

RECEIVED ON: October 20, 2022

**From:** [Ben Tan](#)  
**To:** [WebMail - CCD](#); [Jessica Martinez](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment to City Council Meeting on 10/25  
**Date:** Thursday, October 20, 2022 2:05:55 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 Representatives,

My name is Ben Tan and I live in The Groves at Whittier. My wife, one-year old daughter, and I enjoy this community in Whittier and our neighbors. In my spare time outside of work in commercial and residential real estate asset management, I am an active participant in our community and have served as President on a 100-townhome association prior to this HOA. I am writing to you today to raise some areas of improvement we'd like the city to take action on.

## SECURITY

We appreciate Whittier PD's efforts to keep our community safe. We'd like to know what the protocols are to make arrests. Last week Whittier PD was called because a naked man was seen touching himself inappropriately. Whittier PD did not make an arrest – he was escorted off the premises and seen in Whittier later that day. There was also an attempted break in at The Commons – Whittier PD did not make an arrest and the individual was escorted off the premises. Homeless individuals are a recurring presence along the ingress and egress of our community, leading to increased incidents of theft and crime within our property lines.

Some residents were informed that arrests were not made because the perpetrator must be identified by the victim in person. Some may not have childcare available to make the identification with Whittier PD, fear for their safety, or endure other circumstances that may prevent in-person identification.

With Whittier having its own city-run police department, can policies be updated to modernize how a perpetrator is identified? Can photos be used to help identify an alleged perpetrator? Other security incidents this month include theft of packages delivered to neighbors' homes, catalytic converter theft, and trespassing of the pool areas. We would greatly appreciate your attention towards keeping our community safe.

## PARKING & DEVELOPMENTS

We oppose a proposal that requires residents in Whittier to pay for permit parking. Some in the neighborhood were told permit parking would be a program offered when construction is complete. Parking at The Groves at Whittier is increasingly becoming an issue as more residents move in and businesses open up. Some of the homes in this community were only allotted 1 parking space and others have garages that only fit 2 compact cars.

I also vehemently ask the City Council to oppose the CUP request made to permit a church to operate at 11750 Whittier Blvd. There was inadequate public outreach conducted by the applicant and city planners regarding this project. Our community was never notified of the

RECEIVED ON:

public hearing process for this CUP case, and we are disappointed to see a church replace a vacant commercial lot that is zoned for mixed-use and previously occupied by retail grocery anchors. There is an existing church already along Sorensen Ave within a few tenths of a mile to this site, which was not highlighted in the Planning Commission's report. This lot could be used to create more housing, provide commercial space for local, small businesses, or even an Asian grocery store which a lot of our residents have been asking for. The nearest Asian grocery store is 99 Ranch in Hacienda Heights or H-Mart in Buena Park.

The Planning Commission's report does not adequately highlight the fiscal impact of putting in a church to this site: non-profits do not pay tax to the city. Why would the City of Whittier prefer its residents go outside of city lines to pay sales tax to neighboring cities? There are also concerns that this development will create further parking issues in the community and add to the transient population at this immediate location given the church's proposed sanctuary services. To be clear, the church is doing great work to help those in need. However, its use does not require frontage and visibility along a main commercial corridor on Whittier Blvd with pylon signage given it is a destination for its patrons and doesn't require the drawing in of foot traffic.

#### CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING

We understand the City will be redistricting Whittier's four electoral districts. As a resident of The Groves at Whittier, I would like to remain in District 1. Moving to District 2 or District 4 means residents in my neighborhood would not have an opportunity to vote in the next district election in 2024, and would be forced to wait until 2026 to vote in a district election.

Thank you for all that you do for our city. We look forward to representation and making sure our voices are heard as residents and as a collective community of 561 homes in Whittier.

Sincerely,

Ben