

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- 1) Sincerest thanks to **Councilmember Carol Fukunaga** for her Proposed Amendment to the City's budget, which provides for the City to fund private security around City-owned buildings. This is a welcome, badly-needed emergency measure. Several City-owned properties in Chinatown are serious trouble spots, including the entire Hale Pauahi block and the Pauahi Rec. Center.
- 2) **Board Chair Chu Lan Shubert Kwock** spearheaded the push to rein in illegal peddling on Kekaulike Mall. She worked with City DFM and DPR personnel to paint demarcation lines on the pavement to clearly outline the space for legally selling goods. She was out in her wheelchair at 5:30am each day of the project. She continues to visit the Mall almost daily, on her own time, to monitor this and other issues. Chinatown Watch members report that the Green Line is an improvement and works as intended. Mahalo, Chu Lan
- 3) **Mental Health Kokua (Greg Payton)** hired a security guard last week to monitor activity in front of the Safe Haven/Hygiene Center building. This is a welcome change and long overdue. Mahalo, Greg. We look forward to a sharp reduction in aberrant behavior around your facility.

CONTINUING PROBLEMS CALL FOR SECURITY PRESENCE:

River of Life Mission, the City Hygiene Center and the seemingly unregulated liquor stores continue to draw homeless / mentally ill / substance abusers and criminals to our neighborhood where they roam freely around Chinatown among residents, shopkeepers, visitors and workers.

From this toxic mix come the countless daily assaults on our community's health & safety:

- public drinking, drug use, drug sales
- fights, psychotic outbursts, f-bomb barrages, shouting matches
- urination and defecation in public spaces and on private property
- sitting, lying, camping, littering on public sidewalks and in city parks
- vandalism, theft, purse snatchings and assaults by gangs on kupuna and other vulnerable people

These things go on throughout the DAY, putting the highest number of people at risk.

As currently funded and staffed, HPD cannot control this volatile situation. Daily disruptions by homeless / mentally ill / substance abusers steal HPD's time, resources and attention away from its core mission: Fighting crime and protecting the public.

City-funded security will put more eyes and uniforms out in the public spaces. The guards are a middle layer between the merchants/residents/pedestrians and the HPD. They will help reinforce the message that "you have to obey the law here".

For public safety, it is crucial that the guards patrol **outdoors in the public spaces (sidewalk, streets, etc.) AROUND the city-owned buildings** - not just inside or within the footprint of the buildings.

Based on on-going citizen reports and our own daily reality, we believe that security patrols are needed immediately for **ALL public property in the entire Downtown-Chinatown district**. However, Councilmember Fukunaga's proposed amendment is a 1st step to change the course of this unfolding public safety nightmare.

Following are incidents from the past 30 days:



Angry addict, shouting & swearing, grabs pole from bulb-out & smashes River of Life window for the 2nd time in 2 weeks. The same male broke both windows. Note pedestrians within a few feet of violent behavior. Three days later he was back in our neighborhood.



Woman urinates on sidewalk by River of Life as pedestrians pass



Feces on walkway



Daytime stabbing across from Police Station



Vagrants doing drugs near Bethel St. preschool



Homeless camp outside No. Hotel Street businesses



Fighting in street outside River of Life



Mid-afternoon at a City-owned building where senior citizens come for exercisce class



Homeless camp at Pauahi & River St.



River of Life patron shouts & swears at Hygiene Center patron as pedestrians pass



Passed out in front of liquor store



Merchants douse burning couch on Maunakea St.



Excrement on door of business



Woman launches into f-word-filled tirade as pedestrians pass

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.**
- 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) **To order Chinatown Watch window signs for your business, email ChinatownWatch@gmail.com**
- 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.
- 7) **Support legislation to fund private security patrols for Downtown-Chinatown's public spaces.** Contact Councilmember Fukunaga's office for details. Email cafukunaga@honolulu.gov or call 768-5006