

RECEIVED ON: August 20, 2024

**From:** [Rolando Cano](#)  
**To:** [WebMail - CCD](#); [Mary Ann Pacheco](#); [Octavio Cesar Martinez](#)  
**Subject:** Rolando cano public comment and record of my statement to be added to the agenda for today's city council meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 20, 2024 6:57:49 PM

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The city of Whittier has already stated that no maintenance of the sidewalks or upgraded infrastructure has been done since 1987. So the issues we see have been the result of mismanagement, and allowing Uptown to remain with empty lots that have devalued this commercial District since 1987. This information came directly from the city manager and city staff. The trees do not get watered as their root systems have reached whittiers water tables, but sprinkler systems used to water bushes are what have caused roots to rise and have caused minimal damage to sidewalks if you take into consideration that it's been 37 years since the city has done anything for Uptown Whittier.

If sprinkler systems and bushes are removed in Uptown and sidewalks upgraded along with sewage lines, you will not see any future damage as long as the city begins to maintain our city once again.

The excuse is to remove the trees that have damaged the infrastructure so that plumbing problems stop, but this is a lie. The city has clearly stated that the reason for removing the trees is to allow the construction of dense housing developments and the Greenleaf Promenade that Mayor Joe Vinatieri presented as a replacement for the Streetscape Plan that was to benefit all of Uptown and its residents. The big issue is that we already spent millions on the Streetscape Plan and are now doing the same for the new plan, Greenleaf Promenade, when it is not necessary because this new plan only benefits three city blocks that coincidentally include Mayor Joe Vinatieri's restaurant Aunties Bakery.

Now let us say that the trees are a problem because of the 100 year old infrastructure that exists in Uptown and this system has been damaged by the trees. Trees seek out water, 100 year old infrastructure leaks water, therefore the trees are damaging a 100 year old infrastructure that has not been upgraded in 100 years.

Well that explains it, 100 year old infrastructure is falling apart and 60 year old trees are the problem? I think a lack of maintenance by the city is a problem, not the trees.

Here is the biggest issue.

The trees are going to be removed because of damage to the sewage main lines which are located in the alleys where these businesses are, the problem is behind the businesses not in front where the trees grow. City has presented this information. The trees will be removed because businesses want additional foot traffic to increase profits since it has become difficult to compete with other commercial areas in and around whittier. The trees are going to be removed because of the damaged plumbing and sewage lines, but the city stated on multiple occasions that the sewage lines will not be upgraded or fixed, not going to be upgraded or fixed, at all.

The water main line will be added on Greenleaf, because the water pressure will be severely affected by the new high density housing developments on Bright and Comstock, so a new additional line has to be added.

So then why remove the trees?

Because these new high density housing developments will cost much more to build and take a longer time to build as long as these trees remain.

I propose a new site for the Greenleaf Promenade, new location be placed in the area of the movie theater on Greenleaf as it makes the most fiscal and cost effective location to benefit a larger number of businesses.

I do believe there is a conflict of interests by Joe Vinatieri and two city council members, member Pacheco and member Martinez, since Mayor Joe who owns Aunties Bakery restaurant was instrumental in supporting these two council members in the most recent elections through donations, advertising, and sharing of meet and greet events that included Joe Vinatieri for Mayor.

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

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I ask that this document be included officially as against this project. I have been informed that through this email this document will be included as an official document that opposes this project for the reasons I have indicated. I was informed that my verbal public comment is not considered to be added as an official recorded statement in fa or or against this project.

I would like a response verification by the city clerk,as the city clerks assistant is the one that provided me this information when I asked for clarification in my intention.

I look forward to receiving a confirmation email.

-Rolando Cano  
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