



Report to Neighborhood Board #13

6 Feb 2020

City Guards Now on Duty Outside Some City Properties

We are pleased to report that, effective last Monday February 3, City-funded private security guards are patrolling the public spaces around certain City-owned properties at the end of Chinatown.

The Department of Land Management under Director Sandy Pfund has contracted with a local security company for the 5 months remaining in FY 2020 (now through June 30). This pilot phase covers known problem areas along No. Hotel St. and No. Pauahi St, where illegal activity has been concentrated. City Guards are on duty 5am to midnight 7 days a week.

In their 1st week on the job, the City Guards have been coordinating with HPD and DLM to establish procedures. A working group made of CID, CBCA and Chinatown Watch members is set up to provide continuous feedback to DLM as the program rolls out.

We are hopeful that with the demonstrated success of this program, the City will 1) continue to fund City Guards into next fiscal year and beyond, and 2) extend their range to include more City properties in Chinatown, including Kekaulike Mall and Smith Beretania Park.

It is clear that our ENTIRE district needs a COMPREHENSIVE, LONG-TERM security solution.

Though the City Guards are not the ultimate solution, let's celebrate this first step. We sincerely thank:

- **CM Carol Fukunaga** for introducing the budget amendment that funded the City Guards last July.
- **Director Sandy Pfund** for navigating this initiative through City approvals and procurement.
- HPD District 1 Command & officers, especially **Major Ryan Nishibun**, for their support and guidance and for assisting the guards.
- **Lee Stack, Eric Wong & Chu Lan Shubert Kwock** for their leadership and countless volunteer hours.
- Every citizen who uses ChinatownWatch.com to post images of degradation throughout Chinatown, as this unvarnished visual record has helped City officials understand the urgent need for action.



A welcome change: At mid-day today, all clear outside City-owned properties on No. Pauahi St.

Graffiti Cleanup in January....One Down, Many to Go

Chinatown Watchers including NB Vice Chair James Logue and former NB Vice Chair Ernest Carvalho spent a Saturday afternoon in January de-tagging a badly defaced building on Maunakea Street. The owner provided all supplies and our Tag Team did the painting. This one was easy because it is solid concrete painted in flat colors. (Historic buildings of brick or lava stone are much more complicated.)

Small citizen actions like this can help us change the energy in our neighborhoods. Let's take back our visual landscape. If you are a property owner who needs help removing graffiti, or a citizen who wants to volunteer, please email JamesLogue412@gmail.com.



Trash Solutions Proposed - Details to Come

Last month, Chinatown business owners who pay for City trash pick-up received notices from the Department of Environmental Services stating that:

- 1) The City plans to pilot a new trash collection system with locking, wheeled bins, and
- 2) The City will continue distributing yellow trash bags to account holders for free, until further notice.

We welcome these signs that the City is working on new solutions to our serious, on-going trash problems without heaping further burdens on our small businesses.



Rubbish bags torn open on Nuuanu Ave.

Ongoing Issues with Blight & Crime

It's heartening to be able to report on small gains toward public safety and community-building. However, daily life in Chinatown is still discouraging. Merchants, residents, visitors and workers continue to struggle with homeless camps, public drinking and drug use, psychotic outbursts, crime and filth. The following incidents and those on previous pages were posted to ChinatownWatch.com in the past 4 weeks.



Visitor's car window smashed by mentally ill male on Pauahi Street at lunchtime.



Naked man masturbating in parking lot on Maunakea as woman and child walk by.



Drinking Smirnoff Ice "Smash" on Maunakea St. sidewalk



Barking pit bull in shopping cart left in bulbout in front of River of Life.



Passed out on No. Hotel Street



Hotel St. business window broken



Homeless campers on No. Hotel St. as shops open for the day



Graffiti on Beretania St. building



Actions that City Administrators Can Take Now:

- 1) Provide all additional funding needed to support HPD in protecting Chinatown's citizens.**
- 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) Move River of Life Mission's feeding operation to Iwilei this year.**
- 4) Work WITH the Chinatown community to truly understand and collaboratively solve our district's problems.**

...and...

- 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**