

From: [Denise Gutierrez](#)
To: [WebMail - CCD](#); [Octavio Cesar Martinez](#)
Subject: Public Comment, Item 9.A, Maintain STR Ban in Fire Hazard Severity Zones
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 5:08:33 PM

You don't often get email from hectoranddenisegutierrez@yahoo.com. [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.]

Good evening. My name is Hector Gutierrez, and I am a resident of Starlite Estates.

We are here tonight to oppose any changes to the short term rental ordinance that would allow hosted rentals or weaken the ban in the remaining Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

We live in a hillside neighborhood where fire danger is real. It only takes one mistake, one firework, one cigarette, or one careless decision to start a fire that could destroy homes. We have personally seen fireworks set off by visitors in our neighborhood. These are not residents who understand the risk. These are temporary guests who are here for a weekend and then leave, while we are the ones who live with the consequences.

We are also only about a year removed from the fires in Altadena and Pacific Palisades. Those communities are still rebuilding. Fires like that do not just damage property, they change lives permanently. That reality should guide decisions about hillside neighborhoods.

We also want to talk about fairness and representation. Residents like us contribute to this city 365 days a year. We pay property taxes, shop locally, and invest in our community every single day. Many short term rental owners are only required to be in the city part of the year, and the guests renting these properties are here for just a few days at a time. Yet it feels like the interests of those temporary businesses are being weighed as heavily as the interests of the people who live here permanently.

Short term rentals are a business. They operate like hotels in areas that are zoned residential. At the same time, many of these operations are CURRENTLY not even being required to obtain business licenses, which means commercial activity is taking place in residential neighborhoods without the same oversight or accountability expected of other businesses.

We are also concerned about liability. If the City knowingly allows short term rentals to operate in high fire hazard hillside neighborhoods, and a catastrophic event occurs as a result of guest behavior or conditions related to a rental, the City will have to answer why stronger protections were not put in place when the risks were clearly known.

We are asking you to prioritize the residents who live here full time, who raise families here, and who depend on you to protect the safety of our neighborhoods.

Please maintain the ban on short term rentals in the remaining Fire Hazard Severity Zones and do not allow exceptions that weaken it.

Hector Gutierrez

Thank you for your time.