

RECEIVED ON: August 20, 2024

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Subject: Whittier Promenade Plan
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Hello city council,

I urge you not to follow through with the new Greenleaf Promenade plan to chop down over 100 mature trees all at once. The original plan that involves a gradual replacement of the trees in Uptown Whittier is less destructive. While I understand the sentiment of improving Uptown Whittier with renovations, the approach to these improvements is flawed. The decision to remove all of those trees at once is misinformed and not representative of the wants of the many people of Whittier who have voiced their opinions on the matter.

The following reasons explain why you should NOT proceed with the new promenade plan:

1. Shade. The clear first reason to return to the prior promenade plans is to maintain the shade that the canopy provides. This is a key feature of Uptown's infrastructure that keeps people coming back. It benefits businesses by bringing in customers and by adding to Uptown's unique charm.
2. Public Opinion. As our city council members, you should represent the people of Whittier and their wants for the community. The people of Whittier have made their voices loud and clear at city council meetings, rallies, and online that they are NOT in favor of this new plan.
3. Cooling. These trees are not only beautiful but also cost-effective in saving money on energy bills. Their canopy provides shade that naturally cools down the street. This makes Uptown a great environment for walking and saves businesses costs on air conditioning.
4. Misinformation. The approval of this new plan in December of 2023 was decided BEFORE they sent inspectors to check on the health of the trees in Uptown. There would be no way of knowing which trees need to be removed before having them inspected so making that decision without the necessary information was irresponsible.

I appreciate your willingness to communicate with the public on this issue and hope you take these reasons into consideration. Please do not cut down all of the trees at once and reconsider the previously discussed promenade plan. Let us work together to ensure that Uptown Whittier remains a vibrant and green space for generations to come.

Thank you,
Selma