

RECEIVED ON: July 23, 2024

**From:** [Kelly Hernandez](#)  
**To:** [Kelly Hernandez](#); [WebMail - CCD](#)  
**Subject:** Save Our Trees  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024 7:09:29 PM

You don't often get email from kellymhernandez@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[**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.]

Dear City of Whittier,

I am a Whittier property owner and active community member. I am writing today to urgently implore you to NOT remove our trees. I, my family, as well as numerous other community members feel passionately about keeping our beautiful trees and that removing them would be horrendous and unforgivable.

I bought my home in Whittier (near uptown) specifically because of the beauty and charm of the tree lined streets and historic, suburban, small town feel. As I drive around town I find myself being drawn to drive down the most tree lined and beautiful streets we have rather than more arid, treeless streets. When I drive down these streets I see the trees - I see a picturesque community out of an old movie. I see the family friendly suburban town I have planned to raise my family in. On other streets without trees - I see cement. Cement buildings, strong hot sunlight reflecting off old cement walls, generic cemented over strip malls.

In a recent city meeting describing the new uptown plan, the city manager said that we "shouldn't be afraid of density." Why not?? That quote sounds an alarm to me that rings so loudly of someone (of group of people) that care more about developing and the money exchanged to contract and build (he was specifically taking about the need to remove all the trees in uptown and how many 3-5 story buildings would be erected within the small uptown area) than the future of the community and how the community members feel. The community members hope to live here for decades to come. I am afraid of density. I bought a house in the suburbs and I hope that even when other areas around Los Angeles County start to feel more inner city that we will still have our ye olde friendly town vibe. I implore you to guard our town against density. As urban sprawl continues, I urge you to actively work to keep our community suburban. We don't need more cement and taller buildings. Look at other towns with thriving, charming town centers like Sierra Madre and Claremont. They kept their trees and pride themselves on their small town vibes. Without our trees we will look more like Downtown Montebello or El Monte's Valley Mall. We don't need a modern look either. Any strip mall feels more modern and generic than our uptown but what uptown has going for it is "ambiance" and so much of that charm and ambiance comes from our big trees and historic town feel. To cut down all the trees would cause irreparable harm to uptown and our community. I strongly believe it would ruin uptown and hurt our property values. It would destroy uptown.

Please, listen to us community members. We do not want this and we feel that we have been misled that what started out as a plan to revitalize uptown which we care so much about has become a plan to destroy it against our will. Why is this plan being pushed through when there is so much community opposition to it? Listen to your community members and constituents. Slow down. Put it to a community vote. Save the trees.

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

RECEIVED ON: July 23, 2024

Sincerely,  
Kelly Lopez  
Whittier resident and home owner