

RECEIVED ON: September 22, 2024

**From:** [Denise Gutierrez](#)  
**To:** [WebMail - CCD](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Short-Term Rentals in Starlite Estates  
**Date:** Sunday, September 22, 2024 1:33:09 PM

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**Hector and Denise Gutierrez**

12635 Carinthia Drive Whittier, CA 90601  
Starlite Estates  
09/22/2024

Whittier City Council  
13230 Penn Street  
Whittier, CA 90602

Dear Members of the Whittier City Council,

I am writing as a resident of Starlite Estates, and I am deeply concerned about the ongoing allowance of short-term rentals (STRs) in our neighborhood. I am urging the City Council to ban STRs in our hillside area due to the mounting safety hazards, disturbances, and general nuisances they have already caused. I strongly oppose allowing STRs in our neighborhood, and I implore you to prioritize the safety and well-being of our residents by banning these rentals from Starlite Estates.

Starlite Estates is a unique neighborhood situated in the hillside—a location that makes us particularly vulnerable to the dangers of fire. Our dry hillsides are at constant risk, and the introduction of short-term guests—who are unfamiliar with the environment and often careless about the rules—only exacerbates this danger. Guests renting STRs do not know or care that fireworks are strictly prohibited in the City of Whittier. In fact, we've already experienced incidents where visitors have set off fireworks in our neighborhood, putting all of our homes at risk. One stray spark could easily ignite a wildfire, which could devastate our entire community.

Additionally, STR guests, prohibited from smoking indoors, often take their habits outside. A discarded cigarette can quickly ignite the dry brush surrounding our homes, turning a small act of negligence into a catastrophic wildfire. This is an unacceptable risk that threatens not only our property but our very lives.

Beyond the imminent fire hazards, the beautiful views of Starlite Estates have unfortunately made our neighborhood a prime target for STR parties. This has led to several issues that severely diminish the quality of life for those of us who call this place home. We are dealing with:

- **Increased traffic congestion**, which blocks access to our homes and makes it difficult for emergency vehicles to reach us in case of an emergency.

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

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- **Littering, public intoxication, and noise disturbances** that last well into the night, robbing us of the peace and quiet we once cherished.
- **Parking issues** that crowd our already limited street space, creating unnecessary tension among residents.
- **Suspicious activities, including drug use**, that make us question the safety of our streets.

Starlite Estates is a cul-de-sac with only one road in and out. If a fire occurs or another emergency arises, this single access point will severely limit the ability of emergency services to respond quickly. Adding more traffic from out-of-town guests unfamiliar with our area only compounds this danger.

We chose to live in Starlite Estates for the enjoyment of our homes and the sense of community. When the homes around us are transformed into transient hotels or party venues, we lose that sense of security, peace, and stability. We find ourselves feeling like strangers in our own neighborhood.

This issue goes beyond mere nuisance or inconvenience; it is a matter of safety and the protection of our homes. We do not want STRs in our neighborhood at all. If a fire or another preventable tragedy strikes because of one of these rentals, it will be a direct result of the City Council's failure to protect us from foreseeable harm.

I implore you to consider the real and present dangers of allowing STRs in Starlite Estates. Our homes, our lives, and the well-being of this community depend on your decision to ban these rentals.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

**Hector and Denise Gutierrez**

Resident, Starlite Estates, Whittier