

RECEIVED ON: February 21, 2023

From: [Cindy Feinzimer](#)
To: [WebMail - CCD](#)
Subject: Whittwood Town Center Redevelopment Plan
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 10:08:09 PM

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To the Whittier City Council:

This email is in regard to the Whittwood Town Center redevelopment proposal. I was sent a mass distribution letter from Ms. Cathy Warren, but it did not address my concerns about the project. I believe that other residents previously expressed their concerns about the project to Ms. Warner too. Therefore, I believe her mass letter shows a lack of concern for the interests of the residents of Whittier.

My understanding of how our voices can be heard is to write letters and appear to speak at City Council meetings in person or by Zoom. I have done this and know that other residents have also sent letters. I have not seen any indication that the City Council agrees with or is at least sympathetic to those opponents of the project. Therefore, I must conclude that our City Council is in favor of demolishing the shopping center.

I have lived and shopped in this area all my life. My family and I moved to Whittier in 2016 and my husband and I have lived here ever since then. The number of businesses that have left Whittier is demoralizing. If this Whittwood redevelopment proposal is approved, more businesses will leave, which not only means that shopping dollars of Whittier residents will go to neighboring cities and Whittier will lose tax revenues from the businesses that will have to close. Removing multiple businesses from Whittwood and replacing them with 1,200 residential units and a movie theater and hotel is wrong because it is adverse to the interests of the people who already live near Whittwood and frequently use the shopping center. The residents do not want this. It will impact the quality of life in our community and cause many problems. It seems that our City Council Members don't understand the need to balance the two important interests of increasing housing and promoting commerce. Please explain this.

As I understand it, this project will not correct the very real shortage of affordable housing. We are already faced with a severe drought, a prohibition on the purchase of internal combustion engine vehicles, a lack of infrastructure to charge electric vehicles, longer response times for emergency responders who have to contend with heavy traffic congestion, etc. The Whittwood redevelopment would certainly exacerbate those problems and introduce an additional complex of issues we haven't even conceived of yet.

The property developers only care about the financial rewards of their projects. They don't care at all about desecrating a city and the many other problems their projects will cause. We want the shopping center as it is now to stay as it is. Why would anyone think that ruining Whittwood Town Center as proposed in the plan would be in

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our best interests? As Bert Lance said, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it"!

Residents living within 300 feet of Whittwood Town Center got postcards informing them of the Environmental Impact Report Scoping meeting about the project. But it will affect residents who live much further from Whittwood than 300 feet, so I believe that notice should have been provided to people who live within a much larger radius than 300 feet, at least five miles in every direction from Whittwood.

I have been told that there were proposals for a Costco Wholesale to be built where the Nellis Boys reform facility once stood. But instead, the City Council decided to approve The Grove, which provides unaffordable housing, along with two grocery stores and several fast food restaurants. Once again, this was a decision that was adverse to the best interests of the people of Whittier.

From what I know, many people wanted a Whole Foods Market at the La Serna Drive and Janine Drive site, but they will get another ill advised townhome development instead!

The DoubleTree by Hilton hotel in Uptown Whittier is nearly deserted and does not bring enough business tax revenue. Why would our City Council find it necessary to put a 300 room hotel in an already crowded area? If any new hotel is to be built at all, I believe it should be constructed in an undeveloped, more sparsely populated area.

As you must know, the Western portion of Whittier is dilapidated and it badly needs refurbishing. If you plan correctly, you could fix that area of Whittier by giving it a facelift. You could use Whittier funds to offer incentives to low-income Whittier residents to clean up and renovate their properties. The City of La Mirada has done this for their tax-paying residents. Why can't Whittier do the same? Please answer! Please focus on the environmental impacts the Whittwood redevelopment will cause. I want the City Council Members to deny the Whittwood redevelopment plan.

Sincerely,

Cindy Feinzimer