

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

BRIEF:

Chinatown residents, businesses and workers struggle daily with rampant drug & gang activity, public drinking, homeless camps, and psychotic & violent people mixing with the general population.

As currently funded and staffed, HPD cannot control this toxic situation. There is no rapid response network of mental health professionals to help HPD deal with homeless & mentally ill offenders. Daily disruptions by homeless & mentally ill people steal HPD's time, resources and attention away from its core mission: Fighting crime and protecting the public.

Downtown/Chinatown urgently needs:

- 1) A city/state-funded, district-wide uniformed security patrol to support HPD in protecting the citizens of this district, and**
- 2) Uniformed HPD officers to patrol Downtown/Chinatown on foot or bike all day, every day.**

DISCUSSION:

We are mystified as to why the City administration continues to ignore the serious on-going security problems in Chinatown, which have spilled over into the Downtown blocks. Drunks, drug addicts, drug dealers, psychos, gangs and vagrants threaten public health & safety across our district. Everyone is at risk, from the pre-schoolers on Bethel & Merchant to the kupuna at the City-run Pauahi Senior Rec Center

Business people are exhausted and angry; their customers are disappearing. Visitors are frightened and disgusted. The pervasive lawlessness just breeds more of the same.

Chinatown Watch members report the following examples (excerpts):

- Around Kekaulike Mall, petty theft and purse snatchings happen almost daily.
"We are seeing homeless people grabbing things off the shelves and running off, to more brazen attempts by teenager(s) on bikes and/or skateboard grabbing bags and purses esp. around the bus stops."
- At the Senior Rec Center on Pauahi Street, seniors are afraid to walk in the neighborhood.
"I would like to report that "daily", the streets and sidewalks, both across and along side(s) of our Center, echos of yelling, swearing, fighting, drug/alcohol use (and exchange of)..... the behaviors/ actions are...NON-STOP, thus creating fear for the innocent to even walk, let alone shop, on the streets and within the China Town Market places." (See the full text on page 4 of this report.)
- Residents of a Maunakea Street building report encounters such as these:
 - "Homeless lady is running around naked in the garage"
 - "A homeless lady is sleeping under the garage stairs, it scared me because she was doing drugs"
 - "OMG, Pile of sh*t in front, by enter phone"
 - "Homeless follows me around, now I go in from the other side.. I learned, I am not giving them money anymore"
 - "Homeless tried to come into the building (main entrance) so I closed the door fast"
- Public drinking on No. Hotel, Pauahi & Maunakea Streets, particularly around the liquor stores.



Garbage pile at Smith Beretania Park entrance



Spaced-out man wandering around intersection in agitated state



Walking through Chinatown with no pants



5th broken window in a year at HNB, King St.



Defecating in building lobby



Illegal peddling/sidewalk obstruction on Hotel Street & at Kekaulike Market



Passed out in front of Hygiene Center



Drunk man with known mental issues yelling & harassing people on Maunakea Street



Sidewalk camping on Smith Street



Woman threw lit cigarette in Maunakea St. merchants face

To whom it may concern. My name is Arlene Ilae, Director of the Pauahi Senior Recreation Center, located at 71 N Pauahi St. While I have no pictures to provide, I would like to report that “daily”, the streets and sidewalks, both across and along side(s) of our Center, echos of yelling, swearing, fighting, drug/alcohol use (and exchange of). In addition too; sights of loitering on the sidewalks are everywhere, while shopping carts loaded with “junk”, and other personal belongings are seen and found on sidewalks and/or strolling down the middle of the street by the homeless, (and others alike)... And although I have noticed HPD presence has increased,(when called) the behaviors/actions are...NON-STOP, thus creating fear for the innocent to even walk, let alone shop, on the streets and within the China Town Market places.

In the last year, due to the increase of these actions/behaviors, including theft of purses taken from a chair within our center, I had to actually hire an individual to “sit” at the entrance of the Center, to ensure no “unwelcome” individuals gain entrance, or cause any harm to our Kapuna’s. Within the last month, I actually encountered a woman of Micronesian decent, trying to openly solicit, “free” sexual acts from our male staff members, in exchange for “her girls” to use the facility. “ALL” these types of (continual) behaviors are not only illegal, but MUST come to a STOP!! The excuses we hear that nothing can be done, as these people are mentally unstable ...is an IN-EXCUSABLE response!! WE NEED ACTIONS, NOT WORDS!!!

Fortunately, for us, our Center is only opened from 630am to 11am, Monday thru Friday. What happens after we close our doors, (and that’s only on the corner of Pauahi & River St) I can only imagine, but am confidant it would be...an unimaginable sight, compounded with fear!! In short, China Town has become a “dangerous” place, with a catastrophe in the making, soon to erupt!!!. WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE when that happens??? Enough, is Enough, and NOT ENOUGH is being done to protect and safeguard our local visitors, tourist, merchants, and the community at-large. No more talking...no more waiting... CHINA TOWN MUST BE CLEANED UP!!

Respectfully submitted,
Arlene E. Ilae

To the City administration:

We continue to 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.