

RECEIVED ON: August 19, 2024

**From:** [Marilyn Avila](#)  
**To:** [WebMail - CCD](#)  
**Subject:** Greenleaf Promenade Mtg. 8/20/2024  
**Date:** Monday, August 19, 2024 9:33:52 PM

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Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and City Council Members:

We hope this meeting is not merely an attempt to placate the residents, only to go back to the decision of destroying 3 blocks of our historic, mature, healthy trees on Greenleaf. A compromise must be reached. It should be a win-win for everyone, but especially not only for a few in the minority. These trees do not belong only to the City Council members. They are on public land, not private property. They belong to all the residents of Whittier, and over 5,700 have stated that they want the trees retained in the plan. Only a small percent of people want them taken out. How does that small amount of people override the 5,700+ petition signers who don't want the trees destroyed? This would absolutely affect the businesses negatively. Not many people will want to shop uptown with the beautiful trees and the cool, green shade gone. This is a fact that we have heard from so many. There is no petition from people who want to destroy the trees, only from those who want to SAVE them. Please listen to the people you are supposed to be representing!!

Our own Whittier Parkway Tree Manual "mission statement" starts out with the following:

"The City of Whittier is known for its urban forest. Trees beautify the City and enhance the quality of life for all residents. The National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized our City as a Tree City, USA since 1988 in honor of the care we provide for our trees. The purpose of this Parkway Tree Manual is to provide guidelines for the preservation and protection of the city's urban forest as established in the Ordinance, which will be codified in Whittier Municipal Code, Chapter 12.40."

How can this mission statement not apply to the beautiful, green, healthy trees that line the very heart of the city??

We are imploring you to retain the majority of these trees and to not turn our Uptown Whittier from a cool oasis into an unbearable heat zone. We believe that you who voted to take them all out do not fully understand the enormity of the irreversible environmental and phycological damage you will have caused, and it will be too late. We support the Pedestrian Promenade Plan which retains a great majority of the trees. Please think about what a beautiful legacy you could leave by creating a truly enjoyable and cool, parklike environment uptown that preserves the canopy which is has taken so long to get there, which will continue to attract visitors from all over, and reverse this disastrous plan of destruction.

Thank you.

Marilyn & Leonard Avila  
Greenleaf Avenue

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Council Meeting: 8/20/2024  
Agenda Item No. 10.A.

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