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Subject: Greenleaf promenade
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I cannot make it to the city council meeting today but would like my opinion counted.

I am whole-heartedly in favor of the promenade plan and only hope that the rest of Uptown Whittier (8-blocks of Philadelphia) will get the same treatment.

When the Uptown Whittier Improvement Association was being pitched to us (uptown property owners) we were promised a revitalized uptown and would be paying considerably for it. Over the last few years the additional tax on our properties has been collected yet we still haven't seen the benefit from the UWIA.

Too often the businesses along Philadelphia st. are left out of Uptown activities so we've had to fend for ourselves. The main entrances to Uptown are Philadelphia at Pickering and at Painter, and Greenleaf at Hadley and at Wardman. Once the Greenleaf promenade project is underway I hope the businesses in the rest of Uptown will begin to get the same treatment.

The ficus trees were the wrong choice of tree in 1967 and the issues have been pushed off for far too long. The damage to plumbing and utility services have fallen on the shoulders of both public and private. The cost of maintenance the city spends in trying to keep up with tree related repairs would be better spent once the promenade is complete.

The Museum building is suffering because of the overgrown ficus trees. The trees are over 50' tall. One repair that had to be made cost \$7500. For context, our operating budget per month is approximately \$10k. That kind of expense for a nonprofit is just too much to battle a never-ending fight due to a species of tree that shouldn't even be in North America.

The new reinforced sidewalk next to our building that was installed in 2016 is already being lifted up and is cracking due to the ficus tree roots. The former Video Express building which has been chronically vacant for 20 years had extensive root damage which severely damaged the property and has driven away new tenants. It is my suspicion that the frequent gas leaks at the intersection of Philadelphia and Newlin are a result of the invasive roots breaking the gas line. (which has incidentally killed 2 new trees next to the museum).

The leaf-drop throughout the year is relentless, the fruit drop leaves a sticky mess that is tracked into the building, the dew-drop from the leaves is disgusting and makes Uptown look filthy, and the roots are a never ending vice upon infrastructure.

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

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Phase the trees out if need be but the sooner the ficus are removed and new trees are planted, the better. Next on the list should be the trees on Philadelphia st and on Painter as those trees are even bigger than on Greenleaf.

Stop kicking the can down the road for another generation to pay for; remove the ficus trees and plant California native species.

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