

Communication from Public

Name: Katie

Date Submitted: 09/28/2020 11:24 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I do not support efforts to displace the existing Chinatown community. We are already saddled with numerous apartment buildings going up that are for those that earn more than \$100,000 grand per year. Yet the population in this area falls well below that mark. It would have been nice to develop apartments for the locals, teachers, firemen, police and other kinds of workers. Instead of rents at \$2500 they should be around \$1300.00-\$1600.00 for new apartments. The leadership George Yu from the BID has been undermining common sense growth for Chinatown that will leave empty expensive apartments resulting in a blighted environment. This area could have been thriving with a focus on the middle income and low income communities that support so many industries in Los Angeles. A gear shift is needed and we need to avoid getting trapped into BID again without good leadership. Sociopaths are on the way out. We should follow suit in Chinatown.

Communication from Public

Name: Phyllis Chiu

Date Submitted: 09/28/2020 12:25 PM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: As a stakeholder in Chinatown, a retired teacher from Castelar School and currently a community volunteer, I ask the Council not to support the renewal of the Chinatown Business Improvement District. The BID does little to support the small businesses already in the community or to improve the business climate, except to bring in expensive hipster restaurants and bars to Far East Plaza, in which George Yu, BID's Executive Director, has a stake. Yu had an arrest warrant put out for him by LA County for failing to submit public records and failing to appear in court. He has also consistently sent Board of Directors nomination forms belatedly to multiple benevolent associations and other organizations who oppose BID, or has had convenient excuses for not being able to accept their forms. Chinatown does not need to be represented by a corrupt director of an organization that has done nothing to help small businesses, the core of the community, that have suffered through the pandemic. BID instead supports gentrification as the way forward—pushing out markets and affordable restaurants, harassing residents and unhoused neighbors, anyone who doesn't have the right "look" to appeal to wealthy hipster visitors. They prefer a "Disneyland" version of Chinatown—exotic facades housing hip businesses with no relationship to the borrowed facades, and most importantly, no immigrant or low-income residents to disturb the sanitized version. What the community really needs to thrive and continue its long history of welcoming and serving immigrants is affordable housing, accessible health care, and businesses that residents patronize—supermarkets, affordable restaurants, pharmacies, stationery stores, etc., not bars and expensive fried chicken. Please vote NO to renewing a self-serving and corrupt BID.

Communication from Public

Name: Geoffrey W KIXMILLER

Date Submitted: 09/28/2020 03:20 PM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, I am a new business owner in Chinatown and I believe the Chinatown BID should be abolished. My business is called Tomorrow Today it is a book store. We watched another bookstore close before we were able to open just a few blocks away. Where was the BID to support them? We moved into our space at the beginning of the year and obviously struggled somewhat to find our footing given the pandemic. But as we have geared up to open over the last few months we have seen many businesses struggle and even close their doors for good. We have seen our unhoused neighbors suffer through the pandemic, facing insane heat and unhealthful air. We know many of our neighbors may be unable to afford rent and could face eviction. Throughout this unrest the BID has done just one thing, continue to police the neighborhood. What benefit exactly has that provided? BID cops harass those who are in most need of help. Street vendors and unhoused neighbors get pushed aside in times of hardship. For a community organization with a huge budget BID has not stepped up to support any Chinatown businesses that I am aware of. Even mom and pop businesses that are on the verge of closing are not supported. Chinatown is a community in crisis and BID consistently has shown they are only interested in pushing out the working poor and unhoused in favor of new businesses that prioritize the wealthy. It is time for the BID to shutdown for good. It should be replaced by a true community group that uses funds to support businesses and neighbors in crisis. ABOLISH THE BID NOW! Thanks, Geoff

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 09/28/2020 04:20 PM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable Los Angeles City Councilmember Cedillo and members of the Los Angeles City Council: I am a longtime professional business owner who has had offices in Chinatown for several years and I do not support the renewal of the Chinatown BID. My employees and I have witnessed more than one instance of harassment of the unhoused and people of color. The management of this BID does not inspire confidence and they should no longer receive public funds. At this critical historical moment when the City of Los Angeles is facing public protests and ongoing lawsuits as a result of the behavior of even its most well-intentioned peace officers, this BID and its particularly poorly trained private security officers pose a persistent risk to the health and welfare of this historically important, yet vulnerable, community and I fail to understand why the City would continue to renew any of its contracts. It just doesn't make sense. Please consider the many comments you must have received on this issue and do not dismiss them when you make your decision; they come from a wide range of people. This is a serious problem in Chinatown and you have an opportunity to show us that you hear our concerns with this vote. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Phyllis Ling

Date Submitted: 09/28/2020 04:49 PM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Subject: Council File: 12-0489, Greater Chinatown (Property-based) Business Improvement District
Dear City Council Members, I am writing to express opposition to the reestablishment of the Chinatown Business Improvement District for the following reasons: 1. This BID has consistently harassed activist Theo Henderson, a member of the Chinatown community, other street vendors and low-income people of color. Executive Director George Yu called an electrocution death in Westlake of an unhoused community member “natural selection” and that “will be the only way that the City will take care of business.” 2. Chinatown BID is known for not following the rules. They provide services outside of their boundaries, which is expressly prohibited. 3. Chinatown BID has not operated in a transparent manner. While BIDs are non-profit corporations, rather than public agencies, they are subject to the CPRA and the Brown Act under California Law. (CA Streets and Highways Code § 36612.). Examples of lack of transparency: a. Their agenda do not provide enough information about what is being discussed, which is a Brown Act violation. On every agenda, the agenda items are exactly the same, 22 words total: " 1. Public Comments 2. Approval of Previous Minutes 3. Chinatown Development/Projects Update 4. New Business 5. Chinatown Marketing/Events Update 6. Chinatown Quality of Life Update 7. Adjournment" b. Chinatown BID doesn't post minutes of their meetings on their website, chinatownla.com. c. Chinatown BID does not respond to CPRA requests. Executive Director Yu even had an arrest warrant put out for him by LA County for failure to respond to public records requests and appearing before court. d. Chinatown BID is currently holding their Board of Directors Meetings in person, not virtually. The public should not have to risk their health to attend a public meeting during a pandemic. If any of the board of directors are participating virtually, then the public must also be able to participate virtually, and the instructions must be printed on their agenda. e. Chinatown BID's agenda do not reference any supporting documents or how the public can access them. Nor do they provide information regarding ADA access. (See attachment, CTBID-Agenda.pdf) Unfortunately, City departments often refer project applicants to Chinatown BID as the primary way to seek community feedback

in the Chinatown area. There is no justification for doing so, when the organization does not operate in a transparent and inclusive way. A large portion of the votes to re-establish the BID, and a large portion of the assessments for funding the BID are coming from City-owned properties. Taxpayers in this city must not be forced to subsidize this organization. We deserve transparency and accountability. Sincerely, Phyllis Ling Savoy St Property Owner and Resident 90012



Chinatown Los Angeles

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT
3
Sat

10:30 am Undiscovered Chinatown Walking T... @ Throughout Chinatown

5:00 pm 82nd Annual Mid-Autumn Moon Fest... @ Central Plaza

NOV
7
Sat

10:30 am Undiscovered Chinatown Walking T... @ Throughout Chinatown

NOV
19
Thu

12:00 pm BID Board of Director Meeting @ Far East Plaza

BID Board of Director Meeting

WHEN: September 24, 2020 @ 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

[Calendar](#)

WHERE: Far East Plaza
727 N Broadway
#212, Los Angeles
CA 90012

[Add to Calendar](#) ▾

CONTACT: [BID Office](#)
[213-680-0243](#)
[Email](#)

The Chinatown BID Board of Directors Meeting is held on the 4th Thursdays of odd months; exception in November when it's held on the 3rd Thursday.

AGENDA

1. Public Comments
2. Approval of Previous Minutes
3. Chinatown Development/Projects Update
4. New Business
5. Chinatown Marketing/Events Update
6. Chinatown Quality of Life Update
7. Adjournment

For questions or to be added to the Board Agenda, please submit a detail email request prior to the meeting to info@chinatownla.com for consideration.

*Validated Parking in Far East Plaza parking garage below building.

Communication from Public

Name: Mario Correa

Date Submitted: 09/28/2020 06:00 PM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: September 28, 2020 Honorable members of Los Angeles City Council, I am writing regarding the renewal of Chinatown Business improvement district. I have been in Chinatown since 2001, I am an artist and Chinatown is my home and workplace, I have lived peacefully for many years, building relationships with my community and doing my best to be a good neighbor. In 2016, my partner and I were asked to be part of support system for Theo Henderson, who was being harassed by Chinatown BID. When we met Theo, he was a well respected member of the Chinatown community, a martial artist/instructor, and tutor; since then he has become a powerful voice for the unhoused community. Theo Henderson and his podcast, We the Unhoused, have garnered tremendous local, and even international support for his groundbreaking work. We began to see the harassment from BID very quickly, and were called upon to join other residents to advocate for Theo's safety regularly. We began to understand the violent and racist culture of the Chinatown BID was being cultivated by Executive Director, George Yu. Through our support for Theo, we've seen George Yu attempt to smear him in Chinatown BID Board of Directors meetings, I have witnessed BID red shirts stalk Theo around Chinatown, they also stop and question Black drivers and delivery workers for no reason, and I have even seen George Yu personally stalk a Black unhoused women, recording her with his phone from his car. Chinatown BID also targets long term residents. Last year, I asked a BID guard what he was doing near my senior neighbor's garden, he became hostile and followed me home and yelled at my partner and I, "now I know where you live!". After writing George Yu to ask the guard be removed from patrolling near our home, the guard's patrolling increased and now included intimidation tactics such as early morning wake ups from guards radio checks. My community also wrote to George on my behalf, George wrote back to one of my colleagues with a BID guard taken photo of me and tried to claim I was threatening them. Only after a failed attempted to have me arrested on a false charge of assault, (which George was present for, near my home, lurking with another BID board member) was the guard finally removed. As recently as last week, BID guards were again threatening my partner and me online, BID Captain William Martinez messaging me to come

outside, that guards were outside my door. This was in retaliation for fighting their renewal. The next morning a BID guard was outside my door recording me, and for a second time a false charge of battery and Chinatown BID calling the police to have me arrested. As a long term Chinatown resident, I have witnessed years of BID's failure to serve our residents and small businesses, I have seen it's harm toward our vulnerable neighbors. I am opposed to the renewal of Chinatown BID and appeal to you to hold a community predator accountable. Thank you for your consideration, Mario Correa

Communication from Public

Name: Noreen Ahmed

Date Submitted: 09/28/2020 06:18 PM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Good morning, I would like to express my concerns for the Greater Chinatown (Property-Based) Business Improvement District. As homelessness increases at the time of this pandemic, it is critical that we invest in organizations that are fostering greater collaboration and understanding between our city's housed and unhoused members. Mounting evidence demonstrates that the Chinatown BID is far from an ally to its community's most vulnerable individuals. To provide them greater stewardship, especially without any pressure to reform or be held accountable, is negligible. Any public servant that truly cares for the welfare of all its members will rethink providing legitimacy to this group. Thank you, Noreen Ahmed

Communication from Public

Name: Brittani Nichols

Date Submitted: 09/28/2020 06:48 PM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: City Council does need a reason to turn down BIDs and yet the community is still going to provide you many of them. If you choose to ignore them, you will continue the pro-gentrification, pro-developer, racist behavior that this council enjoys so much. BIDs do not serve communities, they endanger them and give rise to more of the backroom deals that plague our corrupt local government. We should abolish all BIDs but there's a history of this particular BID enacting violence on well-known community members. It's led by a racist, classist, crook that harasses unhoused and low-income people. This city is not a playground for the well-off and you need to stop taking actions that allow this delusion to continue. Grow a spine and don't renew the Chinatown BID.

Communication from Public

Name: Selena

Date Submitted: 09/28/2020 08:50 PM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: As a longtime resident of Los Angeles who has already been displaced once due to development and gentrification, I urge the City Council to place residents over private business interests and vote NO on renewing the BID in Chinatown.

Communication from Public

Name: Wilson

Date Submitted: 09/28/2020 09:51 PM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Chinatown BID is necessary in our community so it can continue to stay safe and clean. The bike patrol guys help our community be a little more safe than other communities i have visited. These guys are here day and night patrolling, being the eyes and ears for the police department. I have witnessed these guys get trash talk and even assaulted for helping the community members and business owners. The cleaning team is also a great asset to our community. If they are gone who will clean the streets, who will pick up the trash, who will remove the graffiti and keep our community looking nice. A community like chinatown needs a BID. If you don't agree or like BIDs I respectfully suggest you move out to a community that does not have a BID. My family and my business supports the Chinatown BID and stands behind them.

Communication from Public

Name: Valerie Albicker

Date Submitted: 09/28/2020 10:23 PM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council Members, I am a public school teacher who supports Chinatown small businesses and community. I urge you to not renew Chinatown BID contract. I support the local businesses and have seen how BID interacts with community. If you ever visit Chinatown, you will see BID harass low-income, elderly, and other community members. BID presence does not ensure safety if members of the community feel targeted and harassed. BID serves to protect property owners, not actual people in the community. Please end Chinatown BID contract. Thank you for serving community and people first.