



RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON ITS PLANS FOR THE CHINATOWN AREA AND ACTIONS TO DEVELOP A SENIOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMPLEX ON RIVER STREET IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CHINATOWN COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, in January 2010, the City Council adopted Resolution 09-364, CD1, which requested that the City Administration prepare a Special Area Plan for the Chinatown area, noting that a Special Area Plan would provide numerous benefits, which included the following:

- Providing guidance in maintaining and enhancing the integrity, culture and character of the Chinatown community and its Chinese and Asian heritage and in implementing Chinatown Special Design District policies;
- Identifying projects, programs, and services that encourage a self-sufficient, residential-commercial mixed use community, assist in implementing long-range planning, and promote a healthy, stable and family-oriented community; and
- Requiring the City, as part of the preparation of the Special Area Plan, to seek and include the participation of community organizations including, but not limited to, the Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13, the United Chinese Society, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, and the Concerned Citizens On River Street Housing;

and

WHEREAS, in March 2010, the Concerned Citizens On River Street Housing spearheaded a rally for the Chinatown community with over 200 attendees at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza, during which community leaders presented a low-rise affordable senior housing complex as an alternative to the Housing First project on the River Street site that had been proposed by the City Administration; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2010, the City Council adopted Ordinance 10-12 (Bill 16 (2010), CD2), which, among other things, appropriated \$6.7 million dollars for Fiscal Year 2011 for River Street Residences, with the following requirement: No funds shall be expended for construction until the City actively works in partnership with the Chinatown community on the development of affordable housing on River Street, considers their concerns in the project design and operations, including the



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consideration of other public and financing options in the Request for Proposals or other procurement instrument for this project"; and

WHEREAS, the focus on a senior affordable housing complex development on the River Street site and including a low-rise, multicultural, community center in the front building has been widely supported by over 60 Chinatown community organizations, because it would preserve and enhance Chinatown's character and the surrounding low-rise frontages along River Street and it also enforces the important cultural aspect of taking care of the community and it's seniors; and

WHEREAS, such a focus implements one of the key points in the City's 2006 "Rediscovering Chinatown Honolulu" plan by bringing affordable housing development into the forefront of the City's efforts to revitalize Chinatown:

"... Our first priority addresses the basic customer needs of the Chinatown district. In doing so, we have outlined six key issues that should be resolved by City or State government. This is the essential first step. Ignoring this objective and the respective issues would be inefficient and unproductive....It is important to note that solutions for these issues must address real and perceived problems and that the resolution of these issues will be transparent: parking, cleanliness, safety, public facilities, affordable housing, regulations/ordinances."

; and

WHEREAS, the City's 2012 "Honolulu Chinatown Riverwalk Revitalization and Downtown Connectivity Study" further identified ways to improve the social, economic and environmental quality of Honolulu's Chinatown and Nuuanu Stream Corridor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the City Administration is requested to provide an update on its plans for the Chinatown Area, based on the earlier 2006 and 2012 analyses and on its actions since 2010 to develop a senior/affordable housing complex on River Street in partnership with the Chinatown community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administration is urged to work closely with the organizations listed below to implement the actions sought by Council Resolution 09-364, CD1, and by Ordinance 10-12 to implement community partnerships in developing a senior/affordable housing complex and low-rise community center on River Street and any variances that may be required for a project; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Community Services, the Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13, the United Chinese Society, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Chinatown Community Center Association, and the Concerned Citizens On River Street Housing.

INTRODUCED BY:

Carol Fukunaga

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

July 18, 2013
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers