

From: [ld_balcazar](#)
To: [WebMail - CCD](#)
Subject: Public Comments For City Council members
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Importance: High

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Dear City Council Members,

I live very close to Hellman Park on Orange Drive, a very narrow street that allows for only one-way vehicle passage. I speak only on behalf of the residents who reside close to the Hellman Park Greenleaf trailhead (the "Greenleaf Trailhead").

City Council Member Octavio Cesar Martinez has proposed and is advocating for residents residing around the Greenleaf Trailhead to pay for parking in front of their homes.

I vigorously object to his proposal due to the financial burden that Mr. Martinez will be imposing upon Whittier residents who live nearby the Greenleaf Trailhead for the following reasons:

First, the city blocks around the Greenleaf Trailhead are filled with several multi-family apartment buildings and single-family homes that are occupied by multi-generational families. Many of these residents are of lower income levels. This would burden families with an additional cost of living close to the Greenleaf Trailhead.

Second, preferential parking around the Greenleaf Trailhead was implemented to control vandalism, trash, and traffic congestion caused by hikers using the trail. In fact, my son had his car sideswiped during a high congestion episode due to hikers competing for parking close to the Greenleaf Trailhead. I also experienced hikers moving my trash cans from the street onto the curb so that they could park. As a result, I sometimes would not get my trash picked up.

Third, the imposition of fees for parking passes does nothing to avoid or alleviate the main purpose for preferential parking around the Greenleaf Trailhead – vandalism, trash, and traffic congestion experienced by residents directly caused by hikers. Instead, it punishes the residents who live in the Greenleaf Trailhead area by taxing them for parking outside of their own homes.

If the City of Whittier is in need of additional revenue, then shouldn't the burden be placed upon the hikers who use the Greenleaf Trailhead by imposing hiking fees and not upon the residents who happen to reside close by?

Clearly, Mr. Martinez's proposal is ill-conceived and mean-spirited. Therefore, I ask that the City Council Members soundly reject Mr. Martinez's proposal by voting "No."

Leticia Balcazar