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Council Meeting: 01/10/2023  
Agenda Item No. 13.B.

**From:** [ld\\_balcazar](#)  
**To:** [WebMail - CCD](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Next City Council Meeting  
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Dear City Council Members:

Last month, our neighborhood had a meeting with Council Member Octavio Martinez regarding our preferential parking district and parking pass stickers.

The recurring theme of our meeting was that one solution cannot be applied to the entire City of Whittier because each area has its own unique issues. Thus, we strongly emphasized to Octavio that he should not advocate one-size-fits-all solutions.

**Parking Stripes:** Octavio advocated for the painting of parking stripes along the streets around Hellman Park. Octavio's rationale was that, on Comstock Street, drivers were taking up more curb space to park their cars without leaving sufficient space for others to park. However, Octavio lives on Comstock which has several multi-family residential dwellings. Thus, parking space is a scarcer resource on Comstock.

Clearly, Octavio lives in an area where there is a parking space problem due to several multi-family residential dwellings. As such, he should advocate for parking space stripes solely on Comstock. He should not apply a one-size-fits-all solution by painting parking stripes on all of the streets in the neighborhood around Hellman Park.

The only parking problem we have on Orange Drive (between Milton and Greenleaf) is non-enforcement of our preferential parking district. However, we do not have a parking space problem on our stretch of Orange Drive (between Milton and Greenleaf) because we do not have multi-family residential dwellings on our stretch of Orange Drive. Further, all residents along our stretch of Orange Drive take our trash bins out to the curb on Tuesdays for trash collection on Wednesdays. White stripes may eliminate the curb space for our trash bins and interfere with trash collection. As such, parking stripes are simply not needed, will waste resources, and will make our street look like a commercial district.

**Street Lights:** Octavio brought up his wish to have additional street lights installed in our community. Most, if not all, vehemently voiced our opinion that we **do not** want street lights because it would impact the originality and historic look of our neighborhood and impact the wildlife in the hills.

**Angle Parking:** Octavio brought up having angle parking on Greenleaf. I am neutral on this proposal as long as those homeowners who would be impacted by angle parking are informed of the proposal.

**Parking Enforcement:** Finally, all homeowners who attended the meeting emphatically agreed that we need parking enforcement along the streets around Hellman Park with additional patrols issuing citations. We call our area "**ground zero**" because the homeowners around Hellman Park are the most impacted on a daily basis by the hikers who bring traffic, noise, trash, crowds, and illegally park on our streets because they know they won't be ticketed.

**Fees for permanent parking stickers:** Most of us agreed that each homeowner should be issued the first three permanent parking stickers at no cost. Charging for permits above three per household is reasonable.

**Hellman Park Homeowners.** There is no one-size-fits all solution. All *ground zero* neighbors agreed that our neighborhood should not be lumped together with other preferential parking

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districts. In fact, someone suggested that the *ground zero* homeowners should have our own color permits to differentiate *ground zero* from all other districts that are not impacted by hikers.

For all these reasons, I respectfully request that Council Members –

- Vote “NO” on any measure to paint parking stripes in the Hellman Park neighborhood.
- Vote “NO” on the installation of street lights.
- Vote “YES” on adding patrols and issuing citations in *ground zero* on a daily basis (initially, at least twice daily).
- Consider issuing a unique color parking stickers solely for residents living within two or three blocks from Hellman Park.

Thank you.

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