



Positive Developments

1) CITY'S FY20 BUDGET FUNDS SECURITY FOR CHINATOWN PROPERTIES

Thanks to **Councilmember Fukunaga's** hard work, \$250,000 is now available for the City to hire private security guards in Chinatown. The purpose is to provide security **at and around City-owned properties**, which are among the most derelict. The funding has been released to the Department of Land Management, under Director Sandy Pfund. We are eager to hear Director Pfund's plans to deploy the security patrols very soon.

We urge Director Pfund to:

- a) **get input from community members** in the affected neighborhoods,
- b) **coordinate with HPD and with existing private security patrols**, such as the one organized by Chinatown Improvement District, and
- c) ensure that the guards patrol **outdoors in the public spaces (sidewalks, streets, parks, etc.) AROUND the city-owned buildings** - not just inside or within the footprint of the buildings.

While they're interacting with the chronic homeless / mentally ill / addicts who congregate around City buildings daily, the City guards can also direct people to services at the new Punawai Rest Stop in Iwilei and the many other taxpayer-funded services available to our most vulnerable citizens.

2) TOURISM AGENCIES GIVE GRANTS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY & HOMELESS SOLUTIONS

Congratulations to **Chinatown Improvement District** and the **Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center** for visitor industry grants totaling \$105,162. CID's award will help fund enhancements to the roving security patrol pilot program. HHHRC's award will help HPD & outreach workers divert low-level criminals from jail to social services that may help house and rehabilitate them.

We applaud **HPD Chief Susan Ballard** for asking visitor industry officials for help grappling with Chinatown's homeless crisis. Mahalo Nui Loa to Hawaii Tourism Authority and Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association for this much-needed funding for public safety.

One Step Backward

MAUNAKEA LIQUORS LICENSE RENEWED DESPITE RESOUNDING COMMUNITY OPPOSITION

The Honolulu Liquor Commission renewed the store's liquor license effective 1 July, pending the outcome of future hearings. Their decision shocked our community, considering that over 100 people gave testimony via letters, oral remarks and a petition, all calling for Maunakea Liquors' license to be revoked. This included **neighboring residents & businesses, property owners, community groups, our Neighborhood Board, Senator Rhoads, Councilmember Fukunaga, HPD and even Mayor Caldwell himself. 100% of the testimony opposed license renewal**, citing this liquor store's years-long pattern of behaviors harmful to our community.

The HLC held an adjudication hearing on 25 July regarding 3 violations by Maunakea Liquors. The store owner pleaded No Contest to all 3 and was fined. Community members rallied outside the HLC office to protest HLC's renewal of the license, and then attended the hearing as observers. We are in dialog with the HLC via email hoping to understand their reasoning and process, and to determine next steps. We look forward to the HLC's remarks to NB#13 tonight.

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Daily Struggles Against Blight & Crime

As much as any other citizen of this state, Chinatown citizens deserve a clean, safe neighborhood in which to live, work and play. We know we face challenges, and we've come together as a community to tackle them. That's the good news and we're grateful for small victories now, and for the promise of real change to come.

The bad news is that it can feel like our best efforts still don't move the needle. Homeless people still camp and relieve themselves in our storefronts & public spaces. HPD is still under-resourced. Addicts & criminals still come for the meals & showers and stay for the booze & drugs... and vice versa. The courts/jails still alley-oop repeat offenders back onto our streets. There's only so much heavy lifting that citizens can do on their own. We need our City and State administrators to FULLY COMMIT to a Chinatown that's clean and safe. Provide the resources NOW to protect the health and safety of this community!

Following is a small sample of incidents reported from 7 June through 31 July:



Campers at City property on North Pauahi, across from senior housing and the senior rec center. 3 of 4 storefronts are now vacant. Site of daily/nightly open drug use and sales.



Woman yelling, slamming hands on walls & windows on North Hotel St.



Window broken at Ross, Fort Street Mall



Rotting garbage at Kekaulike Mall



Deranged man harrasing restaurant customers on Maunakea



Known alcoholic with known mental issues & multiple arrests for public drinking & disorderly conduct, drinking alcohol next to liquor store.



Passed out in front of liquor store



River of Life patron receiving a meal while carrying an open can of Fosters.



Drinking beer on Beretania St.



Drinking beer & vodka outside liquor store



Urinating on No. Hotel



Defecating in doorway



Persistent camp on River Street sidewalk across from senior recreation center



Three smoking crack, one drinking vodka at Beretania bus stop



Kekaulike vendors violating sidewalk ordinance



Weeks-old rubbish on Maunakea St.



Woman removes her clothes on Pauhi Street next to River of Life

Actions that City Administrators Can Take Now:

- 1) Deploy the private security guards at and around City-owned properties,** as provided in the current City budget.
- 2) Commit to being an active, present landlord at your Chinatown properties.**
 - Find and vet 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. Listen to tenants and community concerns and act on them.

...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 the homeless and mentally ill substance abusers who congregated in disproportionately high numbers in Chinatown.

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) To order Chinatown Watch window signs for your business, email ChinatownWatch@gmail.com**
- 5) 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
- 6) Support HPD deploying police foot & bike patrols 24/7 throughout Downtown-Chinatown**
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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.