

**From:** [bdbritton@aol.com](mailto:bdbritton@aol.com)  
**To:** [WebMail - CCD](#); [Debbie Kosareff](#)  
**Subject:** Responding to City Council Meeting February 11, 2026  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 8:28:51 AM

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#### TO THE WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL:

As a Whittier resident for 52 years living in the very high risk fire area, I support the current draft of the STR Ordinance, protecting our hillside neighborhoods. I strongly urge that our City Council be **PROACTIVE**, not **REACTIVE**, regarding potential fire threat with STRS being allowed in the very high, high, and moderate fire hazard severity zones.

Why would the Council put residents in those areas in harm's way because some STR owners state there is no fire danger in the hills?

STR owners now want an exception made for "host" STRs, even in the very high fire risk neighborhoods. What is the accountability? What will be the City oversight to ensure that the "host" is on the property 24/7 while the residence is being rented as an STR? That is what this business would require to ensure that there is no fire hazard (smoking outside, barbecue, etc.). And please remember, STRs are businesses that are allowed to be in our residential communities. I want to be 100 percent certain that these businesses do not threaten the neighborhood with fire risk (or any other problems, for that matter) where I have lived for over a half century.

I do not have confidence that if an exception is made by allowing "host" STRs in the fire risk areas of Whittier that that policy will not be misused or abused, They are called "loopholes."

I know that City STR owners are concerned about their financial investment. Well, believe me, I am concerned about my financial investment for these past 52 years in my home. I do not want it put at risk.

Once again, I ask:

How do the STR owners know how STR renters are going to act, people who are not invested in our residential neighborhoods or, for that matter, the City of Whittier? Does the STR ownership of businesses in

**residential areas (because that is what STRs are) take precedence over the hundreds of home owners in the fire hazard severity zones whose homes would be at risk? WHAT IS THE PRIORITY HERE?**

**STR owners in the fire severity zones have options: They can sell their property. They can rent their property to long-term renters, who would be invested in the neighborhood where they live. The STR owners' decision to have a business in our residential areas should NOT take precedence in the fire hazard severity zones.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
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