

Good Evening, Mayor-pro-tem Dutra and Councilmembers.

James Becerra, Chair of the Historic Resources Commission, retired professor of Environmental Design at Cal Poly, and longtime resident of Whittier

I know good governance when I see it. And I know bad governance when I see it. I am here tonight to address a situation of bad governance---specifically the removal of the Greenleaf trees-- en mass—which flies in the face of the both the language and the intent of the citizen-driven Uptown Specific Plan that the majority of you approved in 2008.

Opacity and duplicity under the guise of “progress” is not good governance. You now have 5 former mayors and councilmembers, a former County Registrar of Voters, numerous commissioners---past and present---among others, telling you that the City is acting without complete transparency.

The amendments and addenda to the Greenleaf Promenade, while marginally legal, are an attempt to subvert the understood nature of the USP from the residents of Whittier.

These actions also remove the HRC from its responsibility to oversee the placement of both historic and new street lamps , clearly the HRC’s purview and against the provisions of the Preservation Ordinance 18.84.

Again, the city finds itself in unnecessary legal jeopardy. Please play by the rules, follow the rules---as we all must do---and act honorably and transparently for the good of the City.

Thank you.