

Submitted on behalf of the Pauahi/Maunakea St. neighborhood & Chinatown Watch

BRIEF: Chinatown citizens continue to search for ways to cope with homelessness & crime in our district. Our efforts are bandaids for temporary relief while we wait for City and State agencies to make the large, coordinated policy moves to correct system-wide flaws in their homelessness agenda.

DISCUSSION: Of particular concern is a lack of recognition by both City and State of the affects that their homeless programs have on the communities in which they're placed. For instance, in the Pauahi/Maunakea Street neighborhood, having the City hygiene center/Safe Haven + River of Life Mission + 2 liquor stores within a 2 block radius has been a nightmare for area businesses and residents. We believe the reasons can be summarized as follows:

- Homeless and mentally ill people congregate here because there are services for homeless and mentally ill people.
- A large proportion of this population abuses drugs & alcohol.
- Public drinking is daily occurrence on our block, due in part to the City programs and River of Life Mission attracting substance abusers to our neighborhood and the liquor stores obliging them.
- Also damaging to our neighborhood are the psychotic outbursts and fights and shouting matches and violent acts that erupt when liquor and drugs meet mental illness.
- Criminals use the homeless people in many ways, e.g., as customers, distractions, scapegoats and targets. Therefore criminals are attracted to places where homeless people gather.
- Aggregating these factors in Chinatown means that drunks, drug users, drug dealers, vagrants, crazy people and violent people roam freely among the merchants, shoppers, residents, tourists and workers in our district. Needless to say, some very ugly things can and do happen as a result.
- The City failed to plan for these outcomes. They did not budget for a security service to keep Chinatown's citizens safe. **The new Iwilei hygiene center DOES have a security guard on the premises all day every day. But the Chinatown hygiene center DOES NOT have a security guard, despite well-documented problems on the Pauahi block.**
- Neither Mental Health Kokua staff nor River of Life staff actively supervise the people who hang out in front of their facilities. These groups often include the neighborhood troublemakers as described above. They obstruct the sidewalk, drink, get in fights, etc.
- Because there's no security and little supervision, it's left to the neighbors to try to keep order in the neighborhood. We call 911 multiple times every day. HPD is very responsive, however, they are understaffed. The daily disturbances down here tax their resources and wastes their time and everyone's time.

Here are examples of incidents from the past month:



Inebriated male with knife on Pauahi Street outside River of Life



Man exposing genitals on Maunakea Street



Man urinating at Beretania & Nuuanu



Drinking beer on Hotel Street



Merchant's cart toppled by vagrant on Maunakea Street



Sitting & drinking beer on sidewalk, dancing in road on Pauahi outside hygiene center



Sleeping on Hotel Street



Fence stolen from Maunakea Street building located at River Street homeless camp

To the City administration:

We beg you to:

- Begin immediately to fund private security patrols for Chinatown, with special emphasis on the known crime zones surrounding the homeless services and liquor stores.
- Provide all additional funding needed to support HPD in protecting Chinatown's citizens.
- Close the Pauahi Street hygiene center and relocate Safe Haven out of Chinatown.
- Fast-track your negotiations with River of Life Mission so they may move their feeding operation to Iwilei this year.
- Close the liquor stores that sell alcohol and drugs to the homeless and mentally ill substance abusers who congregate in disproportionately high numbers in Chinatown.

To all Chinatown residents, merchants, shoppers, property owners, workers, visitors, etc:

- 1) Call 911 to report violations.** Don't think you're inconveniencing the police by calling. They want you to call 911. Doing so gets the violations into their database and helps HPD help you.
- 2) Talk to your neighbors about the problems.** Encourage them to call 911, too.
- 3) Post incidents anonymously to ChinatownWatch.com.** Please encourage your neighbors to post, too. It's an unofficial but visible way to build our community's case for more support. Please note that posting to ChinatownWatch.com is NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR CALLING 911.
- 4) To order Chinatown Watch window signs for your business, go to ChinatownWatch.com,** click the About link, then send a message via the Contact link. Please allow a few days for a response as the site is run by volunteers.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.