

From: [Patti McCarthy](#)
To: [WebMail - CCD](#)
Subject: Preserving Our Ficus Trees Will Support Our Uptown Businesses and Help Whittier Prosper
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Preserving Our Trees Will Support Our Uptown Businesses and Help Whittier Prosper

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for all you do for our community. I am grateful for your work on behalf of the people of Whittier and your continued support of Whittier College.

Over the past months, I've attended many meetings here at City Hall about the Uptown Improvement Plan. What is crystal clear is that every person that has stepped up to the mic during Public Comments, or written an email, loves Whittier and is deeply committed and passionate about the community. During Public Comments at the City Council meeting in February something one person said struck me as a profound truth and something I hadn't really considered, "We have things backwards."

To that end, I think we should use our 108 legacy trees on Greenleaf to PROMOTE Whittier using a phase in/out approach that will retain our urban canopy, rather than proposing to cut them all down at once. To draw tourists, you promote the Eiffel Tower and Grand Canyon—you don't tear them down or fill them in. Our Uptown legacy trees on Greenleaf can be promoted as a natural wonder and should be our Whittier mascot and logo. Our ficus trees can appear on every bumper sticker, every poster, every t-shirt, mug, and every social media post that promotes the City. No other city in the LA area can boast our kind of urban canopy, charm, and beauty. People will drive from all over LA (maybe the world!), to see the trees, walk in the shade, enjoy the ambiance, buy from our merchants and eat at our restaurants.

Everyone wants the same thing--to see Whittier prosper. Preserving our trees that do so much to improve our air and community health (using the alternative methods presented at recent City Council meetings to repair the sidewalks) and making OUR FICUS TREES a destination in Uptown will greatly support our businesses and help our town prosper (with little disruption to businesses and locals). I think promoting our trees has been a missed opportunity to drive people to our Greenleaf/Whittier area. If we live in The City of Trees, we need to promote it as such. Many Main

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Streets in LA look similar to the plan currently proposed for Uptown, but NO OTHER CITY in all of LA except WHITTIER can boast a Main Street quite like ours--and it's because our streets are lined with our HUGE FICUS TREES.

I think it's a win-win for everyone--especially our trees and those who want to see our community and Whittier prosper.

Thank you for your kind consideration and for keeping an open mind.
Best regards,
Patti McCarthy
Whittier Resident