



Update on City-Funded Security Guards

Funds for the Chinatown security guards have been in the City FY20 budget since July 1. The fiscal year is half over. Still no guards.

Our most recent update from City DLM Director Sandy Pfund was the following on Dec. 4:
"We have the funds available but are in procurement right now. I'll get you an anticipated date when I get a better timeline from my staff."

We hope for a sustained effort by everyone involved now that the holidays are over. We are grateful for increased HPD presence on No. Hotel, Pauahi, Maunakea & Kekaulike Mall. The long-awaited City Guards will serve a critical role in supporting HPD's efforts. Whereas HPD officers do not stay on site once they've cleared an incident, the City Guards will be posted at the trouble spots for hours-long shifts. This kind of continuity is needed to stop problems before they compound. The lack of a continuous lawful presence is one reason why the public spaces around City properties are some of the most dangerous in Chinatown.



6 am outside City-owned property on No. Hotel Street



A Chinatown Watch member reported on 12/29/19:
"Residents who live along the 130-150 block of North Hotel St. notice that some of the 'bedding' and shopping carts are setting up as early as 6:00/8:00p ... The problem is someone decides to get up around 2/3 am and starts to yell, argue and even fight creating loud noise and nuisance heard around the block."



Smoking crack at Smith Beretania Park



Sidewalk obstruction, public drinking on Pauahi.

Trash Problems Persist

We continue to observe these trends:

1) Less Illegal Dumping By Merchants.

The yellow bags have helped Refuse Inspectors i.d. which merchants do not pay for City pick-up. Now that the City is accepting new accounts, these merchants can choose to pay either the City or a private contractor for trash disposal. This more proactive approach has improved compliance. However, account holders have reported trying to get more yellow bags from the City and being told that they're out. Also, the City does not require River of Life Mission to use yellow bags, therefore, people can and do still avoid paying for service by leaving their trash in ROL's large, unmarked & unmonitored pile on Pauahi St.

2) Continued Trash Dumping by Homeless/Mentally Ill/Addicts and Others

The yellow bags do nothing to solve this problem, for these reasons: Most businesses put out their trash in the evening. City crews pick up the trash at 4 a.m. So the trash sits out at curbside all night. This makes it very convenient for homeless people and others to open, dig through, and dump out the trash bags looking for food, bedding, etc. Further, homeless people occupying doorways, sidewalks, parks, etc. often leave trash such as food waste, human waste, cardboard, clothing, etc. behind them for others to clean up, which the City crews will not collect because it isn't bagged. **NOTHING ABOUT THE YELLOW BAGS PREVENTS THIS.** Nor are there any consequences for the people who dump the trash, only for the rest of us who must live and work in this environment



Trash left by campers on N. Hotel



Scene in the bulbout next to Smith Beretania Park



Homeless panhandler in wheelchair drank these beers on Maunakea St. sidewalk and left the cans.



Homeless addict ate lunch on Pauahi St. sidewalk and left his rubbish there.



Man dumps used mattress on Pauahi St. sidewalk.

Graffiti Problem Growing

Community members have noted a sharp increase in graffiti tags around Chinatown. We believe that the City, as one of the largest landowners in Chinatown, should assemble and lead a Graffiti Response Task Force in coordination with other property owners. City Guards on site at City properties would also be a deterrent.



City-owned elevator building at Smith Beretania Park



North Hotel Street



Broken window at tagged City building, above



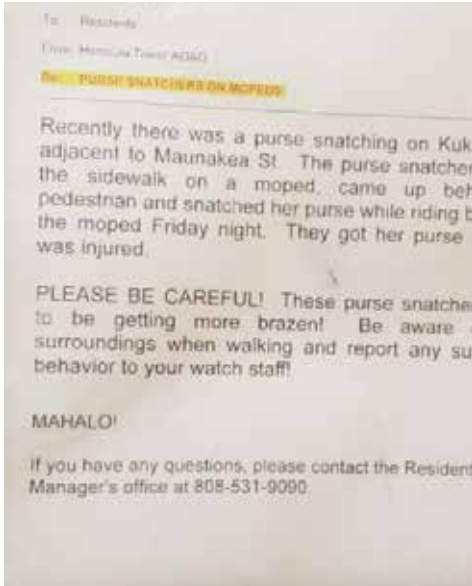
Corner of Maunakea & Pauahi



Near bus stop at North Hotel & Smith

Other Ongoing Issues with Blight & Crime

Go to ChinatownWatch.com to view & post incidents. The following incidents, and those on the previous pages, were posted to ChinatownWatch.com in the past 4 weeks.



Purse snatching alert at area condo



Deranged man's incoherent yelling frightens pedestrian



Illegal peddlers on No. Hotel Street



Drinking beer on River of Life doorstep



Passed out next to liquor store



Feces on door



Passed out with beer 1/2 block from liquor store

Actions that City Administrators Can Take Now:

- 1) **Get City Guards program up and running without delay.** Post the guards at and around City-owned properties, as provided in the current City budget, approved by the Managing Director and supported by HPD and the community.
- 2) **Commit to being an active, present landlord at your Chinatown properties.**
 - Find and vett responsible tenants for your vacant spaces. Lease to tenants who support a healthy neighborhood, not diminish it.
 - Actively manage the properties. Be on site at least weekly. Fix the broken things. Keep it clean. Make it safe. Listen to tenants and community concerns and act on them.
- 3) **Work WITH the Chinatown community** to truly understand and collaboratively solve our district's problems.

...and...

- Provide all additional funding needed to support HPD in protecting Chinatown's citizens.
- Fast-track your negotiations with River of Life MISSION so they may move their feeding operation to Iwilei this year.
- Close the Pauahi Street hygiene center and relocate Safe Haven out of Chinatown.
- Close the liquor stores that sell alcohol and drugs to homeless & mentally ill substance abusers.

Actions that Concerned Citizens Can Take Now:

- 1) **Call 911 to report violations.**
- 2) **Talk to your neighbors about the problems.** Encourage them to call 911, too.
- 3) **Post incidents anonymously to ChinatownWatch.com.** Please note that posting to ChinatownWatch.com is NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR CALLING 911.
- 4) **Urge the City Council and Mayor Caldwell to fund private security patrols for ALL of Downtown-Chinatown's public spaces.** Contact Councilmember Fukunaga's office to report incidents in your area. Email cafukunaga@honolulu.gov or call 768-5006
- 5) **Support HPD deploying police foot & bike patrols 24/7 throughout Downtown-Chinatown**
- 6) **Get some neighbors together to meet with the HPD's Community Policing team.** Call the CPT office at 732-3927. A strong community partnership with HPD is good for everyone.
- 7) **Merchants & property owners, please join the Chinatown Improvement District's neighborhood security patrol.** Call Lee Stack at 589-9927 or email chinatownimprovementdistrict@gmail.com, or via the website: cidchinatownhawaii.org.
- 8) **To order Chinatown Watch window signs for your business, email ChinatownWatch@gmail.com**