

From: [Glen McClure](#)
To: [Rigo Garcia](#); [Cathy Warner](#); [Octavio Cesar Martinez](#); [Fernando Dutra](#)
Cc: [Rigo Garcia](#); [Joe Vinatieri](#); [Brian Saeki](#); [Cathy McClure](#)
Subject: Council mtg April 30, 2024
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City Council, (cc Brian, Rigo, Joe)

Please note due to int'l travel I am unable to attend 4/30 Council Mtg but, my wife Cathy McClure will attend via Zoom & read my summary below. Please enter into the record.

Thanks, I look foreword to a majority+ approval Uptown revitalization, to include R&R of the tress.

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Dear City Council & local residence of Whittier,

I am Glen McClure 69-yrs old Whittier resident for 49-yrs always live within walking distance to Uptown. I am reaching out today with a heartfelt appeal regarding the ongoing discussions about the future of our beloved Uptown region. It disheartens me to see our community divided over the changes that stand to significantly enhance our city, not just as a business hub but as a thriving, family-friendly community.

As you are aware, the ficus trees in Uptown have been a subject of contention due to the considerable un-managable challenges they present. These trees cause substantial damage to sidewalks, curbs, roads, and plumbing systems, all of which have unfortunately fallen on our local business owners to manage. While the aesthetic and environmental benefits of these trees are acknowledged, the destructive impacts cannot be overlooked.

It is essential to remember the successful redevelopment of the Uptown area several decades ago, which was met with enthusiasm and support from our community. However, as time has passed, the benefits of that redevelopment have dramatically diminished. We now face a pivotal moment where we must decide to renew and refresh the image, business model, and overall conditions of Uptown.

With only about 100 ficus trees in question out of the more than 28,000 trees in our city, the impact of this change would be minimal in the broader scope in the transformative of Uptown. Within a short time, we envision an Uptown that not only regains its beauty but surpasses current desires & expectations. This renewal will foster a vibrant business environment and a safer, more engaging community space for all our families both current and future generations.

I urge the City Council to move forward with these plans expeditiously, allowing us to put this divisive issue behind us and begin focusing on more projects that will continue to elevate our community's quality of life.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to the people of Whittier.

Glen McClure
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