

RECEIVED ON: February 10, 2026

Council Meeting: 02/10/2026

Agenda Item No.: 9.A

**From:** [Aperetz213](#)  
**To:** [WebMail - CCD](#)  
**Cc:** [Marilyn Avila](#); [Monique Garibay](#); [Ben Pongetti](#); [Yizeedl Dorantes](#)  
**Subject:** Item #9A, City Council Agenda, February 10, 2026  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 3:03:33 PM

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ATTENTION CITY CLERK: PLEASE READ THIS INTO THE RECORD

Dear Mayor, City Councilmembers, City Clerk and City Officials,

It is with grave concern that I stress to you the impact and the long-term effect your decision regarding STRs will have in the Hillside R-1 residential neighborhoods in our city of Whittier. I appreciate the forthrightness of the appeal by Fabio Soto & Bill Dobrenen (also stating their comments reflected the opinions of STR owners Phillip Sywulka and Ron Olson), who collectively own several properties within the Uptown area (not the Whittier Hillside) that they rent out as short-term rentals for the purpose of investment and additional income. However, residents living in the R-1 Hillside neighborhoods live here, raise families here and are involved, productive members of the community, like yourselves. We have chosen to invest our lives here for the love of our City and the beauty of our bucolic hillsides -- and not for the purpose of utilizing our properties as weekend vacation rentals that remain vacant when not occupied by a short-term renter.

Living in very close proximity to a current STR property in the Starlite Estates which remains vacant and not being resided in by the property owner or a long-term renter, until it is rented for a 2 to 3 day stay, usually during the weekends, destabilizes our neighborhood for many reasons (fire zone consideration being one). I believe this is in fact a commercial use like the Doubletree Inn, located in a commercial zone, not an R-1 zone. By allowing this, these properties are no longer available to families with the desire to live in Whittier; they instead become rest-stops for weekenders.

Just writing this to you brings me deep sadness for what it may foretell. For, as our elected officials, your decision which you may choose to knowingly allow the destabilization and eroding of our neighborhoods will forever change not only the landscape of our city's hillsides but the essence of this beautiful town. Is this the legacy you leave?

With great concern,  
Annette Peretz  
(address on file from previous letters)