

RECEIVED ON: May 24, 2022

Council Meeting: 05/24/22

Agenda Item No. 12.E

11746 Beverly Boulevard
Whittier, California
May 21, 2022

Mr. Rigo Garcia, City Clerk
Whittier City Hall
13230 Penn Street
Whittier, California 90602

Re: Condominiums at Whittwood Center.


Dear Mr. Garcia:

There is a rumor going around that I heard recently regarding a plan to tear down Penny's Department Store and Sears in order to make way for the building of condominiums. I do not know how substantial the rumor is; however, if there is any truth in it, I firmly believe the Council should seriously consider the ramifications of such a plan and reject it for the following reasons:

First of all, Penny's is one of the few – if indeed the only one left – of good, non-discount department stores in Whittier. Unless the store is planning to relocate elsewhere in Whittier it's loss to our community would have a considerable negative impact on Whittier residents who rely on it for their basic needs. To do their department store shopping Whittierites would then have to drive to Puente or Brea; and with the price of gasoline going through the roof, many may not be able to afford the time and frequency of the drive.

Secondly, I would think – but am not sure – Whittwood Center is zoned for commercial use. If that is correct, breaking Whittwood Center into a commercial/residential property might well be a violation of zoning laws designed for specific reasons and protections.

Since there is also concern that this plan to develop condominiums may be foisted upon Whittier residents as a fait accompli, the reason for this letter is to urge the City Council to declare the rumor false or – if it should be true -- to look more deeply into the matter and save Penny's and the commercial status of Whittwood Center for the benefit of us all.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Naulty

CC: CM; ACM; CA; Council; Original to CC; Public Binder; Department