

PUBLIC COMMENT #1
ORAL COMMUNICATION

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CITY CLERK'S OFC

Katherine Rhee

From: adriana mendez <adriana.aeom@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 6, 2025 12:04 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Re: Public Comment – Submitted by resident near Western Avenue and Marine Avenue
Attachments: IMG_4145.jpeg; IMG_4146.jpeg

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Hi,

I wanted to follow up on this matter. Some of the issues mentioned in my comment have not been addressed. Contacting code enforcement has been minimally effective as some of these concerns involve other actions by city officials.

Thank you,

Adriana Espinoza
1736 Marine Ave Gardena CA 90247

On Mon, May 26, 2025 at 10:49 AM adriana mendez <adriana.aeom@gmail.com> wrote:

Good evening Mayor, Councilmembers, and City Staff,

I am submitting this for your careful and serious consideration. For years, I have reported persistent physical and social disorder in the area where I live, between Western Avenue and Marine Avenue. Some of these issues receive attention; many do not. Some require extensive effort just to receive a response. I am raising these concerns again because they are ongoing, worsening, and deeply impacting our quality of life.

First, the intersection of Western and Marine sees an astronomical number of car accidents. I've personally gone out to assist at fatal crashes before the police arrive. These incidents happen so often that when we hear the loud bang of a collision, we no longer flinch—we just call the police or hope someone else does. A few months ago, one of the cars crashed into the "One Billiards" business on Western, just before Marine. The sidewalk has been left damaged and unusable. Plastic markers and yellow tape were put up, but they were torn off almost immediately. Despite reporting this to code enforcement, nothing has been done for months.

Street takeovers have also become a serious and repeated problem over the past two years. There were weekly gatherings directly behind the building I live in—hundreds of spectators and dozens of modified cars meeting for hours. Drivers perform stunts with no regard for safety, children run around unsupervised, and people drink and inhale nitrous oxide from balloons. Drones fly overhead, spectators cheer recklessly, and nothing is done. I've called the police many times, sometimes multiple times in one night. Often, no one ever shows up.

Just yesterday, around 8 p.m., dozens of modified race cars blocked the intersection of Western and Marine to do donuts. This went on for nearly half an hour. The smoke from the donuts filled my apartment and triggered my son's asthma. Spectators were standing on the roofs of cars, cheering. People trying to pass through were stuck, unable to drive anywhere. Some drivers stayed in their cars inhaling from balloons—impaired, reckless, and dangerous. When police finally showed up and beeped their sirens, the crowd ran, laughing and thrilled as if this were entertainment. This behavior shows complete disregard for public safety and the law—and sends a clear message to residents: these streets are not protected.

I've reached out to the police on multiple occasions, but it seems like this is difficult to control and low on the priority list. That is why the city's support is so critical. I believe harsher penalties, license revocation, speed bumps, cameras, and an increased police presence could help. These actions would not only address the street takeovers, but might also help reduce the number of accidents at this dangerous intersection.

Another issue is the ongoing neglect of a large construction project between Western and Marine. The work was not properly managed. I had to report dust violations, unsecured areas, and the lack of tarps. People broke in to steal scrap metal, and at one point, a tractor-trailer was stolen. The back of our building was used to move it out because our gate—still not up to code—remains open and accessible to the alley. The fences are poorly placed. I constantly have to report that they've fallen or have large gaps, some of which expose holes in the ground. With children living in the building, I'm afraid one of them could fall in. And now that the project has stalled, the tarps have become canvases for graffiti. I reported graffiti on May 9th through Gardena Direct, and it still hasn't been addressed. This site is a public nuisance, and unless something is done soon, the property will only attract more neglect.

We are requesting that the edges of the construction site be properly secured and reinforced. The fencing must be placed carefully and consistently along the perimeter to prevent access and reduce risk to the public—especially for children who live nearby. Leaving edges exposed or loosely fenced is not only dangerous but invites ongoing trespassing and deterioration of the property.

What I've just described has been overwhelming. It keeps me up at night. It takes time away from my work and family. It contributes to the disorder that has long affected this side of Gardena. And frankly, it's hard to take pride in where you live when it feels like the city doesn't care. A car can sit abandoned for over a month collecting trash and no one notices because no one is watching this area.

This leads to social isolation and bystander apathy. People here just want to be left alone. They don't go out of their way to help because they don't see that help will come in return. Our alley is used as a dumping ground and a graffiti wall. It's hard to overcome this mentality when residents feel forgotten and unsafe.

I've reviewed public meeting minutes and seen the city's attention on projects like The Normandie Crossing. While those investments are important, I urge you to prioritize restoring order and safety in existing neighborhoods first. The City of Gardena is not just one section—it's all of us. Residents and businesses throughout the city deserve to live in peace and to thrive.

I hope these concerns are taken seriously. I'm exhausted. Being the only person who regularly reports and "polices" this area is too much. I need help. This community needs help.

Thank you for your time.

Adriana Espinoza



