

RECEIVED ON: November 12, 2024

Council Meeting: 11/12/2024

Agenda Item No: 10

From: chengu08@gmail.com
To: [WebMail - CCD](#)
Subject: Save the trees
Date: Saturday, November 9, 2024 8:16:03 AM

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Dear Whittier City Council Members,

I am writing to formally address what I believe to be a violation of the Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code Section 54950 et seq., in relation to the August 20, 2024, City Council meeting discussing the Greenleaf Promenade project. This project, which includes the removal of 83 mature ficus trees, has significant financial and environmental implications that warrant full public participation.

As a resident of Whittier and a concerned community member, I am troubled by the lack of adequate public notice and the restriction of community input on this \$20 million project. Specifically:

1. **Failure to Provide Proper Notice:** The agenda for the August 20 meeting was either not posted within the 72-hour requirement for regular meetings or was not clearly communicated to the public. This lack of notice deprived community members of the opportunity to prepare and contribute meaningfully to the discussion.
2. **Inadequate Public Inclusion and Oversight:** Decisions about the tree removal and broader project costs were made without sufficient community involvement, infringing on the public's right to participate and provide input as outlined in the Brown Act.

Additionally, I would like to propose a more fiscally responsible and sustainable approach to the project. Based on estimates, the removal of 83 trees could cost between \$60,000 and \$228,000, depending on size and stump removal needs. However, a redesign of the sidewalks to accommodate the trees, using root barriers or rerouting the sidewalk around the trees, is estimated to cost significantly less—between \$30,000 and \$100,000.

Implementing a sidewalk redesign with root barriers offers the following advantages:

Cost Savings: A redesigned sidewalk could save between \$30,000 and \$168,000 compared to full tree removal.

Environmental and Community Benefits: Preserving these mature trees retains their environmental value, including shade, air quality improvement, and the unique aesthetic they provide to Uptown Whittier.

Under Government Code Section 54960.1, I respectfully demand that the City Council “cure and correct” these violations by:

Re-noticing the decisions made on August 20, 2024, with a fully compliant 72-hour advance public notice.

Scheduling an additional public meeting to review the Greenleaf Promenade project, ensuring that all community members have a fair opportunity to express concerns and explore cost-saving alternatives like sidewalk redesigns and root barriers.

If these actions are not taken within the legally required timeframe, I reserve the right to pursue all available legal remedies to uphold transparency and community involvement.

Thank you for addressing this matter promptly. I look forward to a resolution that respects both the community's voice and the city's fiscal responsibility.

Sincerely,
Chen Gu

Sent from my iPhone

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