

From: [Patti McCarthy](#)
To: [WebMail - CCD](#)
Subject: July 18, 2024—Public Comments for Special City Council Meeting (Trees)
Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 12:49:11 PM
Attachments: [Public Comments Special City Council Meeting June 18, 2024 SAVE OUR TREESr.pdf](#)

[**NOTICE:** This message originated outside of City of Whittier -- **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

July 18, 2024—Public Comments for Special City Council Meeting

Dear City Council and Friends,

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

I've attended many meetings over the several past months at City Hall about the Uptown Promenade Plan that was revised and approved by the City Council in December 2023. I've heard what local residents have had to say about the revised Plan, as well as those who have businesses in Uptown. What is clear is that every person that has spoken up during Public Comments, or written an email, loves Whittier and is deeply committed and passionate about their community.

After much listening, I support a "phase-in" plan that will SAVE OUR TREES and SAVE OUR CANOPY. I truly believe any plan that calls for the destruction of 108 beautiful and health sustaining Ficus trees is wrong and that doing so is an injustice to our community. Cutting down all our Ficus trees on Greenleaf will have a long range, negative impact. Recent letters to the City Council from Conny McCormack (January 2024-June 2024) and the Whittier Conservancy (June 17, 2024), among many others, clearly outline what those negative impacts after the removal of 108 Ficus will be—the heat differential of 40% between currently shaded areas vs concrete areas being just one example (which is especially relevant since, based on City projections, after cutting down our Ficus trees without comparable replacements our community will not enjoy the same shade canopy or healthy air benefits for 61 years!!!)

Many concerned citizens over the past months have said it better than me—in Public Comments or via email to the City Council--but there is no doubt, in my opinion, that a “scorched earth” plan needs to be stopped immediately. This kind of “planning” is backwards, at best.

We should be using our 108 legacy trees on Greenleaf to PROMOTE Whittier, instead of passing proposals to cut them all down. To draw tourists, you promote

RECEIVED ON:

Council Meeting: _____
Agenda Item No: _____

the Eiffel Tower and Grand Canyon—you don't topple the Tower or pave the Canyon over to make room for more parking. Our Uptown legacy trees on Greenleaf should be promoted as a natural wonder and be our Whittier mascot and logo, instead of being considered a "nuisance" that needs to be destroyed. Our Ficus should appear on every bumper sticker, every poster, every t-shirt, mug, and every social media post that promotes OUR 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. But not if you cut them all down.

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 the City Council meetings over the past months to repair sidewalks) and making THEM the destination in Uptown will greatly support our businesses, draw new homeowners, 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 a CITY OF TREES, we need to promote it as such. Many Main Streets in LA look like the one that was proposed for Greenleaf by the City in the revised Plan--but NO OTHER CITY in all of LA except WHITTER can boast a Main Street quite like ours--and it's because our streets are lined with our HUGE FICUS TREES.

Over 4,000 people have signed a petition to SAVE OUR TREES and our Greenleaf canopy. For every one of those 4,000 people THOUSANDS and THOUSANDS MORE stand in support of an Uptown Promenade plan that will preserve and SAVE OUR TREES.

Please *listen*.

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

Best regards,
Patti McCarthy
Whittier Resident