

RECEIVED ON: February 9, 2026

Council Meeting: 02/10/2026

Agenda Item No: 9.A

**From:** Lorena Vinet <ceruleanii@verizon.net>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 8, 2026 1:45:17 PM

**To:** Cathy Warner <cathywarner@earthlink.net>; Rhonda Albey <rhondaraii@aol.com>; Debbie (Hildebrandt) Baker <dbfishlips@aol.com>; Gwen (Despenza) Bernal <gwenbernalhr@gmail.com>; Laura Bribiescas <bribimom@hotmail.com>; AnnMarie (Weidenbener) Bundy <amgbundy@aol.com>; Sue (Stark) Cabezas <scabezas3@gmail.com>; Mary Ann (Grimes) Carey <mcarey1670@aol.com>; Maureen Coleman <MO51552@aol.com>; Delilah (Evans) Crenshaw <mustangsally.classic67@gmail.com>; Patrice (Perkins) Frazier <pfnc7@cox.net>; Liz Henley <emhenley@aol.com>; Karen (Broussard) Hood <ktbhood@yahoo.com>; Cynthia Lastrapes <cynthialastrapes@gmail.com>; Sheila (Lombard) Lightsey <sheila.lightsey@sbcglobal.net>; Joey (Herrera) MacTavish <joiemact@yahoo.com>; Kathy (Dupre) Myers <kitkat6013@gmail.com>; Venus (Aquino) Nunan <vnunan@frontiernet.net>; Maureen O'Connor <maureenconnor.us@gmail.com>; Althea (Woods) Shirley <60Sungmyochi@att.net>; Sonia (Martinez) Tanori <bellasonia19@gmail.com>; Simone (Jones) Warren <breathenexhale@att.net>; Octavio Cesar Martinez <omartinez@cityofwhittier.org>; Joe Vinatieri <joev@bewleylaw.com>; Ben Pongetti <bpongetti@cityofwhittier.org>; Fernando Dutra <fdutra@cityofwhittier.org>; Mary Ann Pacheco <mapacheco@cityofwhittier.org>; Conal McNamara <cmcnamara@cityofwhittier.org>; Shannon DeLong <sdelong@cityofwhittier.org>

**Subject:** City Council Meeting-February 10, 2026 Item #9.A

You don't often get email from ceruleanii@verizon.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

**[NOTICE:** This message originated outside of City of Whittier -- **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

## **RE: URGENT OPPOSITION TO STR EXEMPTIONS IN FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY**

### **ZONES**

Dear Mayor, City Council Members, and Community Development-

I am writing **AGAIN** to restate my absolute opposition to the allowance of Short-Term Rentals (STRs) within the Fire Hazard Severity Zones of our Whittier Hills neighborhoods. It is increasingly clear that the Council is failing to recognize a fundamental truth: STRs in the Whittier Hills cannot and should not be governed under the same "umbrella" policy that applies to the rest of the city.

The native environment surrounding our hillside homes presents a unique and deadly set of risks. The threat to lives and property is far too great to permit non-residents—individuals with zero knowledge of our narrow, winding roads and no familiarity with complex escape routes—to occupy these zones. A transient guest simply does not possess the same level of concern for public safety or the "one-ember" vigilance that a permanent resident maintains.

I am particularly alarmed by the suggestion of granting exceptions for “hosted” STRs in high and extreme fire zones. To do so completely voids any meaningful restriction placed on these zones. A "host" being present on-site does not widen the roads for emergency vehicles, nor does it mitigate the logistical nightmare of a panicked evacuation in a high-density fire event.

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

RECEIVED ON: February 9, 2026

Council Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agenda Item No: \_\_\_\_\_

The data is clear: STRs represent a mere **0.7% to 0.9%** of the total housing units in this city. The apparent capitulation of this Council to such a microscopic minority of residents—those profiting from STR operations—is a profound disservice to the vast majority of Whittier citizens. You are prioritizing the supplemental income of a few over the physical safety of thousands.

There have been many instances where city officials have made decisions contrary to the wishes of our community. However, changing the recommendation to allow STRs in the Hills is not just a policy disagreement; it is a decision that has the potential to endanger lives and property across the entire city.

I demand that the Council uphold the ban on all STRs within fire hazard zones, with **no exceptions** for hosted stays. Do not wait for a catastrophe to realize that this was a mistake.

Sincerely,

Lorena Vinet  
11821 N Circle Dr  
Whittier, CA 90601