

PUBLIC COMMENT #2
UNDER ORAL COMMUNICATION

Georgina Placido

From: Irvin Samuel <irvinsamuels@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 8:56 AM
To: Public Comment
Cc: Mina Semenza
Subject: Public Comment on Bike Safety

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Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Gardena City Council Members,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to advocate for the installation of bike racks along one of our city's corridors, specifically the corridor of Gardena Boulevard from Normandie Blvd and onward east. As a concerned citizen, I believe that such an initiative would greatly benefit our community, **promoting active transportation, reducing traffic congestion, and enhancing the overall quality of life** for residents and visitors alike.

I write this as someone who has spent some time away from home pursuing my college education in the Bay Area. For about a year up until a few months ago I had been staying in the Sunnyvale, CA area where I purchased a bike to get around town more easily. I can sincerely say that having a bike has made my life much simpler in terms of running small errands as I no longer have to compete with the dozens and dozens of people fighting for parking in a Target parking lot. However, when I came back down to Gardena to visit my family, I took my mom's bike out to pick up some bread at La Favorita Panaderia, a local bakery that I have been going to all my life. Unfortunately, I could not find anywhere to leave my bike so I had to leave my bike locked up to a street parking pole around the corner. This was less than ideal since I had to trust that my bike wouldn't get taken and because I felt that I had no space dedicated for my needs as someone who chose not to drive. All around me were spaces for cars to park and not one bike rack that I could see. I had a similar experience a week later when I had to stop by the Gardena supermarket and had approximately zero bike racks at which to park (a nearby gate was my only option). And I imagine that I am not one of the only people to face this issue.

I decided to share this story with you for a few reasons. With the growing emphasis on sustainability and the need to address climate change, promoting alternative modes of transportation, such as cycling, has become increasingly important. By providing adequate infrastructure, such as bike racks, we can encourage more individuals to choose bicycles as a viable means of transportation. This, in turn, will reduce the number of cars on the road, leading to reduced emissions, improved air quality, and a healthier environment for all.

Installing bike racks along this corridor (and hopefully more around the city) would promote active lifestyles by encouraging cycling, reducing traffic congestion, and boosting the local economy.

Convenient bike parking would incentivize people to cycle, improving physical and mental well-being. This would alleviate road strain, easing traffic congestion and parking demand, resulting in smoother travel. Moreover, attracting cyclists to the corridor would support local businesses. I urge you to allocate funds for bike rack installation and consider additional locations for maximum accessibility. This initiative demonstrates our commitment to sustainable urban development, creating a vibrant, eco-friendly community.

I kindly request that you consider allocating the necessary funds and resources to install bike racks along our main corridor. Additionally, I propose conducting a thorough evaluation of additional locations outside of this corridor to ensure maximum accessibility and convenience for cyclists.

I believe that this initiative would not only benefit our residents but also showcase our city's commitment to sustainable urban development. By taking this step, we can create a more **vibrant, eco-friendly, and people-centric community**.

Thank you for your attention and for your dedication to serving our city of Gardena. As my childhood home, I look forward to the positive changes that the installation of bike racks will bring to our community. If you require any further information or if I can assist in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Irvin Samuel

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