

**From:** [Marilyn Avila](#)  
**To:** [WebMail - CCD](#)  
**Subject:** Short Term Rental (STR) Ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 24, 2024 12:27:23 PM

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Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Council Members,

I am requesting that short term rentals be banned in the City of Whittier's single family residential zones, but particularly in our hillside neighborhoods where they are more numerous and increasing.

These neighborhoods are fire danger areas. On our street there is only one way in and one way out for emergency vehicles. Guests are not allowed to smoke inside the rental houses, therefore they smoke outside, regardless of the heat, wind or dry conditions. We have had fireworks set off in the street right next to the hills, and sparks flying and falling onto our patio, by the guests of the STR across the street from us. Confronting these strangers and telling them to stop before anything caught fire or the police could arrive was dangerous, but necessary. People who don't live here are mostly oblivious and do not care about the extreme fire danger.

Many houses in these areas have more amenities and more bedrooms than normal, therefore attract larger groups of people who share the cost of the rental. Large vacationing groups, even 10 or 12, tend to become a party situation. There are other types of groups besides tourists that are using STRs in the hillside neighborhoods. For example, we recently had what sounded like a weekend therapy group based on the loud sessions, with screaming and crying outside. We never know who will be showing up next - it is always a constant mystery.

People who are making a lot of money with these short term rentals do not typically live near them. It is not right for some investors, regardless of whether they live in Whittier or elsewhere, to profit at the expense of disturbing people in their homes in residential neighborhoods. These un-permitted uses are violations of the residential zoning code and need to end. Please do not change the zoning codes to allow "non-owner occupied" commercial businesses to operate in our residential neighborhoods. When you are unfortunate enough to live next to one of these motel houses, there is NO buffer zone. If the City Council members would not like this next to their homes, why would they allow it for the rest of us?

Please ban unoccupied Short Term Rental commercial businesses in Whittier residential zones, but especially in the fire-prone hillside neighborhoods.

Thank you.

Marilyn Avila  
Starlite Estates - Greenleaf Ave.