



DOWNTOWN-CHINATOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD № 13

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco>

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2021
6:00 PM

HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
1 ALOHA TOWER DRIVE
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM 2

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Kevin Lye called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. **Quorum was established with nine members present**; this nine-member Board requires five members to establish quorum and to take official Board action.

Members Present: Robert Armstrong, Ernest Carvalho, Roxie-Anne Kamoshida, James Logue, Kevin Lye, Kevin McDonald, Willis Moore, Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock, Laura Sturges.

Guests: Lieutenant Kevin Napoleon, Sergeant Gregory Timme (Honolulu Police Department); Derek Chow (Governor Ige's office); Ian Santee (Mayor Blangiardi's office); Councilmember Carol Fukunaga; Jordan Kanemitsu (Senator Rhoads' office); Chad Wolke (US House Representative Case's office); Laura Thielen (Partners in Care); Greg Payton (Mental Health Kokua); Harry Cho (HART); Darrell Arii, Barney Brennan, Steven Chu, Ronald Higa, Robert Higgins, Christopher O'Connor, Janice "JJ" Owens, Nicole Reid, Dennis Silva, Maria Tijerina, Fred White, Everett Yee (Residents); Dylan Buck (Neighborhood Commission Office). **Names were not included if not recognized or were not legible on the sign-in sheet.**

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD): Chair Lye noted a [report](#) posted to the [June 2021 NB 13 online repository](#), relayed a [notice](#) from HFD that personnel will again no longer attend Neighborhood Board meetings in person, and that any questions to or comments for HFD can be forwarded to the Fire Prevention Bureau [HFDFPB1@honolulu.gov] and the Central Fire Station watch commanders [HFDE1B@honolulu.gov, HFDE1G@honolulu.gov, and HFDE1R@honolulu.gov]. More information can be found at www.honolulu.gov/hfd.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD): Lt. Napoleon reported statistics; crime-mapping information may be found may be found at www.honolulu.org/information/crime-mapping.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed.

1. Assistance: McDonald asked how the community can help HPD reduce crime in the area; Lt. Napoleon responded that one common issue is a lack of witnesses, so if a person witnesses a crime and calls HPD, he or she should wait for HPD to arrive and then provide information in detail to the responding officer(s).
2. Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Park: Carvalho noted there has been much criminal activity at and near the park; Lt. Napoleon noted that Chinatown is a very busy district and limited officers on duty cannot be everywhere at once.
3. 911 calls: Sturges commented that non-emergency calls to 911 take too long to reach an officer and asked if there was a faster way of communication; Lt. Napoleon responded that calling 911 remains the fastest way to reach HPD.

Shubert-Kwock and Logue departed at 6:18 pm; seven members present.

Neighborhood Citizen Patrol: Chair Lye presented [images](#) posted to the [June 2021 NB 13 online repository](#) and reported observations by the Patrol during the prior month, including the highly populated mauka end of Kamali'i Mini Park, expansion of River Street evening denizens onto Pauahi Street, continued evolution of bulb-out finishing and pedestrians not making use of the reduced street-crossing span and remaining on the original curbs while awaiting lights to change, perpetual large semipermanent structures on sidewalks, evolution of a mural at the annex to the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace on Fort Street Mall, tagging and removal of graffiti from the Smith-Beretania Mini Park elevator building, continued instances of pedestrian failure to make timely progress through the intersection of Pali Highway and Vineyard Boulevard, swells in pigeon and feral chicken populations and deleterious roosting clusters on

Pauahi Street, and a reminder that it is illegal to ride a bicycle on a sidewalk within business districts—including downtown—and that such riders face a \$55 fine. Another highlight of the month was a tag-along on [11 May 2021](#) by Noe Tanigawa of Hawaii Public Radio and her piece about the patrol which aired on [The Conversation on Friday 14 May 2021](#). Chair Lye invited the public to walk with the patrol on Tuesday evenings, departing at 8 pm from the Diamond Head tower lobby of Kukui Plaza [GPS coordinates of 1227 Fort Street Mall within your smartphone's map app will bring you to the Kukui Plaza lobby].

Logue returned at 6:21 pm; eight members present.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Governor's Representative: Deputy Director of DTS Harbors Division Derek Chow [derek.j.chow@hawaii.gov] made note of the [Capitol Connection](#) posted to the [June 2021 NB 13 online repository](#), and reported that vaccinations are available to anyone 16 years and older, by walk-in or reservation. Residents who have been fully vaccinated in Hawai'i will not be subject to quarantine for inter-island travel.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed.

1. Safe zone: Resident Owens inquired again about a Senior Citizen safe zone; Chow responded that such is currently under discussion.
2. Funding: Lye inquired about funding by the state for workforce development; Chow noted a plan to report on such at the next meeting.

Shubert-Kwock returned at 6:24 pm; nine members present.

Mayor's Representative: Deputy Director of Emergency Services Ian Santee [isantee@honolulu.gov] noted having relayed concerns about feral chickens and broken security and traffic cameras in the area to the appropriate departments.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed.

1. Parking: Shubert-Kwock commented that responses by the City to parking issues remain insufficient.
2. More Officers: McDonald expressed concern of mention that each HPD shift consists of only six or seven officers; Santee responded that he will inquire if HPD can elaborate on these statistics.

Councilmember Carol Fukunaga [cafukunaga@honolulu.gov] spoke to a [newsletter](#) posted to the [June 2021 NB 13 online repository](#) and reported that the FY 22 Executive Capital Budget budget has been adopted and will allocate funds for several rehabilitation efforts to clean up Chinatown, including \$250k for diversion of youth offenders from the juvenile justice system, \$50k for feral chicken control, \$250k to reinstate Weed & Seed prosecution prevention, \$125k for private security services, and \$250k for power-washing.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed.

1. Pauahi Recreation Center: Resident Owens relayed concerns about the facility; Fukunaga responded that the center is on a list for rehabilitation.
2. Increased crime: Resident Higgins perceived an increase in crime on River Street; Fukunaga noted that her office is working with HPD to reduce the crime rate.
3. Security cameras: Armstrong requested an update about Chinatown security cameras; Fukunaga reported that the new budget will allocate funding and with HPD on board, security cameras should be updated soon.
4. River of Life: Shubert-Kwock sought an update on the RoL contract; Fukunaga noted that the timeline provided recently by Managing Director Michael Formby is the most up-to-date information available.
5. Stolen bicycles: Carvalho noted that groups of homeless are disassembling allegedly stolen bicycles near Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Park and asked what can be done to address these organized groups; Fukunaga responded that she will be meeting with the Prosecutor's Office and HPD next week and will discuss this issue with them.

Senator Karl Rhoads [senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov]: Legislative office intern Jordan Kanemitsu read a [report](#) posted

to the [June 2021 NB 13 online repository](#).

Questions, comments, and concerns followed.

1. Campaign commitment follow-through: Resident Tijerina felt that Senator Rhoads' campaign commitments from the most recent election have yet to be enacted.
2. Absence: McDonald commented on Senator Rhoads' absence.

Representative Scott Saiki [repsaiki@capitol.hawaii.gov]: No representative was present; no report was provided. Chair Lye lamented the lack of attendance of any representative from Speaker Saiki's office for the past several months and the impact of such on open discussion of an [ethics violation investigation](#).

Representative Daniel Holt [repholt@capitol.hawaii.gov]: No representative was present; no report was provided.

US Representative Ed Case [ed.case@mail.house.gov]: Chad Wolke [chad.wolke@mail.house.gov] distributed a handout and reported that Representative Case was concerned that the latest federal budget is large, with broad guidelines for spending, and that the President plans on paying for this by heavily taxing wealthy businesses.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed.

1. Budget cuts: Resident Owens asked who decides which programs will be cut, and how much say the affected groups may have; Wolke responded that throughout the very long process, no sole individual makes such decisions, and that budgets are rarely reduced.
2. Politics: Armstrong commented that President Biden was elected to serve the people and restore social services, not limit them.
3. Immigration crisis: McDonald asked how Representative Case will address immigration and the border crisis; Wolke responded that he will direct that question to the Congressman.
4. Funding: Lye sought the level of funding from the American Jobs Plan to be directed towards workforce development in Hawai'i; Wolke noted that he will direct that question to the Congressman.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

New apartment tower requesting height-restriction waivers and other variances: Dennis Silva and Christian O'Connor described plans for a new 202-unit residential tower at 905 Kekaulike Street which will require a waiver to exceed current height limits.

Logue departed at 7:08 pm; eight members present.

Chinatown Business and Community Association (CBCA): Shubert-Kwock spoke to a [report](#) and noted that CBCA continues to support HPD and the City Council in their efforts to clean up Chinatown, that CBCA supports the City's efforts to provide a public restroom for Chinatown, and that CBCA meets at 10 am on the second Tuesday of each month at Golden Palace.

Logue returned at 7:12 pm; nine members present.

Mental illness: Resident Owens expressed that no one speaks about how to address mental illness, especially in Chinatown, and felt that more resources should be directed towards helping treat mental illnesses within the homeless community.

Shubert-Kwock departed at 7:15 pm; eight members present.

NEW BUSINESS

Quantifiable outcomes from HUD spending to address homelessness in Chinatown: Laura Thielen [laurat@partnersincareoahu.org] (Executive Director, Partners in Care [www.partnersincareoahu.org]) spoke to a [presentation](#) posted to the [June 2021 NB 13 online repository](#) and highlighted the following:

- Primary concerns: Homelessness, mental illness, and drug use are the biggest issues faced by Chinatown.
- Universal system: Partners in Care hosts a Homeless Management Information System in which homelessness-related organizations on O’ahu may input client information.
- Housing: Partners in Care created a centralized system for housing programs.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed.

1. Mental illness: Resident Owens asked for a dollar value of the resources allocated for mental illness; Thielen named several resources, noting that it is difficult to quantify the value of mainstreamed services.
2. Rent and homelessness: Armstrong asked what Honolulu will look like after the rent moratorium ends and if beds for substance abusers had been increased; Thielen responded that affordable housing availability is key and that Partners in Care fights for stabilization beds, the number of which may be increased through use of federal funds for addressing COVID-19.
3. Housing: Lye asked Thielen to describe what she would do if in charge of resolving the homeless crisis; Thielen stated that housing is the answer: once in stable housing, clients will be able to receive all the support and services they need.

Update on HPU and Fort Street Mall: No representative was present to report or to receive the [certificate of appreciation](#) from Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13.

Resolution 2021-004 [Requiring monthly interaction with the Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13 by elected local and state representatives]: **Armstrong moved to adopt the [resolution](#).**

Discussion:

1. Intent: Armstrong noted a need to hold elected officials accountable for their attendance at Neighborhood Board meetings by encouraging attendance during odd-numbered non-election years.
2. Support: McDonald expressed support for the measure, noting it is nice to see elected officials at board meetings. Armstrong stated that the resolution would not silence anyone, as elected officials may always speak during the period of Public Concerns during each meeting. McDonald stated that some officials’ attendance is so rare that any additional appearances would be an improvement.
3. Concern: Logue made note of the impact of the timetable for primary elections on the intent of the resolution and hence the need to address the primary season of even-numbered election years.

Logue moved to amend the resolution to, within the final RESOLVED clause, replace *November* with *August*, *October* with *July*, and *September* with *June*. The motion was ADOPTED 7–1–0 (Aye: Armstrong, Carvalho, Kamoshida, Logue, Lye, Sturges, McDonald; Nay: Moore; Abstain: None).

4. Concern: Lye noted that relegating an official to speak only during the period of public concerns may limit the ability of members of the public to exchange information with the incumbent and that more scenario-modeling was needed before adopting such a measure.

The motion to adopt the amended Resolution was NOT ADOPTED 4–2–2 (Aye: Armstrong, Logue, McDonald, Sturges; Nay: Lye, Moore; Abstain: Kamoshida, Carvalho)

COMMUNITY GROUP REPORTS

Safe Haven: Greg Payton [gpayton@mhkhawaii.org] spoke to a [handout](#) posted to the [June 2021 NB 13 online repository](#).

Questions, comments, and concerns followed.

1. Housing: Lye asked for any reflections regarding the information shared by Partners in Care, of which MHK is a member; Payton noted agreement that housing is the first step toward rehabilitating the homeless and the problem is finding enough landlords willing to rent their properties at affordable rates.

2. Relay or results: Logue asked if statistics from MHK are shared with City and State officials; Payton responded efforts are made to broadcast the data but it can be difficult to appreciate progress made when there is still so much to be done.

Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART): Harry Cho [harry.cho@honolulu.gov] noted the end of monthly aggregated reports from HART and noted content within a recent [Weekly eBlast](#) posted to the [June 2021 NB 13 online repository](#). Cho attempted to follow up on a question posed during the previous meeting and noted that several factors led to railcar wheels not fitting on the track.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: McDonald commented that funds for the over-budget rail project could have been used to resolve the homeless crisis.

Moore departed at 8:24 pm; seven members present.

MEETING MINUTES

6 May 2021: **The meeting minutes were ADOPTED without objection 7–0–0 (Aye**: Armstrong, Carvalho, Kamoshida, Logue, Lye, McDonald, Sturges; **Nay**: None; **Abstain**: None).

BOARD BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Chair's Report: Chair Lye reported the following.

- [Resolution 2021-003](#) [Allowing full participation of 16- and 17-year-olds on Neighborhood Boards] was [transmitted to the Executive Secretary](#) of the Neighborhood Commission Office to provide information to the Neighborhood Commission on or before 1 July 2022.
- Storm water utility fee: Pearl City NB 21 is [strongly opposed](#) to the new fee and has shared a [resolution template](#) for other boards to express opposition to the proposed fee.
- Solar energy generation facility: A [public hearing](#) about conversion of 620 acres of fallow fields and croplands is planned for 23 June 2021.
- Ala Wai Watershed Collaboration: The next [meeting](#) is planned for 9 June 2021.
- Video file conversion: The audiovisual archive of the [regular meeting of NB 13 on 6 May 2021](#) has an unexpected break in footage at the 01:28:22 mark which obscures comments made by speakers for at least several minutes following that point; the AV contractor had noted on 26 May 2021 that the “footage was not omitted intentionally but rather not imported correctly in the edit process. In return the clip was, overlooked during processing. Please thank the chair for supplying the timing that allowed me to identify the missing footage. The program is being reprocessed and will be uploaded to Olelo to replace the current program video file, and will be available as soon as Olelo completes the replacement process.”
- Tour helicopter safety: [House Concurrent Resolution 81](#) addressing safety risks and community disruption resulting from insufficient regulation of rapidly increasing operations of tour helicopters and small aircraft, adopted by both the state Senate and House of Representatives, was transmitted to NB 13 by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.
- Board banner: NCO is purportedly making an effort to audit the banner procurement process and ascertain if a [past motion to expend Board funds](#) was followed.
- Water at Walmart: A concern relayed from a resident to Member Shubert-Kwock about [excess water dripping at the downtown Walmart](#) was in turn relayed to the store management team for addressment by Chair Lye on 12 May 2021.

Meeting Disclosure Safe Harbor: Three members of NB 13 [Lye, McDonald, and Sturges] attended the Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Citizen Patrol on at least one evening during May 2021 but did not discuss any matters on which a vote by the Board is reasonably likely. No other disclosures of concomitant meetings or group discussions by members of NB 13 were made.

O‘ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) Citizen Advisory Committee: Carvalho noted that he attended the CAC meeting on 2 June 2021 and plans to provide a report about such during the NB 13 meeting on 1 July 2021.

Financial Report: Treasurer Armstrong noted a [remaining balance](#) as of 31 May 2021 of \$126.01.

Board Members’ Concerns:

1. Graffiti implement control: Armstrong encouraged support of City Council [Bill 19](#) controlling sale of spray paint and wide-tipped markers to purchasers under 21 years of age.
2. Gratitude: McDonald expressed gratitude for the service of Board members.
3. Welcome and preparation: Chair Lye thanked the members of the Board for their work over the preceding year, welcomed the three new or returning members, and reiterated the following: the rules matter, and it will be important for all members of NB 13 to become, and remain, aware of the content of the Neighborhood Plan and Sunshine Law, knowing that that later this month each member will raise a hand and attest to understanding and upholding these rules. Not just one of us, or a handful of us, but *each* of us will be responsible for holding our fellow board members—and members of the Neighborhood Commission—accountable.

Election of Board Secretary: Action on this item was deferred.

Future Agenda Items for Board Consideration: Chair Lye reported plans for many upcoming presentations by organizations and community members on topics including Honolulu Harbor and the Aloha Tower Development Corporation, two adjacent tall towers proposed on Nimitz Highway between Kekaulike and Maunakea Streets, updates about Halewai‘olu Senior Residences, quantifiable results of Child Welfare Services Branch operations in Downtown and Chinatown, Melim Building renovations, Hawai‘i Health & Harm Reduction Center, ongoing transitional housing projects and outreach by the Salvation Army, the role of the Consuelo Foundation in Chinatown, state Department of Health Vector Control Branch, the Transportation Control Center on Alapai Street, and local volunteer opportunities with the American Red Cross of Hawaii during hurricane season.

Logue and Carvalho departed at 8:47 pm; five members present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next regular meeting of Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13 is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday 1 July 2021 at Hawaii Pacific University, 1 Aloha Tower Drive, Multi-Purpose Room 2.
- The Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Citizen Patrol departs each Tuesday evening at 8:00 p.m. 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.
- Rebroadcasts of Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13 meetings are scheduled on ‘Ōlelo channel 49 every third Thursday at 9:00 p.m., as well as 6:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. An archive of past meetings may be found on <https://olelo.org/olelonet/> upon searching on <Downtown Chinatown>.
- Find an archive of handouts and referenced materials apropos to Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13 [here](#).

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Lye adjourned the meeting without objection at 8:49 pm.

Submitted by Dylan Buck, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by Spencer Johnson, Neighborhood Assistant

Final review by Kevin Lye, Chair, Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13