



DOWNTOWN–CHINATOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD № 13

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2020 HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM 3

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Kevin Lye called the meeting to order at 6:16 pm. A quorum was established with seven members present. (Note: This nine-member Board requires five members to establish quorum and to take official Board action.)

Members Present: Robert Armstrong (by telepresence), Roxie-Anne Kamoshida (by telepresence), James Logue, Kevin Lye, Kevin McDonald, Willis Moore, and Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock (by telepresence).

Members Absent: Sandy Ma and Dolores Mollring.

GUESTS: Garrick Iwamuro (Mayor Kirk Caldwell’s Representative); Councilmember Carol Fukunaga; Peter Nakagawa (Honolulu Liquor Commission); Shawn Hamamoto (Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation); Fran Butera (Chinatown Watch); Greg Payton (Mental Health Kokua); Tony Koyamatsu, Chase Kumakura, and Fresno Pias (Hawaii State Judiciary); Lee Stack (Chinatown Improvement District); Kelsey Colpitts (Bikeshare Hawaii), Katherina Bui and Rachel Lee Soon (Child & Family Services); Jamie Brown, Ernest Carvalho, Ronald Higa, JJ Owens, and Dean Sakamoto (Residents); David Jones (Integrated Multimedia Consultants of Hawaii); Janelle Nomura (Neighborhood Commission Office). **Name was not included if not recognized or legible on the sign-in sheet.**

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

The Board members introduced themselves to the assembly. McDonald disclosed that he is a small-business owner in the Board’s district.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Governor David Ige’s Representative: No representative was present; an electronic report was sent to Chair Lye who had distributed same to the Board.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA): McDonald voiced concerns regarding individuals who have not received their PUA. McDonald requested a State help line and asked Governor Ige to address this issue. Chair Lye noted that this question will be forwarded to the Governor’s office for a response.
2. Homeless Enforcement: Fran Butera of Chinatown Watch voiced health and safety concerns regarding a homeless encampment on the Ewa side of River Street, from Beretania Street to Nimitz Highway, and asked for enforcement from both the State and City.
3. Mandate Request: Resident JJ Owens requested the initiation of a no-violence mandate in Downtown–Chinatown.

Mayor Kirk Caldwell’s Representative: Garrick Iwamuro, Department of Enterprise Services (DES) Acting Deputy Director, introduced himself and was open to questions.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Bar Closures: McDonald voiced concerns regarding the recent bar closure mandate by Mayor Caldwell and asked about rent relief assistance from the City.
2. Sidewalks: Resident Butera asked for the sidewalk power washing schedule in Downtown–Chinatown.
3. COVID-19 Funding: Resident Lee Stack asked where to apply for the \$7 million COVID-19 funding that was appropriated to Downtown–Chinatown for engagement in the arts.
4. Institute for Human Services (IHS): Resident Owens voiced concerns regarding an IHS property in Downtown–Chinatown.
5. July 2020 Minutes: Chair Lye asked Acting Deputy Director Iwamuro to review the NB 13 minutes of July 2020 for any questions posed therein to the City which may not have been addressed this evening and to respond to such during the September 2020 meeting

City Councilmember Carol Fukunaga: Councilmember Fukunaga circulated handouts and reported the following:

- River of Life (RoL) Mission: Councilmember Fukunaga requested a meeting with City Managing Director Amemiya and appropriate city agencies to discuss the proposed alternative RoL mealtime operation that could be based in A'ala Park between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm daily.
- Cancellation of Graffiti Paint-out: After the recent surge in COVID-19 infections, Mayor Caldwell issued several proclamations prohibiting gatherings of more than ten individuals and requiring non-essential City employees to work from home. Councilmember Fukunaga requested the Department of Land Management (DLM) and Department of Transportation Services (DTS) use Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 appropriations to hire painting contractors to remove the graffiti at the Smith–Beretania Parking Structure in lieu of the community-clean up.
- Rent Relief Program: Councilmember Fukunaga addressed McDonald's previous concern regarding small business rent relief programs and added that the City Council Business, Economic Development and Tourism Committee is working closely with various business organizations.
- HFD Central Fire Station Relocation: Councilmember Fukunaga received numerous questions about the HFD's application for a Public Infrastructure Map (PIM) symbol at or in the vicinity of the Smith–Beretania Mini Park. Attached to the report was an overview of the PIM process and a copy of the letter sent to HFD Chief Manuel Neves asking for clarification regarding the relocation.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. HFD Representative: Chair Lye noted that HFD Assistant Chief Bratakos had agreed to attend the next NB 13 meeting to discuss 2020/PIM-1.

McDonald moved to extend the time limit for agenda item "City Councilmember Carol Fukunaga" by five minutes. The Motion WAS ADOPTED 7-0-0 (AYE: Armstrong, Kamoshida, Logue, Lye, McDonald, Moore, and Shubert-Kwock; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None).

2. Rent Relief Program: McDonald expressed gratitude regarding Councilmember Fukunaga's response to his previous rent relief program concern and suggested legislation that allows landlords to forgive rental payments. Councilmember Fukunaga responded rent relief assistance programs are related to the idea that government funds can be provided if such ties into government revenue and keeping government functions afloat.
3. Institute for Human Services (IHS): Resident Owens voiced concerns regarding an IHS property in Downtown–Chinatown.

State Senator Karl Rhoads: No representative was present; an electronic report was sent to Chair Lye who had distributed same to the Board.

State House Representative Scott Saiki: Connectivity difficulties likely precluded the planned telepresence of a representative; an electronic report was sent to Chair Lye who had distributed same to the Board.

State House Representative Daniel Holt: No representative was present; no report was provided.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Representative Sylvia Luke: Armstrong voiced concerns regarding Representative Sylvia Luke's office declining participation at monthly NB 13 meetings and requested such to be entered on the minutes.
2. Note: Chair Lye clarified that he had reached out to Representative Luke's office and noted that her district boundary overlapped that of NB 13 near the Queen's Medical Center. Chair Lye added that U.S. Congressman Ed Case's office plans to report quarterly.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

Construction Project: Tony Koyamatsu from the Hawaii State Judiciary announced a construction project at the Kapuwaiwa Building located on Queen Street at the corner of Punchbowl Street. Koyamatsu was accompanied with two project managers from the project contractor. The project will update the storm water system and the basement sewer system. Work will begin in October 2020, finish in February 2021, and take place from 7:45 am to 4:30 pm. Construction will be on the Diamond Head side of the building and on the sidewalk fronting Queen Street and Punchbowl Street. Queen Street traffic will be

diverted and some of the parking on the Ewa side of Punchbowl Street will be blocked. A design consultant will be observing construction and an archaeological consultant was hired to monitor excavation activities.

Chinatown Improvement District (CID): Lee Stack of CID reported the Roving Patrol program is going well in spite of the pandemic. Almost all participants signed up for a new quarter of the program. Their participation and support permit CID to continue with daytime patrols suggested by community members. CID and other community members met with a select group of River of Life board members to discuss community impacts and solutions; CID understands they plan to attend the September 2020 NB 13 meeting and looks forward to continuing the discussion. Stack voiced concerns regarding the NB 13 rules of speaking. For more information, please visit the CID website at www.cidchinatownhawaii.org or email chinatownimprovementdistrict@gmail.com.

Biki Relocation: Kelsey Colpitts of Bikeshare Hawaii reported that several Biki stations are being relocated out of Downtown-Chinatown due to repaving of the area.

River of Life: Shubert-Kwock asked the Mayor's representative to relocate the RoL meal service out of Downtown-Chinatown and voiced concerns regarding their capability of handling the number of homeless individuals participating in each meal service.

HFD: Shubert-Kwock voiced concerns regarding formal notification of the potential HFD Central Station relocation and expressed gratitude regarding Councilmember Fukunaga's efforts to help clarify the process.

Cameras: Resident Owens inquired of the Mayor's representative if the cameras in Downtown-Chinatown are operational.

Rejoinders from members of the Board were interspersed therein:

1. Kapuaiwa Building Construction Project: McDonald suggested asking for a formal presentation at a future NB 13 meeting. Moore stated he feels a future presentation is unnecessary.
2. Rules of Speaking: Chair Lye addressed Stack's concern and emphasized that all members of the public are allowed and encouraged to speak.^a Stack responded comments should not be limited to two minutes. McDonald raised a point of order that no questions should be asked during agenda item <PUBLIC CONCERNS>. Chair Lye clarified that such is permitted, although no Board action can be taken; any item needs to be agendized in order to take Board action thereon.
3. Biki Presentation: Moore requested a Bikeshare Hawaii presentation regarding Biki at the September 2020 NB 13 meeting.
4. Board Member Concerns: McDonald stated a point of order that Shubert-Kwock's comments should be announced during agenda item <BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS>; Chair Lye responded he had allowed such due to the inaugural nature of this meeting allowing Board members to participate remotely.

NEW BUSINESS

Local volunteer opportunities during hurricane season and COVID-19: Connectivity difficulties likely precluded the planned telepresence of the American Red Cross of Hawaii representative was present; no report was provided.

Liquor licensing and Administrative Branch processes: Peter Nakagawa, Honolulu Liquor Commission (HLC) Chief Investigator, introduced himself and was open to questions.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Liquor Licenses: McDonald voiced concerns regarding bars ordered to close at 10:00 pm and asked if HLC is still charging the full amount of annual liquor licenses. Nakagawa responded licensees can ask the Commission for a payment plan and added that he represents HLC but not the Commission itself.
2. Request for Commissioner: Chair Lye reiterated for the Board that he had on several occasions requested one or more HLC Commissioners or representatives of the HLC Administrative Branch to attend the August 2020 meeting

^a Neighborhood Plan §§2-14-118(c) and (d) provide for constricton by the Board (to a nonzero length) of the time permitted for testimony by any interested person to be received at the time the Board is discussing an agendized item. See also OIP Op. Ltr. No. 06-01 at 2 n. 2.

of NB 13 but there was an unfortunate scheduling conflict with a meeting of HLC Commissioners earlier in the evening.

3. HLC Meeting: McDonald asked if the HLC meeting accepts public concerns similar to the Neighborhood Boards; Nakagawa responded that it would have to be agendaized.
4. HLC Representative: Shubert-Kwock requested representative from HLC to regularly attend the NB 13 meetings.
5. HLC Enforcement: Shubert-Kwock requested more HLC enforcement at Mauna Kea Liquors, CJ Liquors Market, and Fred's Sundry. Shubert-Kwock voiced multiple concerns with Mauna Kea Liquors and noted they need increased enforcement for open-container violations.

Moore exited the meeting at 7:15 pm; six members present.

Point of privilege: Chair Lye alerted the Board that a computer at the venue podium—which was running a large portion of the meeting—had just advised of an imminent, unscheduled, and uninterruptible reboot and suggested a motion to defer default termination of the meeting should this temporarily impact remote participants.

McDonald moved that if the Zoom participants are dropped temporarily, the August 2020 Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13 meeting will not terminate. The Motion WAS ADOPTED 6-0-0 (AYE: Armstrong, Kamoshida, Logue, Lye, McDonald, and Shubert-Kwock; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None).

6. Shubert-Kwock Final Statements: Shubert-Kwock noted the difference between HLC and the Commissioners and asked for increased enforcement in Downtown–Chinatown. Nakagawa responded there is enforcement in Downtown–Chinatown, as two bars were recently shut down. Shubert-Kwock again asked and urged for a representative from HLC to regularly attend NB 13 meetings.

McDonald moved to extend the time limit for agenda item “Liquor licensing and Administrative Branch processes” by five minutes. The Motion WAS ADOPTED 6-0-0 (AYE: Armstrong, Kamoshida, Logue, Lye, McDonald, and Shubert-Kwock; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None).

7. Request for Commissioner (continued): Chair Lye asked Investigator Nakagawa by what further means an HLC Commissioner could be requested to join the next NB 13 meeting; Nakagawa responded that a written request addressed to the Commission would be appropriate.
8. HLC Authority: McDonald reiterated Shubert-Kwock's request and asked who or what gave HLC the authority to shut down the two bars recently. Nakagawa responded he believed it was the Mayor's emergency order.

Moore returned to the meeting at 7:20 pm; seven members present.

9. Mauna Kea Liquors: Shubert-Kwock asked for HLC enforcement at the particularly troublesome establishments such as Mauna Kea Liquors; Nakagawa responded there have been zero complaints at Mauna Kea Liquors since they changed their hours of operation.

McDonald moved to extend the time limit for agenda item “Liquor licensing and Administrative Branch processes” by two minutes. The Motion WAS ADOPTED 6-1-0 (AYE: Armstrong, Kamoshida, Logue, Lye, McDonald, and Shubert-Kwock; NAY: Moore; ABSTAIN: None).

10. Unlawful Sales: Resident Butera voiced concerns regarding legislation that states it is unlawful to sell liquor to an individual who is visibly impaired by alcohol, and noted the Mauna Kea Liquors owners identify and sell liquor to drunk individuals. Nakagawa responded reasonable suspicion and probable cause are needed for investigators to determine if these individuals are impaired.
11. Alcoholism: Armstrong voiced concerns regarding using the term *drunk* as it is insulting to individuals suffering from alcoholism; alcoholism is a disease.
12. Safety Concern: Shubert-Kwock stated HLC needs to increase enforcement for public health and safety.

COMMUNITY GROUP REPORTS

Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART): Shawn Hamamoto summarized and circulated a handout available below as an Annex. Hamamoto added follow-up answers for the following: disability cards will be available at the Middle Street station, HOLO card fares are decided by the City Council, all rail stations will have restrooms, engineers are addressing sea level issues, and HOLO cards are good investments if a bus pass is about to expire. For more information, please visit the HART website at www.honolulutransit.org, call the project hotline on (808) 566-2299, or email a question to info@honolulutransit.org.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Stephen Cayetano: McDonald asked if Stephen Cayetano is in relation to former Governor Ben Cayetano.
2. Cost and Completion Date: McDonald asked for the current estimated completion cost and date for the rail system.
3. Flood Zone Concern: Resident Ernest Carvalho voiced concerns of the flood zone issue and asked what is being done to address climate change; Hamamoto noted that he would seek answers to this and the prior questions.

Chair Lye called for a recess of three minutes to facilitate display of a document from CBCA, recalibrate audio connections, and restore countdown timer facilities at 7:39 pm without objection.

Chair Lye called the meeting back to order at 7:44 pm.

Chinatown Business & Community Association (CBCA): Shubert-Kwock summarized a report available below as an Annex, and further stated displeasure with NCO that preparation for virtual meetings or use of speakerphones should have been underway for months. Shubert-Kwock implored the Mayor's representative of a need "to invest in making meetings available virtually in case of COVID-19." For more information, please email clskwock@gmail.com.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: Point of Order: Moore called for the agenda of the day; Chair Lye granted member Shubert-Kwock an additional ten seconds to revert to comments apropos to CBCA. With none forthcoming, Moore again called for the agenda of the day. Chair Lye noted that the time allotted for discussion of CBCA had expired, and entertained the offer of a motion from the floor to extend the time of discussion regarding CBCA but none was forthcoming.

Shubert-Kwock announced her departure from the meeting at 7:50 pm; six members present.

Chinatown Watch (CW): Fran Butera provided a written report, summarized below as an Annex; the full report for August 2020 is available on <https://chinatownwatch.com/reports/>. Butera voiced concerns regarding the negative impacts of the RoL meal service on the surrounding community, especially on small businesses. Butera noted the upcoming meeting arranged by Councilmember Fukunaga for the City and RoL, and stated it is her understanding that RoL will attend the September 2020 NB 13 meeting. For more information, please email chinatownwatch@gmail.com.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. 10–10 process: The Chair expressed appreciation to Ms. Butera for adhering to the 10–10 process for timely provision of pre- and post-meeting reports from community groups; doing so facilitates generation of the NB 13 agenda documents and meeting minutes.

Safe Haven: Greg Payton, Mental Health Kokua CEO, circulated a handout and outlined monthly statistics and information for the Pūnāwai Rest Stop; there were a total of 77 permanent housing placements, 684 new guests, and 41,250 services from January 2020 through July 2020. Payton introduced Dorene Toutant, Pūnāwai Rest Stop Program Manager. For more information, please email gpayton@mhkhawaii.org.

MEETING MINUTES

Approval of 2 July 2020 regular meeting minutes: **Moore moved to approve the July 2020 draft minutes as distributed. The Motion WAS ADOPTED 5-0-0 (AYE: Armstrong, Kamoshida, Logue, Lye, McDonald, and Moore; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None).**

Rescission and replacement of 4 June 2020 regular meeting minutes as approved to facilitate online archival accuracy: **McDonald moved to rescind and replace the 4 June 2020 regular meeting minutes to reflect the amendments made in July**

2020. The Motion WAS ADOPTED 6-0-0 (AYE: Armstrong, Kamoshida, Logue, Lye, McDonald, and Moore; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None).

BOARD BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Officerships and appointments: Chair Lye outlined the election rules.

- Election of Board Secretary: Chair Lye opened the floor to nominations for Secretary. McDonald nominated Armstrong, who declined the nomination. Chair Lye nominated Moore, who accepted the nomination.

MOORE WAS ELECTED SECRETARY (MOORE: Armstrong, Kamoshida, Logue, Lye, McDonald, and Moore; ABSTAIN: None).

- Election of Board Treasurer: Chair Lye opened the floor to nominations for Treasurer. Moore nominated Armstrong, who accepted the nomination.

ARMSTRONG WAS ELECTED TREASURER (ARMSTRONG: Armstrong, Kamoshida, Logue, Lye, and Moore; ABSTAIN: McDonald).

Logue moved to create the officership position of Sergeant-at-Arms for the Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13. The Motion WAS ADOPTED 6-0-0 (AYE: Armstrong, Kamoshida, Logue, Lye, McDonald, and Moore; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None).

- Election of Sergeant-at-Arms: Chair Lye opened the floor to nominations for Sergeant-at-Arms. Logue nominated McDonald, who accepted the nomination.

MCDONALD WAS ELECTED SERGEANT-AT-ARMS (MCDONALD: Armstrong, Kamoshida, Logue, Lye, McDonald, and Moore; ABSTAIN: None).

- Appointment of representative to the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) Citizen Advisory Committee: Chair Lye opened the floor to nominations or volunteers for a NB 13 OahuMPO representative. There were no nominations or volunteers. Armstrong suggested not acting to fill this rôle until more is known about the status of Member Mollring. McDonald reiterated Armstrong's suggestion to defer consideration of filling this position until the September 2020 meeting of NB 13. Hearing no objections, Chair Lye deferred this item to a future meeting of NB 13.

Chair's report: Assignment of a date and time for hearings of complaints 2019-12 and 2020-01 against NB 13 and subsets of the members thereof is currently scheduled to be made by the NCO Commissioners on Monday 24 August 2020 in the Kapālama Hale floor 1 conference room, 925 Dillingham Boulevard, Honolulu, HI 96817. All Board members were encouraged to participate and fully defend against accusations of wrongdoing. It was reiterated that HRS §92-13 demands that any person who wilfully [sic] violates any provisions of [Sunshine Law] shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, may be summarily removed from the board unless otherwise provided by law.

Chair Lye expressed gratitude for the assistance of all individuals who participated in the facilitation of the August 2020 NB 13 meeting and allowing Board members to participate remotely.

The Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood Citizen Patrol departs each Tuesday evening at 8:00 pm from the Diamond Head Tower lobby of Kukui Plaza. Please bring a friend, join the patrol, and help identify areas of concern within our Downtown-Chinatown community.

Chair Lye encouraged Board members attending NB 13 meetings in-person to also join the teleconference with their own smart devices in order to view the content being projected on the front wall of the gallery behind the dais.

Chair Lye clarified the need to have voted on a matter during the July 2020 NB 13 meeting in order to register a quorumed vote.

Chair Lye voiced significant concerns regarding security of the vote-by-mail process, and presented a scenario wherein an

unscrupulous individual with access to another individual's unlocked mailbox could abscond with a mail-in ballot, fill out same, and submit such with a signature on the provided security envelope not recognized by the computer algorithm which compares the submitted signature to the reference signature already on file for the intended recipient of the mail-in ballot. Identification of a discrepant scanned signature triggers generation of a letter from the Elections Division by way of the Office of the City Clerk which, if similarly retrieved from the mailbox of the unwitting intended recipient, permits the absconder [if he or she knows as little as the day and month of the birthday of the victim of this fraud] to register a completely new reference signature for the elections office computer algorithm to recognize as the new and true signature of the intended recipient for future mail-in ballots. Hence the perpetrator, as long as access to the contents of the victim's mailbox is maintained, will be able to cast ballots by mail on behalf of the victim unless and until lack of receipt of a blank mail-in ballot is recognized by the victim, reported, and remedied. This process was reported to and acknowledged by the City and County Office of Elections on 6 August 2020.

Headshots of Members are still being accepted to post on the NCO website; the composite image of NB 13 members, Aloha Tower, and the Chinatown dragon decal from the NB 13 contact website <<http://www.honolulu.gov/cms-nco-menu/site-nco-featured/191-site-nco-cat/682-test.html#NB13>> was displayed onscreen.

Treasurer's report: Chair Lye displayed the treasurer's report for the audience and reported printing costs of \$4.96, postage costs of \$27.30, and a remaining balance of \$392.74. Chair Lye stressed that printing costs were a function of the length of the monthly meeting minutes.

Board members' concerns: Chair Lye opened the floor to any Board members' concerns.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Ma: McDonald asked if Board member Sandy Ma resigned from NB 13 and Chair Lye responded that she is still an active NB 13 member but was not in attendance for the evening's meeting.
2. Mailing List: Armstrong suggested saving postage costs by checking for duplicates on the NB 13 mailing list.
3. Compliment: Armstrong complimented Chair Lye for resolving minor technical issues at the start of the meeting and expressed gratitude for facilitating a smooth meeting that allowed remote participation. Armstrong noted this is a big move forward in becoming more transparent with the community.
4. Sergeant-at-Arms: Armstrong commented that the Sergeant-at-Arms position seems to be a good fit for an immediate Chair emeritus.
5. Inappropriate Conduct: Armstrong noted the continued inappropriate conduct of a certain NB 13 member, affirmed the apparent appropriateness of a privileged motion made by another Member to address such earlier during the meeting, and advised that he would set processes in motion to address such unbecoming behavior by the offending Member and would urge her removal from the Board.

Public notice of option to amend adopted Resolution NB13-2020-007: McDonald moved to amend the adopted Resolution NB13-2020-007 as follows:

RESOLVED, the Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13 requests the Honolulu City Council and its Corporation Council move to permit conversion of the appointed volunteer positions comprising the Honolulu Police Commission to elected positions by placing a resolution for such on the ballot for public approval by no later than Election Day, 2 November 2021.

Discussion followed:

1. Maker of Original Motion: Logue asked for the comments from the maker of original the motion.
2. Amendment necessity: Armstrong stated Resolution NB13-2020-007 is not necessarily in need of amendments.
3. Note: Chair Lye noted this item was agendized upon receipt on 27 July 2020 of a message from Armstrong noting assent to the proposed changes harmonizing the nominal classifications of *volunteers* and *positions*.
4. Support: McDonald supports the amendments as it would improve Resolution NB13-2020-007.
5. Amendment: Chair Lye displayed the amendment to Resolution NB13-2020-007 for members of the audience.

Hearing no objections, Chair Lye called for the vote. The Motion WAS ADOPTED 6-0-0 (AYE: Armstrong, Kamoshida, Logue, Lye, McDonald, and Moore; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Potential future agenda items: Chair Lye announced potential agenda items for the September 2020 NB 13 meeting. McDonald noted the request for Scott Morishige, Governor’s Homeless Coordinator, or Marc Alexander, Office of Housing (HOU) Executive Director, to present at every other NB 13 meeting, and added a request for a HLC Commissioner to attend the next NB 13 meeting.
- Next Meeting: The next regular meeting of the Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13 is scheduled for Thursday 3 September 2020 at Hawaii Pacific University, 1 Aloha Tower Drive, Multi-Purpose Room 3 at 6:00 pm.
- Neighborhood Citizen Patrol: The Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Citizen Patrol departs each Tuesday evening at 8:00 pm from the Diamond Head Tower lobby of Kukui Plaza. Please bring a friend, join the patrol, and help identify areas of concern within our Downtown–Chinatown community.
- ‘Ōlelo: Rebroadcasts of Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13 meetings are scheduled on ‘Ōlelo channel 49 for every third Thursday at 9:00 pm, as well as 6:00 am on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. An archive of past meetings may be found on <http://olelo.org/olelonet/> by searching on <Downtown Chinatown>.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by Janelle Nomura, Neighborhood Assistant
Reviewed by Naomi Hanohano, Neighborhood Assistant
Finalized by Kevin Lye, Chair

ANNEXES

Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART):

August 2020

HART Welcomes Stephen Cayetano

Stephen Cayetano comes to HART from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) where he spent the last 36 years, most recently holding the position of Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management and Chief of the Project Management Division of the Honolulu District, which is the highest civilian position for the District. He was responsible for delivering a \$2.5B Military, Civil Works, Environmental and Construction Program in the State of Hawaii, Kwajalein Atoll, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, American Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia. He is a Past President of the Hawaii Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a member of the Honolulu Post of the Society of American Military Engineers, and on the Board of Directors of the University of Hawaii Engineering Alumni Association.

Stephen was born in Hawaii and as with many military families and employees of the USACE, he traveled, lived and worked in many other parts of the world. He was responsible for delivering similar programs in Japan, Europe and Afghanistan.

Stephen holds a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Hawaii and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Hawaii.

Construction Progress

The full 20-mile, 21 station rail system is over 57% complete.

- West Oahu Stations Group (Kualaka’i, Keone’ae, Honouliuli) is 98% complete.
- Farrington Highway Stations Group (Ho’ae’ae, Pouhala, Halaulani) is 98% complete.
- Kamehameha Highway Stations Group (Waiawa, Kalauao, Halawa) is 95% complete.
- Kamehameha Highway resurfacing is 98% complete
- Airport Guideway and Stations Group (Makalapa, Lelepaua, Ahua, Kahauiki) is 72% complete
- Core Systems work is 68% complete

City Center Utilities Relocation (CCUR), about 8% complete, continues day and night utility relocation work to make way for the guideway and station structures. Currently Dillingham Boulevard, between Middle Street and Mokauea Street, is under controlled access, which means one east-bound and one west-bound lane is open to traffic. Work also continues in the Chinatown/Downtown area along Nimitz Highway, as well as work through Kakaako and Ala Moana along portions of Halekauwila, Queen and Kona streets.

For more information, please visit the HART website at www.honolulutransit.org. You can also call the 24-hour project hotline at (808) 566-

2299, or email a question to info@honolulustransit.org.

IF THE BOARD WISHES MORE PROJECT INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE PROJECT HOTLINE TO REQUEST SCHEDULING OF A PRESENTATION.
MAHALO!

Chinatown Business & Community Association (CBCA):

JULY 2020 CHINATOWN MONTHLY REPORT

1. CBCA monthly meeting was held July 14, 2020 at 10 a.m. at Golden Palace Restaurant. A Chinese Dim Sum Breakfast was served to all who attended and a \$5 donation was welcomed.
2. Captain Sung, our Deputy Commander attended on behalf of Commander Hayashi.
3. LAW BREAKERS:& ILLEGAL VENDORS: illegal food purchased with food stamps, stolen goods and liquor, criminal homeless and homeless with mental, drug and alcohol issues were discussed with HPD.
4. CBCA went to plea with Honolulu Liquor Commission to reduce the retail liquor sales hours from Maunakea Liquors, CJ Market and Fred's Sundries. However, HLC refused to act just like they refused to act for the community last year. HLC collects licensing fees and liquor taxes from all liquor dispensers to fund their operations.
5. TRASH IN CHINATOWN: 555 Markets cancelled its trash pickup with City but continues to dump illegally with others on the curbside adding to a big mess on the corner of N King and Kekaulike.
6. Illegal Trash also appear at 1171 Maunakea St parking lot.
7. As Covid 19 continues with double digit infections, business in Chinatown will continue to decline and more homeless will appear and make Chinatown an even more unsafe place to live, shop and dine.
8. The Mayor's sudden Revitalization of Chinatown with a \$200K power washing contract and allowing sidewalk dining has seen little improvement as power washing did not happen these last few weeks.
9. Smith Beretania Park remains a problem with homeless drug addicts and alcohol abusers sunning themselves on mattresses and moving outside when the park closes.
10. The NB13 previous chair and new chair have made community reports more restrictive, 500 words and 10 days submission before Agenda and 10 days after meeting or else not on agenda or minutes. Chair fails to understand 10 days before close of month is not end of month as many issues do occur.
11. The last Chair had 4 community complaints lodged against him for sunshine and NCO violations but not all members are aiding/abetting this person who appears to abuse his position.
12. It was wrong headed for NCO to allow the previous Chair to keep street names secret from constituents who are not informed by the NB13 Agenda, unless they show up at NB13 meeting when the Chair/organizer announces the names and number of streets to be closed. It is also unfair to bus riders to close N Hotel Street as closing N Hotel displaces 322 bus routes. it is a huge cost to taxpayers to pay for police, garbage and other costs so a few influential business owners can have their profitable street parties while other merchants and residents are denied street parking from 24 to 36 hours.
13. CBCA, James Logue & CM Joey Manahan assisted Kalihi Residents to oppose a new IHS homeless station.
14. CBCA meets on August 11, 2020 at Golden Palace Restaurant at 10 am.

Chinatown Watch (CW):

Further Discussion of River of Life Feeding Operation

On 7/13/20, community members met with ROL Board Chair Rann Watumull, Pastor Bob Marchant and other ROL personnel to discuss the adverse community impacts of ROL's food service and to brainstorm alternatives.

ROL serves 750-1000 meals/day, 5 days/week. ROL's takeout service, while convenient for ROL and its guests, compounds ROL's already adverse impact on Chinatown.

- Free meals all day M-F brings more homeless/mentally ill/addicts to Chinatown and enables chronic service-resistance homeless people to keep living on the street.
- No bathrooms for hundreds eating ROL meals daily, increasing public urination and defecation.
- ROL guests loitering/sitting in front of shops & restaurants, discouraging foot traffic to businesses.
- Violent outbursts by psychotic and substance abusing ROL guests endanger & frighten bystanders.
- COVID threat from ROL guests unwilling/unable to follow safety protocols.

Suggestions for Relieving the Burden on Chinatown

- With food trucks, decentralize ROL food service so that no single community is overburdened.
- Relocate ROL food service to the City's Iwilei homeless complex, specifically designed for this population.
- Transfer the mass feeding operation to another agency away from Chinatown.
- Move lunch service to another location (Aala Park proposed by ROL board)

We look forward to prompt, positive action by ROL to help restore our community.

Chinatown's Economic Pain Hurts Local Farmers

Saleh Azizi, PhD is a Waianae farmer who studies community food systems. In a letter to Chinatown Watch, he noted how hardship for

Chinatown's businesses ripples out to the local farmers who supply our markets.

"We have many Chinese, Laotian and Korean farmers who used to farm entirely for the purpose of sending their produce to Chinatown Honolulu. With the closure of business, these farms, many of them housed in Waianae, have been hugely affected." Please see Dr. Azizi's letter at: <https://chinatownwatch.com/reports/> It is further reminder of why we need to help our small businesses survive and thrive. And for that we need a safe, sane, clean, healthy community. Agencies in Chinatown cannot keep prioritizing the needs of vagrants & addicts over the needs of working people.

City Guards Program Hires Ali'i Security Systems

The City Guards program continues into FY21 with a new contractor and improvements requested by our citizens' group. Feedback has been positive from Chinatown residents in the guards' patrol area. We look forward to expansion of the City Guards beat in January 2021, per the City's approved operating budget. Mahalo to DLM Director Sandy Pfund and Jerry DeGuzman for managing this important service.

Ongoing Issues with Blight & Crime, July 2020

The full report shows a sample of incidents posted to ChinatownWatch.com in the past 4 weeks. These posts illustrate how homelessness hurts our entire community, not just the unsheltered individuals.

Action Steps

The full report lists steps that City administrators and citizens can take now to improve conditions in Chinatown.

Full Report Online

Please see the full August 2020 report and archived past reports at <https://chinatownwatch.com/reports/>. Mahalo.