

ATTACHMENT 2



Dear Mayor Becerra and Members of the Whittier City Council:

Congratulations on your election to the Whittier City Council.

As the three new members approach the conclusion of your first 100 days in office, we write on behalf of Organize Whittier and the residents who entrusted you with their votes to reflect on the opportunities before you—and the expectations that brought each of you into office.

We want to begin by applauding the progress on two Organize Whittier priorities. First, the Council voted on June 23 to place charter amendments on the November 2026 ballot that would move Whittier's municipal elections to the November statewide cycle and add term limits to the city council — a change that would take effect in 2028 and put the question where it belongs: with the voters. Second, the Council recognized June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month—a monumental step forward. We appreciate your leadership on both these issues.

The first 100 days are more than a symbolic milestone. They are an opportunity to demonstrate that the promises made during the campaign are becoming the principles that guide your governance and to establish a City Council that is transparent, accountable, and responsive to the people it serves.

The residents of Whittier elected a Council prepared to listen, lead, and make decisions that place the long-term well-being of the community above short-term convenience. They expect leadership that honors its commitments, protects our neighborhoods and environment, strengthens public trust, and invites meaningful public participation in the decisions that shape our city.

To that end, we respectfully urge the Council to advance the following priorities:

Protect Whittier's immigrant families. Adopt local ordinances that prohibit the use of City resources to assist civil immigration enforcement; restrict immigration authorities' access to non-public areas of City property except where legally required; and limit the collection, use, and disclosure of residents' sensitive personal information. We also urge the Council to prohibit the City from entering into new contracts with vendors or contractors that directly or indirectly provide resident information to immigration authorities, thereby closing an indirect pathway through which personal data could be used for immigration enforcement. Neighboring Lynwood recently adopted similar protections, demonstrating that cities across Los Angeles County are responding to their communities with thoughtful local safeguards.

Restore Whittier's Tree Protection Ordinance and Tree Manual. Reinstate the protections suspended by the previous City Council. Whittier is now the only one of the fourteen CIPA-

member cities without a Tree Protection Ordinance protecting healthy public trees and without a formal administrative appeal process for residents. Mature trees are irreplaceable public assets that improve air quality, reduce extreme heat, strengthen environmental resilience, and preserve the character and beauty of our neighborhoods.

Uphold the Planning Commission's recommendation regarding the Go Store It project.

Responsible growth means smart growth that follows adopted planning policies, reflects community priorities, strengthens existing neighborhoods, and serves the public interest by delivering lasting benefits for residents. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended denial after concluding that the proposal is inconsistent with the community's long-term vision for the corridor and that the addition of 42 public parking spaces does not justify that departure. Community opposition has been overwhelming and well documented. A verified survey found that 125 of 126 participating Groves residents opposed the project, and testimony before the Commission demonstrated that residents' concerns are based on sound planning and land-use principles—not opposition to responsible redevelopment. In addition, the Groves Master HOA board, last week, approved for legal to draft an official letter from the HOA with their statement of “unified position against the project”.

Organize Whittier and the residents we represent stand ready to work collaboratively with you by providing thoughtful input, constructive engagement, and community support as you address these and other important issues facing our city.

We believe the strongest communities are built through shared governance, mutual respect, and meaningful civic participation. We look forward to working with you to advance initiatives that will help shape a more responsive, transparent, and forward-looking Whittier—one that reflects the needs, values, and aspirations of all its residents.

These priorities represent practical first steps toward building a Whittier that is more transparent, environmentally responsible, and responsive to the people it serves. The decisions you make during these first 100 days set the tone for your tenure and help define the legacy of this Council. We are confident you will demonstrate the leadership, vision, and integrity that the people of Whittier entrusted you to provide.

Respectfully,

Organize Whittier:

Save Our Trees Whittier
Whittier Conservancy
Whittier Indivisible Chapter
Whittier Latino Coalition
Whittier Pride