

Report to Neighborhood Board #13

5 March 2020  
(Submitted 3 March)

## Evaluating the First Four Weeks of City Guard Service

**Private security guards hired by the City have been patrolling the public spaces around certain City-owned properties in Chinatown since Feb 3. Illegal activity at these sites is reduced, and residents and users of these City buildings report feeling safer when the guards are present.**

The City Guards, contracted by the Department of Land Management, patrol daily from 5am to midnight. Currently, they cover known problem areas along No. Hotel & No. Pauahi Streets.

Reports from Pauahi Street are positive. Staff at Pauahi Senior Rec Center noted an immediate, significant drop in violence, swearing and human waste around the building. The manager of a nearby residence said their residents say "it is more peaceful and definitely safer though some still hear loud screaming and fighting at night. However, the majority no longer feel fearful to step outside...." Hotel Street is reporting some improvements but also some procedures that need clarification and tightening.

A citizens' working group made up of CID, CBCA, Chinatown Watch members and others will meet with our HPD commander and the DLM team on Wed March 4 to review progress and discuss improvements needed. We appreciate DLM's willingness to incorporate our feedback to help ensure that the City Guards program works as intended. Getting this pilot phase right will make it easier for the City to keep funding greater Chinatown security in FY 20-21.



**Mid-morning this week: Sidewalks at ewa end of No. Pauahi cleared of illegal activity**



**Homeless campers & illegal peddlers still obstructing sidewalk on No. Hotel St.**

## Poor Sanitation Fuels Coronavirus Fear and Heightens Public Health Risks

**Chinatown citizens already struggle with blight in our community. Now, the threat of an infectious disease pandemic coming to Hawaii makes it even more urgent to solve Chinatown's sanitation problems.**

Community members are expressing concern that a potential coronavirus outbreak will be made worse by the large homeless population living on our streets without sanitation. Our state Department of Health and the CDC urge citizens to practice good hygiene to avoid contaminating self and others and to stay home if ill. However:

- **By definition, unsheltered people are unlikely to follow CDC guidelines.** How can someone who lives at a bus stop self-quarantine at home? Someone who defecates in a doorway is probably not washing his hands afterwards.
- **Further, many of the Chinatown homeless are mentally ill and/or addicts. They are generally not making healthy choices for themselves or for society.** When they leave human waste and contaminated trash in our public spaces, it not only causes economic harm. It puts everyone else at risk for diseases caused by human transmission.

**What are our government leaders doing to prevent unsheltered populations from vectoring COVID-19 and other infectious diseases throughout our communities?** Along with immediate medical outreach and a far more robust cleaning regimen, we urge the City to stop letting people use our public and private spaces as toilets and rubbish cans.



**Immense rubbish pile grew for days on Maunakea St.**



**Mentally ill woman removed her clothes on No. Hotel**



**Used condom at bus stop**



**Feces on sidewalk**



**Bio-waste in open trash pile**





### Graffiti Tags Still Cover City Property

**The City-owned elevator building on Pauahi St. has been covered with graffiti since last spring.**

A photo of the defaced City building was first posted to ChinatownWatch.com on June 28, 2019. The poster noted that it had been in this condition for months. Nothing has changed since then, except now the glass door is broken and has a board taped to it. We urge the City to consider the signal you send to residents and visitors as well as the vandals when you neglect your own property for so long, especially one that is so visible and used daily. We urge the City agency that manages this property to correct this situation without further delay.



### Ongoing Issues with Blight & Crime, Feb-Mar 2020

All incidents in this report were posted to ChinatownWatch.com in the past four weeks.



**Known alcoholic with mental issues and prior arrests drinking beer in front of liquor store**



**Graffiti on all exterior walls of church at Nuuanu & Beretania Streets. NOTE: Graffiti has been removed from church as of 3/3/20.**



Passed out on Maunakea St.



Shopping carts, graffiti on Kekaulike Mall



Drinking beer on sidewalk next to liquor store



Illegal peddling on Kekaulike Mall



Crosswalk next to City-owned residential towers is invisible



Bulbouts at Smith & Pauahi used for shopping cart storage



Broken window on Nuuanu Ave.





**Swearing, yelling in front of River of Life**



**Indecent exposure, passed out on River St. sidewalk**



**Drinking beer next to River of Life**



**Drinking beer on Kekaulike Mall**



**Pallets blocking Hotel St. walkway, then dumped for City pick up**



**Waste water from public toilet flows to sidewalk**



## Actions that City Administrators Can Take Now:

### For PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY:

- **Inform the public of your action plan to prevent community transmission of coronavirus via unsheltered populations.**
- **Mobilize sanitation crews to thoroughly clean Chinatown's public spaces daily.**
- **Do not continue to let homeless / mentally ill / substance abusers live like animals on the streets. Fund stabilization beds, psychiatric facilities, treatment centers and supportive housing away from Chinatown.**
- **Provide all additional funding needed to support HPD in protecting Chinatown's citizens.**
- **Move River of Life Mission's feeding operation to Iwilei this year.**
- **Revoke the licenses of liquor stores that sell alcohol to homeless & mentally ill substance abusers.**

### For COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT:

- **Clean graffiti off of City properties as soon as it's discovered.**
- **Be 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. Keep it clean. Make it safe. Listen to tenants and community concerns and act on them.
- **Work WITH the Chinatown community to truly understand and collaboratively solve our district's problems.**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:chinatownimprovementdistrict@gmail.com), or via the website: [cidchinatownhawaii.org](http://cidchinatownhawaii.org).
- 8) **To order Chinatown Watch window signs for your business, email [ChinatownWatch.com@gmail.com](mailto:ChinatownWatch.com@gmail.com)**