Janine Drive will unduly create a safety hazard for the adjacent ~~hospital~~ *hospital emergency room*
- No other project has been built in front of a hospital
- The developer submitted inaccurate parcel size. The new size may not meet common open space requirements
- The Janine Drive roadway is a very *critical* area for ingress to the hospital's emergency room. Typically, emergency ~~drive~~ *drive* along La Serna Drive from Whittier Blvd. or along 15000 Janine Drive (due to high congestion along Whittier Blvd.) to get to the hospital.
- Placing ~~84~~ *84* trash cans along any of these streets will create a hazard for emergency vehicles entering the hospital's emergency driveway, patients visiting, and employees of the hospital.
- The impact of the traffic on ~~safety~~ *safety* for students attending La Serna High School
- The Envision General Plan identified Janine Drive as a "collector street" designed to move traffic from local to secondary major arterials. In doing so, it recognizes that these streets are already heavily travelled. This project will unduly increase traffic
- Diminishes or impairs property values within the neighborhood

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- The surrounding neighborhood will be a parking lot for residents of the housing project
- The additional cars will invite burglars
- The Envision Whittier General Plan further states that it looks to improve "neighborhood intrusion" and enhance pedestrian, bicyclist, and automobile "safety." Allowing this large high-density project in our neighborhood is in complete opposition to the Envision Whittier General Plan
- The proposed use is not compatible with the permitted uses of the surrounding and adjacent properties (creating fundamental unfairness)
- The City has not allowed any of these types of high density housing projects to be built directly in the path of a hospital's emergency room driveway and medical offices or on a neighborhood street. Most are being built along Whittier Blvd.
- It appears that the purpose of the variance is to exclusively make more money out of the property, questioning if the City is also making money from the development
- The City has not permitted any of these types of high density housing projects to be built directly in the path of a hospital's emergency room driveway and medical offices or on a neighborhood street, most are being built along Whittier Blvd.
- It does not conform to open space policy along Whittier Blvd. created by City Council

In conclusion, I am suggesting the City Council reconsider this development. Pursuant to 2.05.030 WMC, I request the city council review decisions and actions of the Design Review Board and Planning Commission.

Yours truly,



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Additional Resident Comments:
 A public park or a community center would be a more appropriate use of the land at 9829 Le Serna Drive, Whittier.