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From: [Cindy Feinzimer](#)
To: [WebMail - CCD](#)
Subject: Housing in the City of Whittier
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To Whittier City Council:

There are residents of Whittier who are aware that at least some of the Whittier City Council (WCC) Members read Nextdoor.com posts about what happens in Whittier. Many of us were surprised and gratified to learn that the WCC voted at last week's meeting to support the efforts of a statewide community action group, [OurNeighborhoodVoices.com](#), to protect local autonomy from State action with respect to single family residential zoning. In view of that, I would like to know why the WCC, especially Mayor Joe Vinatieri, and City Manager Brian Saeki are not responding to what we really want for Whittier with respect to the redevelopment of the Whittwood Town Center. In contrast with this, many people who live in Whittier are very unhappy about the performance of the WCC in failing to oppose this project. There is now a campaign by residents of Whittier to establish term limits for WCC members, a move I must support in view of the WCC's failure to oppose the Whittwood redevelopment project.

The residents of Whittier know and feel that Whittier City Council is improperly planning and approving the unnecessary and over-building of unaffordable housing, ostensibly to comply with new State housing laws. Our tax dollars should not be wasted. Instead, they should be used to improve our:

1. Existing roads, including the repair of potholes that are in and around our city streets (for example, Santa Gertrudes Avenue). I know certain people who live South of Lambert Road. Some of them use wheelchairs to shop at the Whittwood Town Center, but can't use the sidewalk on the west side of Santa Gertrudes Ave. because the City has not finished the long standing project to put in a new sidewalk.
2. Utility infrastructure—water, sewer, gas, telephone, and power lines,
3. Existing fire stations—a new station is needed for our hard working fire fighters and EMS personnel, and
4. Re-funding our police officers—they need more officers and they need to be better equipped to clean up crime on our streets so we can feel safe and proud of Whittier again.

We need affordable housing, where young people can raise a family with a yard and space to grow and the elderly who are on fixed incomes can live out their remaining years in a clean and safe environment. Building more houses does not necessarily make housing more affordable. Without sufficient requirements for percentages of affordable units in a given development, it simply makes neighborhoods overly crowded, streets and roads overly congested, and increases all the negative consequences associated with overpopulation, which means more crime, drugs, poor schools, homelessness, vagrancy, graffiti, dependency on social services, etc. This list could go on indefinitely. We want our City Council members to respond to what needs fixing and stop allowing developers to come in and demolish well-established areas that are desired and widely used by its residents.

In planning for future growth in Whittier, the City Council changed the General Plan which used old population data, but no one caught that error. An important concern of mine is the possibility that our recently changed General Plan might impose extremely high population densities. The original housing density rules were designed to preserve the quality of life for Whittier's residents. That intent should not be discarded; it should be preserved and furthered for this and future generations.

Sincerely,

Cindy Feinzimer

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