



## Update on City-Funded Security Guards

**Funds for the Chinatown security guards have been in the City FY20 budget since July 1. That was 5 months ago. Still no guards. However, there is progress to report this month.**

As noted last month, several community members met with Dept. of Land Management Director Sandy Pfund in early November to try to jumpstart the process. We proposed locations and a schedule for Phase 1 of the City Guards program.

Since then, the program got a big boost from our HPD District 1 command. After meeting with Chinatown Watch members on Nov 8, **Assistant Chief Naito, Major Nishibun & Captain Hayashi** met with Director Pfund on Nov. 19 to give their input. They offered concrete suggestions based on HPD stats and working knowledge of the neighborhood. Further, they offered to help train and support the City Guards on duty. Director Pfund presented HPD's proposal to Managing Director Roy Amemiya. **MD Amemiya approved the plan and has made the funding available to Director Pfund.** Her staff is now getting bids from private security guard firms. We eagerly await news of a timeline from Director Pfund. We hope to be seeing City Guards on the sidewalks and streets around City properties SOON.

Our goal remains to protect the public by having guards patrol **in the public spaces AROUND City-owned buildings**, which are among the most derelict in Chinatown

**We sincerely thank our HPD commanders for bolstering this community initiative with their expertise and support!** Being able to coordinate right from the start with HPD and with CID's private property patrols will help get the City Guards program off on the right foot.

## Neighborhood Perspective on Yellow Trash Bags

### 1) Less Illegal Dumping By Merchants.

We're pleased to see that there are fewer mountains of trash sitting uncollected for days at a time. With the yellow bags as a visual cue, Refuse Inspectors are identifying merchants who do not have trash collection accounts, and are taking appropriate action. It helps that the City is once again welcoming new accounts to its daily refuse collection program, which had been closed to new accounts for a number of years. The problem is not yet solved. (E.g., one account holder reports that people open her yellow trash bags and add their own trash.) But the progress is heartening.

### 2) Continued Trash Dumping by Homeless People and Others

The yellow bags fail to address this waste stream because:

- Most businesses put their trash out for pick up in the evening. City Refuse crews pick up the trash at 4am. So bags of trash sit out all night.
- Homeless people, addicts and other desperate people don't care what color the trash bags are. They open any bag to get what's inside. They leave trash lying on the sidewalks and streets. City crews will not pick up loose trash. The burden falls on merchants & residents.

Any real trash solution has to include defenses against trash pilfering. We encourage the City to explore options such as tamper-proof locking bins and to seek community input.



**Man eating from trash pile**

## A Night of Trash & Vandalism at Maunakea & Pauahi • Dec 3-4, 2019

NOTE: River of Life Mission has the City's permission to continue using standard black trash bags.



**8:42 pm** - Homeless people dig through trash pile at River of Life



**9:22 pm** - Mentally ill homeless male uses River of Life trash to make a camp outside River of Life



**9:30 pm** - Mentally ill homeless male gets up from River of Life sidewalk, crosses Pauahi St., tears window guard off of neighbor's building, and smashes the frame with heavy object.



**9:36 pm** - Mentally ill homeless male who just vandalized building goes back to River of Life, digs through trash and flings it on the ground.



**4:25 am** - City Refuse crew collects bagged trash, leaves trash that was strewn about by homeless people. Homeless camper looks on.



**4:30 am** - River of Life's unbagged trash, strewn about by homeless people and left by City Refuse crew, greets the new day.

## Ongoing Issues with Blight & Crime

Go to [ChinatownWatch.com](http://ChinatownWatch.com) to view & post incidents. Following is a small sample of incidents reported in the past 4 weeks:

### Man arrested for allegedly assaulting, robbing city bus driver



The incident happened Saturday in Chinatown. (Source: HNN File)

Chinatown incident reported in Hawaii News Now



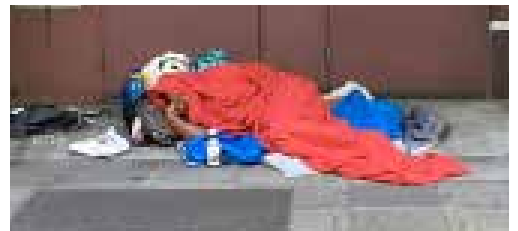
Homeless campers blocking business entrances on No. Hotel St.



Male defecating in apartment doorway



Trash left by campers on No. Hotel



Sleeping on King Street next to First Hawaiian Bank at rush hour



Non-profit's office windows broken again by people who sleep in doorway



Graffiti on City building on Smith Street

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:chinatownimprovementdistrict@gmail.com), or via the website: [cidchinatownhawaii.org](http://cidchinatownhawaii.org).
- 8) To order Chinatown Watch window signs for your business, email ChinatownWatch@gmail.com**

Respectfully submitted for the record by Chinatown Watch