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To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing today to express our deep concerns around the proposed changes to the Whittwood Town Center Specific Plan by Kimco Realty. Our family home (which is now in its 3rd generation of ownership since 1957) is located on Lindskog Drive. We are just one block north of Whittier Boulevard, the town center is visible from our backyard.

This area cannot support an additional 1,200 dwelling units, as well as a 300-room motel. These new units will bring in 1000's of cars to this already overly populated area. It just simply is not true that people are giving up their cars, public transportation is not an option for most people. You simply just must look around at the number of cars on the street, and the number of passengers on the buses you drive by. How many people reading this took a bus to work today?

The surrounding streets are already congested with traffic daily. Any traffic studies need to be conducted during high traffic hours on weekdays, while families are going to work, school, practices, etc. Any traffic studies conducted on a weekend, would not provide accurate and justifiable data. These studies must also include all streets surrounding the property, not just those nearest the planned housing.

What is the plan for local schools to handle the influx of students that will come from such a large addition of homes. Local schools are already filled to capacity. The addition of students will increase traffic during school drop off/pick-up. Parents today do not allow their children to walk to school, the world is not a safe place.

We are constantly asked to conserve water and power. How will 1,200 new homes and a 300-room hotel help with these shortages? Can our aging sewer system hold up with this many new people.

Why does East Whittier need a 300-room motel? We have many motels on Whittier Boulevard and the Double Tree Hotel in Uptown. What is the plan to fill a large motel, that is not easily accessible to the freeway system? There are no venues in Whittier or neighboring cities that would require this large of a motel. Do the developers plan to use a motel of this size as an apartment complex?

With 1000's of new residents in a very small area, will come the need for additional first responders. Whittier is already short police officers. New homes will increase the need for trash collectors, maintenance workers and cause wear and tear on the streets. How will the city handle this need? We know that Kimco will build and run. Kimco already struggles to maintain safety and cleanliness at the Whittwood now.

We have many times heard the term "affordable housing". What is the definition of affordable housing in the eyes of the developer and Whittier City officials. How will this development effect the property values of those nearby?

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

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It is unacceptable for the mayor and others to speak at community organization events, stating that residences around the Whittwood, could easily sell the property they worked long and hard to build into a home, and move into a smaller town home.

This needs to be voted on by the citizens of Whittier, not just 5 individuals. We have supported and voted for the current mayor & council member for our district. We hope that the entire council will agree that we need to stand up to those in Sacramento mandating that cities of our size become huge metropolises.

Lastly, we attended the meeting held on November 30th via Zoom. There seemed to be very little notification of this meeting to the community. We first learned of this meeting 24 hours before, via the City of Whittier's Instagram, which we have copied below. The post clearly states that those living near the Town Center had been informed of this meeting. No notification took place. Throwing random hash tags on a post does not "Cover your bases". Not all citizens are on Instagram or even check it daily. How is this being transparent?

Instagram Post by whittiercitygov, November 29th:

🗨️ SCOPING MEETING 🗨️ Good evening, Whittier! 🙌 For those living near the Whittwood Town Center, you should have received notification that Kimco Realty, owners of the shopping center, are interested in making some changes 🗨️ The City will hold a public scoping meeting TOMORROW, (Wednesday) November 30 in the City Hall Council Chambers (13230 Penn St., Whittier) starting at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the issues anticipated to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as part of the process to amend the Whittwood Town Center Specific Plan and propose a design for a future mixed-use lifestyle center ✅👍📁 We encourage you to attend the meeting in person or virtually on Zoom via the link in our bio 🔗 🗨️ Both public and written comments may be submitted during the meeting, and those unable to attend can send direct comments to Patti Nahill, Contract Project Manager, at pnahill@cityofwhittier.org. Your feedback will help guide future decision-making ensuring that proposed projects reflect the needs of our community and enhance quality of life for residents! 🗨️🗨️🗨️ Please contact the Community Development Department at (562) 567-9320 with inquiries regarding the meeting - see you there! 🗨️ #meetingreminder #coveringallthebases #EIR #scoping #whittwood #cityofwhittier

Thank you for your time. We hope you understand this proposal is not a good fit for Whittier or its citizens.

Vicki Wheeler & Laura A. Smith