

Communication from Public

Name: Pauletta Pierce

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 09:16 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Good Moring, My name is Pauletta Pierce and I am the daughter and granddaughter of immigrants who come from China. I am not only a resident of Chinatown, but I was also born at the French Hospital. I am submitting some of my concerns and observations from the past couple of years with Chinatown's BID in the following: + I am very concerned the Yu hadn't submitted required public records in a timely fashion and appear in court in a timely fashion, which resulted in a warrant for his arrest. This is a huge "Red Flag"! It would appear that there's a lack of transparency in his business dealing that suggest unethical. + Chinatown no longer has any grocery stores due to "Profit over People" approach that the BID clearly demonstrated. It is so obvious that Chinatown BID favorable selected businesses that they will hold a special interest with. During the beginning of the pandemic, it would was a struggle for our residents and especially our elderly to manage basic necessities without a grocery store. + I have continuously watched the BID bike personal conduct themselves in a very disrespectful, inhumane, unprofessional and ill fashion towards the mentally ill, unhoused people. There is no place for this kind of behavior. It's unacceptable!

Communication from Public

Name: Peter

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 09:26 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I live on College Street and I appreciate the BID's patrol and their services such as removing the frequent graffiti from my neighborhood.

Communication from Public

Name: Janis
Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 09:29 AM
Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: As a neighbor to Chinatown who cares deeply about the community, I do not support renewal of the Chinatown BID. After countless hours of outreach and conversations with legacy small business owners and community members, it is clear that the BID only furthers the sadistic, racist, and classist interests of George Yu and causes great harm to folks who have been in Chinatown for multiple decades. These harms include harassment of unhoused/low-income/elderly/disabled community members, rapid gentrification and its accompanying displacement, and inequitable voting structures. The narratives of community members have demonstrated that the BID has done nothing positive for the Chinatown community and does not deserve to be sustained through a multi-million dollar budget that unfairly burdens already struggling small business owners through an unnecessary property tax. The BID claims that it helps community members feel more safe and secure. Why then, have countless small business owners/employees expressed that the BID security arrived late when there was an emergency in their store and then proceeded to tell these small business owners/employees to call the cops instead because the BID had no power to do anything about the emergency? Why then, are there photos and video evidence of BID security roughly seizing elderly community members or even hitting community members with sticks? The BID claims that it is improving Chinatown. For who? The white hipsters that see Chinatown as a weekend playground where they can wait for 3 hrs to eat Howlin' Rays and then drive back to their Silverlake condos? The Chinatown community has lost 33 small business owners since the BID was instated 10 years ago, and this trend is only continuing during the pandemic because the BID has been doing nothing to support folks who have been essential to the fabric of Chinatown for decades. The majority of small business owners I have conversed with had no idea that the BID existed beyond the "red shirt" security guards and have never felt that the BID has supported their businesses through the "marketing and beautifying" that it purports to do. The BID claims that it is desired by the community. Why then, is it only being sustained by unjust and illegitimate voting practices, such as George Yu sending out petitions and ballots late and asking for intervention from City Council when he does not meet deadlines

and only receives 24% of property owners' support when he's supposed to get 50? Taking into account all of the points that I have made above, I hope that it is clear to you that the BID is not here for the community and needs to be abolished.

Communication from Public

Name: Craig Wong

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 09:36 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: As a member of the Chinatown community, I oppose the re-certification of the BID. The BID does not represent the interests of the small shopkeepers and residents of Chinatown. The security officers they hire terrorize the residents and shopkeepers of Chinatown. They are abusive and oppressive. We don't want to live with this kind of terrible organization in our midst. There have been enough complaints about the Chinatown BID submitted to the city council. If the city council allows the BID to continue, you will own this problem.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 09:43 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Hello! I am a resident of Chinatown and am writing to express my concern regarding the actions of BID in my neighborhood. I have witnessed multiple interactions where they have unnecessarily escalated situations with other residents and homeless people. The BID employees are large men and they need to be taught deescalation and conflict resolution techniques (for their lives in general). This is no place for them to act out microaggressions. This is our community, and we should feel safe here. It is certainly not making me feel safe to have them "patrolling" the streets around me after witnessing these behaviors. I would like to emphasize this- BID does not have the people that live in Chinatown's best interest in mind. They do not make me feel safe, and I ask that their contract not be renewed. At the very least there needs to be deescalation training. Thank you for your consideration.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 09:48 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Chinatown BiD and City Council, specifically Gil Cedillo, want to save the Chinatown BiD even though the BiD missed the deadline for renewal which expired this year. Really, that should be the end of it since the BiD is determined by stakeholders and their vote. And apparently, the vote is in. What does the Chinatown BiD do exactly with all the money, apart from keeping the lanterns on? Washing graffiti, collecting the trash, and even policing the community should be paid by the City, specifically CD 1, Gil Cedillo. Where exactly does the Chinatown BiD money given by stakeholders go?

Communication from Public

Name: Jesús de Francisco

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 09:50 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I am a member of the Chinatown community — I work in a leased office at Mandarin Plaza — and I strongly oppose re-establishing the Chinatown Business Improvement District. I believe the BID, and particularly its Executive Director George Yu, are detrimental to the Chinatown community and to the people at large. We can do better! Sincerely, Jesús de Francisco

Communication from Public

Name: Zen Sekizawa

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 09:54 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: September 29, 2020 Honorable members of Los Angeles City Council, I am writing in opposition of the renewal of Chinatown Business improvement district. I have been a resident and small business owner in Chinatown since 2016. In the past I have called BID for street clean up and was told that we are on private property but yet they are able to harass and threaten me on this very same property? I have also tried to call BID for late night gathering of drunk people in Chung King Court. I was told by Officer Lomeli “that he wasn’t going to risk his life” and he hung up on me. Since then I have witnessed on numerous occasions BID officers racially profiling and harassing visitors, the mentally ill, elderly residents and unhoused community members. I have also been threatened in my own home and workplace by the BID on two separate and documented occasions. As recently as 9/19/2020 BID Captain William Martinez threatened my partner and I with an online post that BID was outside out door and to come out. BID is not keeping this community safe or clean. We have filed complaints with George Yu / BID, Gill Cedillo, AUS security and LAPD and will continue to do so. The ignorant, racist and violent escalation tactics by BID “officers” is a culture that is perpetuated by the fragile psyche of George Yu. Thank you, Zen Sekizawa

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 10:00 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable Los Angeles City Council Members please be aware that not all comments/complaints on this platform are true to its entirety. Please know that BID OFFICERS ARE NO THREAT to the community. These young men are simply doing their job. They respond to resident and business owners calls. The fact that residents like Mario Correa wants to smear these young men's name is baffling. Residents and business owners are the ones who put in the calls when they witness theft, trespassing or loitering and the BID OFFICERS are to assist and handle those calls. and for that they are being Racist or harassing the unhoused? if Anything there is an social media account @ccedla that is using incidents that aren't even the whole story and portraying these Officers to being monsters. What Mario Correa and the CCEDLA is doing with their social media account is inappropriate and dangerous. by creating such content they are putting these young mens life in danger by spreading lies and hate towards them, making them a target. In Mario Correas public comment he wrote "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 outside, that guards were outside my door. This was in retaliation for fighting their renewal. " this was by no means in retaliation to fighting renewal. this was sarcasm in response to a sarcastic comment his wife put on a social media thread. attached is a photo of that thread.

Communication from Public

Name: Bo Ying Xue

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 10:02 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: If BID was to prove its existence worthwhile, the pandemic would have been the time. Chinatown businesses were struggling, and BID did nothing except post on Instagram a few select businesses they always promote. There was no outreach, despite having a full time staff and a bloated budget. Most businesses don't know what the BID is besides security that doesn't show up in time to prevent any crime. So despite their name, no businesses were improved. They are doubly useless. Not only did they fail Chinatown businesses, they were elected by a sham process through Cedillo's intervention. Ballots did not reach the threshold to re-elect BID on time, so why are we having this conversation? They should be gone. They are unaccountable and completely out of step with the community that they are in. George Yu had a warrant for his arrest and runs the entire endeavor. Cedillo is in cahoots with him. The whole thing is disgusting and corrupt. Those involved should distance themselves quickly from this disgusting organization if they have any self respect and sense of their humanity. Truly a disgusting place. The BID security guards are perhaps the final straw, a secondary police force on bikes and motorized tricycles riding around harassing homeless people and residents alike. We don't need BID in our communities.

Communication from Public

Name: Jennifer

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 10:05 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Chinatown absolutely does NOT need BID! George Yu is corrupt and a horrible man. I am a property owner in Chinatown and I oppose this BID! All they do is harass regular people like me and my family. Please protect Chinatown citizens and don't renew this horrible failed project!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 10:18 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: The Chinatown Business Improvement District has been harassing unhoused people for years. The Chinatown Business Improvement District (BID), headed by George Yu, contracts “security” personnel equipped with tasers and batons. In the past few years, the BID has specifically targeted Theo Henderson, a local community activist and host of the We The Unhoused podcast. They stalked and harassed him repeatedly-- a deep example of anti-Black racism in the community. The BID has chased out local musicians in the community, terrorized local street vendors, and harassed Yue Wa Market, the last remaining grocery store in Chinatown, by calling the City of Los Angeles to ticket them. Yu had an arrest warrant out for him earlier this year for refusing to provide public records and appear before court. He called the electrocution death of an unhoused person in Westlake "Natural Selection" This man is dangerous and the BID is harming the Chinatown community. It should NOT be renewed.

Communication from Public

Name: Concerned citizen

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 10:26 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: The director of BID seems to be operating as a mob boss, terrorizing the people he supposedly serves with the help of the LAPD. His ongoing harrassment of Theo Henderson should be concerning to all of us. It seems there are people that think that just because you don't like someone personally you can sick the lapd on them to terrorize them. Thats how Black people get killed. Yu is not a small mom and pop business and not sure if he's even a resident but he's a property owner. He controls the rent of the mom and pop businesses. Please dissolve the Chinatown BID as it's currently organized.

Communication from Public

Name: Connie Vuong

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 10:26 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, My name is Connie Vuong and I am writing to support the Chinatown BID renewal. I've worked in Chinatown in last 5 years and have witnessed first hand what the BID has done with the Community. Please see listed reasons: 1) BID supports local businesses with marketing efforts and events and increasing visibility of Chinatown and Chinatown's merchants. 2) BID's contracted security "Red Shirts" provide much needed services on a day to day basis. They have stopped crimes in progress (both property crimes like theft and vandalism, as well as violent crimes like rape) and assisted LAPD with solving cases to apprehend suspects. Red Shirts have located lost dogs, assisted with missing persons, and is the fastest and quickest to respond in the community. 3) BID is responsible for a cleaner and more enjoyable Chinatown for our residents, our businesses, and our visitors by providing street cleaning, sidewalk washing, graffiti cleanup and trash pick up. In addition, BID maintains Chinatown's iconic orchid trees which bloom beautifully every spring. 4) BID provides critical language and translation services to liaison and advocate for Chinatown's merchants and residents between community stakeholders and city government. Please vote yes for Chinatown BID Renewal. Thank you very much!

Communication from Public

Name: Victoria

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 10:32 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Chinatown BID. In the renewal process and in the past years, there has been no transparency and no accountability of George Yu or the BID. The BID exists to fuel the goals of developers with no thought to legacy businesses, current residents, or stakeholders who have put years of time and effort into sustaining the community and culture of Chinatown. There is also no accountability for the private security force employed by the BID who harass street vendors, homeless folks, and anyone who looks "out of place" by their arbitrary definition. I urge you to vote no on the Chinatown BID. At the very least, there must be an audit of the work that they do since the BID and its leadership has expressed no interest in working with the community outside of developers and who speak about resident concerns with disdain and mockery. I've attached a news story that illustrates how George Yu has not been held accountable for his work in Chinatown and DTLA at large.



LOS ANGELES

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Warrant issued for head of Chinatown business improvement district

The courts have ordered him to turn over records sought by city watchdogs

By **Jenna Chandler** | @jennakchandler | Feb 5, 2020, 5:08pm PST



Far East Plaza in Chinatown. | Kwasi Boyd-Bouldin

A bench warrant was issued this morning in Los Angeles County Superior Court for George Yu—a real estate manager credited with the “revitalization” of Chinatown—for failing to produce documents two city watchdogs claim could prove he and other business owners were trying to stop the formation of a neighborhood council in Skid Row.

In addition to managing leases at Chinatown’s Far East Plaza, home to wildly popular restaurants like Howlin’ Ray’s, Yu is the longtime executive director of the Greater Chinatown Business Improvement District. He was ordered to turn over BID email records related to Skid Row under California’s open records law, but has yet to produce them.

Today, Yu was found in contempt. If he's arrested, he will be held on \$5,000 bail.

Reached by phone, Yu declined to comment publicly.

In 2017, residents, property owners, “community interest stakeholders,” and people who worked in the area bounded by Main, Alameda, Third, and Seventh streets voted down a proposal to form an official neighborhood council that would have represented the interests of Skid Row residents.

In August, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff ordered the Chinatown BID to respond to a request by blogger and activist Adrian Riskin and Skid Row area resident Katherine McNenny, who are trying to shed light on how various downtown BIDs worked to oppose the formation of that neighborhood council.

Riskin and McNenny have argued in favor of the neighborhood council, saying it would have given low-income and homeless residents who are “otherwise alienated” from the city’s formal power structure more influence in city decisions about how their neighborhood develops.

Records that Riskin has obtained from other BIDs operating in the Downtown Los Angeles area suggest that the Chinatown BID “may have been among those BIDs participating in the effort” to block the formation of a Skid Row Neighborhood Council, at least in part because they feared it could “depress property values.”

In a response to a separate public records request, Riskin received copies of an April 3, 2017 email thread among Downtown business owners, developers, land-use consultants, and lobbyists—including Yu and Tom Gilmore and executives who work for Atlas Capital and Elizabeth Peterson Group, Inc.—in which a property management company employee said she would have security officers at a polling station on Third Street in Little Tokyo validate parking for people who voted “no” in the Skid Row election.

Business improvement districts are privately run but have large influence over public spaces. Funded by fees paid by property owners, they typically hire cleanup and security crews to monitor streets and sidewalks, in addition to promoting businesses.

In 2018, researchers from UC Berkeley Public Law published a report assailing BIDs as anti-homeless. The researchers say they “found evidence that BIDs develop security

programs and promote practices that identify, target, and monitor specific homeless individuals” and “seek to enact, maintain, and strengthen laws that criminalize activity like sitting, resting, sleeping, panhandling, and food sharing in public spaces.”

Riskin and McNenny went to court after filing multiple records requests to the Chinatown BID in 2017 and 2018 under California’s Public Record Act that they say were ignored. They have argued in court that the state’s public records law “is one of the only tools the public possess for transparency and accountability over” business improvement districts.

“Public access to records... sheds light on the BID’s political activity and its operation outside the public eye,” Riskin and McNenny wrote in their petition.

The judge granted their request because the BID never submitted any opposition in court or “otherwise justified withholding” the records that Riskin and McNenny had requested, court records show.

“There were various hearings held at which Yu or another representative from the Chinatown BID could have appeared to contest or weigh in on the process, but they failed to ever appear in the court, not even one time,” says attorney Abenicio Cisneros, who represents Riskin and McNenny and specializes in public records law.

Communication from Public

Name: Aaron

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 10:39 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: This BID would be undemocratic and hostile to unhoused populations. George Yu of the Chinatown BID was hoping to have homeless people killed via "natural selection."
<https://michaelkohlhaas.org/wp/2020/09/02/chinatown-business-improvement-district-chief-george-yu-calls-self-electrocution-of-homeless-people-natural-selection-yu-told-lapd-officer-stephen-nichols-not-to-repair-dangerously-alter/> Do not empower these sociopaths.

Communication from Public

Name: Diane M. L. Tan

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 10:51 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I am a longtime community advocate who supports and promotes the saving and protection of the historic cultural neighborhood of Los Angeles Chinatown. I am a volunteer in various community and professional organizations, such as Chinatown Sustainability Dialogue Group (CSDG), Chinatown Community for Equitable Development (CCED), OCA-Greater Los Angeles, Multicultural Bar Alliance (MCBA), and many others. For around 150 or more years, L.A. Chinatown has served as an important, essential and special place to live, work or visit for immigrants, their families, and friends, and numerous others. It also is a well-known tourist destination in L.A. The community primarily consists of low-income seniors and working-class families and individuals who are mostly renters, local ethnically-owned small businesses, and other entities. In order to save and protect L.A. Chinatown, from extinction as a historic cultural neighborhood due to gentrification and displacement of residential and small business tenants, Chinatown (Property-Based) Business Improvement District (Chinatown BID) should not be established or actually reestablished. Chinatown BID has strongly advocated and condoned the influx of new market-rate developments and businesses for the wealthy that are seriously hurting the renters by causing rents to increase to unaffordable amounts, evictions, displacement, and contributing to the homeless crisis and economic decline in the community. Chinatown BID has not shown by their words or actions that they truly care about preserving and protecting the historic and cultural character and legacy of Chinatown or supporting the community's residents and small businesses, especially during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Chinatown BID is well-known for their lack of transparency and consideration of community voices, political maneuvering, and bully and hostile tactics. Instead of protecting and serving the community, Chinatown BID's security has been used to intimidate and harass small business owners, residents, street vendors and musicians, the unhoused, and others. Chinatown BID was created with the mission to improve L.A. Chinatown. They have failed to adhere to their mission by actually improving the community for all of the residents and small businesses. Chinatown BID has contributed to the creation a food desert in Chinatown by failing to ensure that there are

markets that serve the community and not supporting the continued existence of a full-service market in the community, such as Ai Hoa Market, which had served Chinatown for over 30 years, and various small markets. The changes that Chinatown BID wants for Chinatown are not the types of changes that the community wants, but of the special interests of speculators and the wealthy. Chinatown urgently needs and wants more affordable housing, open green spaces, support of local small businesses, reduction of air pollution and traffic, facilities that serve needs of the community, free or low-cost parking, and efforts to preserve and protect Chinatown's important and unique culture and history. During Chinatown BID's existence of about two decades, they have not demonstrated that they truly care or support the health, safety or welfare of the community's low-income residents, who are primarily immigrants of Asian and Latinx ancestry and in need of bilingual language assistance, or the local ethnically-owned small businesses. Now also is the time to eliminate systemic racism. Chinatown BID's personnel have frequently engaged in conduct that is racist, discriminatory and unjust, especially toward low-income or unhoused people of color. Based upon these reasons and numerous other important reasons, the motion to establish the Greater Chinatown (Property-Based) Business Improvement District must be DENIED.

Communication from Public

Name: Clare Kelly

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 11:03 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, thanks for reading my comment. I am writing to urge you not to renew Chinatown's BID contract. Their employees have repeatedly harassed my tax paying friends and former work colleagues who live in a live/work studio in Chinatown. The BID employees are not properly trained to interact with the public and act with bullying tactics towards Chinatown residents. I believe they should have more stringent hiring practices when hiring these officers, who have more responsibility and interaction with the public than the type of "mall cops" that they act like. The BID officers even continued their harassment online after my friends posted on Instagram about how they had a bad experience with BID officers. The BID officers left sexist comments about my friend and his longtime girlfriend On their instagram post, trying to bully him and make him feel bad about his masculinity because his girlfriend defended him, and bullying him about not being a "real latino" because he is speaking up about their bullying tactics and his dislike of BID as an organization and he happens to be latino, like the BID officers. In short, these are non-responsible, un-empathetic people who have been given too much power for their level of maturity and don't deserve to keep their jobs serving the public in the neighborhood they've been hired to work in. My friends Zen and Mario are two of the kindest, hardworking people I've ever known in my 15 years living in LA. They love our city and they love Chinatown. They are both involved with LA community groups trying to preserve heritage and make the city better. They don't deserve this kind of harassment at their front door, where they live and work. BID is way too immature to be serving the public.

Communication from Public

Name: Xiayi Zhang

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 11:20 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I have lived in Chinatown for over ten years. I have two young children. I support the BID and the Red Shirt patrols who keep our community safe and clean.

Communication from Public

Name: Frances Huynh

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 11:20 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I'm in opposition of establishing the Chinatown Business Improvement District. Abolish the BID. Anyone who speaks in favor of BID does not represent Chinatown, and does not care about collective well-being of working class people. George Yu and BID is extremely racist and classist. They are unapologetically anti-poor, anti-black, anti-homeless. Him and his security HARASS low income tenants, small biz, street vendors, and homeless residents. BID doesn't keep Chinatown safe, it makes residents fearful in the very place they've been calling home for years. George Yu has directly threatened to hurt and kill people. Alongside other developers who sit on the BIDs board of directors, George Yu consistently gives Councilmember Cedillo money EVERY YEAR. I wonder why. Cedillo, are you really going to continue accepting money from predatory developers and a racist/classist hungry power man and supporting the BID? A 2018 UC Berkeley study found that BIDs across California use the funding they generate from property assessment revenue to deploy private security forces and advocate for laws that criminalize homelessness. They are not accountable to anyone but those with wealth. It's obvious that both BID and the city are serving the interests of developers who are trying to gentrify our working class communities and building market rate developments while violently displacing tenants. BID IS TRASH. ABOLISH BID.

Communication from Public

Name: Dafne Gokcen

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 11:21 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I called in this morning and patiently sat through an hour of public comments, many of which contained profanities and ad hominem attacks that should not have been allowed to continue. I had requested to give public comment by pushing *9 but my number was never called and I was removed from the meeting before there was a vote. This obstruction of my right to make comments is unacceptable, and I would like the Council to review the process moving forward. Perhaps there could be a last call for public comments prior to closing the public comment session so that the host could see if there are speakers who were never called. On the item, I would like to express my support for the Chinatown BID. As a resident for over seven years and homeowner in the area, the Chinatown BID is an important part of my community. They provide security above and beyond what LAPD is able to offer, as well as community clean-up and graffiti removal. Our neighborhood is in close proximity to skid row as well as jails and prisons. Homelessness and crime are unfortunately a part of our life. However, the BIDs of downtown and surrounding areas are essential for making city life safer and more comfortable. You had the opportunity to hear from small business owners in the community about how important the BID is to them. For residents, the BID makes it safe to walk around in our community. This is especially important in an area with as many seniors and vulnerable residents as Chinatown. If there are internal issues within the BID that need to be addressed, there are better ways to address them than to abolish the entire BID. Please do not take away this crucial part of our neighborhood because a few people don't like the Executive Director. The people who work at the BID are members of our community and those of us who live, work, own businesses, or own property in the area would like the BID to continue to do its important work.

Communication from Public

Name: joanna

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 11:23 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Does anyone here find it weird that a bunch of property owners who don't even live in the area are the ones making decisions for Chinatown communities? That people like Jenni Harris, a New Yorker transplant and employee of Atlas Capital, are the ones deciding priorities for a working-class area of LA? How deeply ironic, that DTLA NIMBY groups call out grassroots organizers for being out of area, when the majority of these folks are recent transplants themselves. Call me an outsider, when the first interaction with BID i had was in downtown when an unhoused neighbor had his belongings and shelter doused in kerosene by an Arts District BID security guard. How many of these NIMBYs have been out on the street, distributing PPE and water, as grassroots organizers have been doing? Gil Cedillo likes to show he's from peoples college of law, that he's for the people; while he makes backdoor deals with hotel and BID lobbyists. Instead of making more meetings with corrupt lobbyists like Morrie Goldman who took a plea deal for his role in Huizar corruption (who Yu also hires), this is your chance. to prove you care. to provide better alternatives than BID for community health and safety. this is your opportunity to show the wealthy backers you've all had backroom meetings with that, actually, their position is unpopular, their position is out of touch, their position is quite literally MURDEROUS. Please keep the phrase "Black Lives Matter" out of your mouth as long as you still move to renew this BID after over a year of meetings and demands from community members. You know all about the violence against a Black unhoused resident, the coordinated police harassment brought upon this community member by George Yu and LAPD. The lack of support for residents targeted by racist harassment is a glaring indictment of your complacency when it comes to injustice in your own city. You care about Kenosha? About Louisville? Then care about Los Angeles too. And for the businesses and NIMBYs who hand-wring about "release of inmates" and rampant mental illness, DO SOMETHING OTHER THAN CALL THE COPS. Nonconsensual restraint is one of the most harmful and traumatizing strategies for dealing with mental health crisis. If you care about this, work on Community Alternatives to 9-11 in your community. Offer free water and masks. Cultivate trust and solidarity with your unhoused neighbors rather than cultivating

fear and suspicion of every poor person in your neighborhood. FUCK Little Jewel and Homeboy Industries for backing the same broken carceral system that's resulted in so much harm and pain. Chinatown BID is not only murderously targeting the unhoused residents, but also its working class food providers and service workers. In 2019, Chinatown lost 3 full service grocery stores thanks to the BID--I listened in BID meetings where they conspired around pushing affordable markets out. Where is BID on the hottest day of the year? When toxic air events last a week, putting many constituents in great danger? Yue Ma, a small grocery store, was targeted by BID during COVID-19, ticketed in 2020 for setting up outdoor tables to accommodate social distancing. Much like LAPD, the BID is an institution with direct ties to white supremacy, vigilanteism, racialized banishment. I watch street vendors experience the same treatment as my unhoused neighbors, pushed out of their own damn communities for a "cleanup" of the neighborhood. In Hollywood, BID officers previously dressed illegally as police officers, and made 2682 illegal kidnappings of people like ice cream vendors for quality of life infractions. In downtown, Estela Lopez, director of the Toy and Downtown Industrial BIDs, thinks drug use is a criminal problem and not a healthcare issue. These people have no place anywhere near vulnerable constituents who need addiction support and access to harm reduction supplies. Imagine moving to what is a majority-Black, recovery community Lopez on her "Taking Back the Streets of Skid Row neighborhood watch kickoff: "we marched to show that drug activity and the criminal element that it attracts to the area will no longer be tolerated." And if supplications to your compassion and humanity aren't enough, consider the budgetary waste: Hollywood BID spent as much arresting 103 people than when they arrested 1050. You also REALLY need to stop policing what is subjectively "on topic," cutting off public commenters making good faith comments while you let gadflies use slurs and ableist comments.

From: George Yu <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, November 17, 2018 1:36 PM
To: Bryson Reaume
Cc: Peter Kim; Valente, Alexander @ Los Angeles; Andersen, Jim @ South Bay; Scott W. Lee; Martin V. Lee; Bob Kunz
Subject: Re: Llewellyn Street posted for clean up

Yu accused of assault by an unhoused "female."

I have requested CD1 to request Posting and Clean Up on Llewellyn and 1400 block of Naud St.

Been on Naud for more than 2 hours today. Viertel's Tow just Removed stolen Scooter which was buried under mountain of crap. which was not reported stolen.

Already been accused of assault by nice female relocated from Alhambra Avenue.

The battle continues.

Communication from Public

Name: Tim

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 11:26 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: As a long time community member of 26 years here in Chinatown, I am firmly against the renewal of the Chinatown Business Improvement District. In my day-to-day, I often walk around Chinatown documenting the ongoing changes and displacement that occur around my hometown due to willful obfuscation and thoughtlessness from property owners like George Yu who are solely concerned with profit and the optics of community development and safety more than they are actually concerned with understanding how community safety, support and prosperity can actually happen with the community itself. It is hard to imagine how care and safety come into play when the daily interactions with the Chinatown BID often result in overbearing harassment of community members, especially to our elders. Chinatown BID does not improve our community. Instead, it serves to pool resources that come from within and disperse it outwards to surveillance forces that do not live in Chinatown and business owners that largely neglect to fiscally give back to the community in which their operations take place. One of the first steps in practicing substantial care for long-standing communities like Chinatown would be to do away with resource hungry entities like BID. I urge you to consider how an over concern with appearances over substance and nourishment create groups like BID in the first place.

Communication from Public

Name: Peter Cheong

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 11:27 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I work in Chinatown and live in Chinatown. The BID makes the community safer. The pharmacy where I work has received the Red Shirt Patrol's assistance on many occasions.

Communication from Public

Name: Garrett Quon

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 11:31 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Garrett Quon a 4th generation business owner and Board member and officer of the Los Angeles Chinatown Corporation. I am in support of the Chinatown Business Improvement District. The BID coordinates events such as Chinatown Summer Nights, and The Moon Festival that bring an enormous amount of people into the district. This is a huge source of income that can truly make or break a year for us. The security guards have knowledge of Chinatown that LAPD does not have allowing them to have interactions with the community that LAPD does not have. Graffiti is all cleaned up within a day and which keeps the community looking great. The BID is needed to keep the community looking great.

Communication from Public

Name: Meghan Urisko

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 11:50 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I live in Gil Cedillo's district. I urge him and all of you to end BID. These are racist groups working to turn all of our neighborhoods into playgrounds for rich, white, young people. Instead of making developers rich, focus on building neighborhoods that help long-term residents and families thrive. LA should be a city for everyone, not just super rich kids content to live in a tiny studio and never have a family and drive everywhere. End BID and end this vision of the city.

Communication from Public

Name: Anna

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 01:22 PM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: ABOLISH BID. GEORGE YU WANTS UNHOUSED FOLKS DEAD AND WONT FIX STREET LIGHTS IN HOPES OF GETTING THEM ELECTROCUTED. I REMEMBER WHO I AM PUBLISHING THIS COMMENT TO AND YOUR TRICKS WONT PLAY US ANYMORE. YOU ARE UP FOR RE ELECTION AND YOUR POLITICAL CAREERS ARE OVER IF YOU DO NOT TAKE ACTION ON THIS ITEM. AMONG OTHER THINGS. TRUST WE WILL FUCK YOU UP THE SAME WAY YOU FUCK US UP WHAT LAWS COULD GOVERN US WHEN THERE ARENT ANY IN PLACE TO PROTECT US? I KNOW THIS IS SIMPLY A BUSINESS VENTURE TO YOU BUT NOT ALL OF US WANT TO PLAY NICE AND FAIR AND WAIT TILL YOUR RE ELECTION. DO SOMETHING ABOUT BID AND GEORGE YU OR WE WILL DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOU.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 12:14 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: The Chinatown BID is an antagonistic force in the Chinatown community, and serves the interests of the upper-class developers on its Board of Directors rather than the low-income immigrant people of color who live and work in the area. Rather than building up the mom and pop businesses that have been there for decades and have established themselves as staples of the community, the BID contributes to gentrification by pushing out the existing residents and business owners. Just earlier this year, The Shop shopping center was forced out of their space and dozens of immigrant-owned businesses had to relocate to other sites in Chinatown, or change location to San Gabriel Valley, or retire completely. The Chinatown BID does not uplift its businesses unless they are considered "hip" or "trendy". Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, they have not even done anything to support the community through the anti-Chinese racism and loss of customers. The Executive Director, George Yu, is openly hostile to businesses he views as undesirable and to vulnerable members of the community, such as houseless folks. He excludes members of the local community from meetings that should be open to the public, and has been running an incompetent and harmful organization. Please do NOT renew the Chinatown BID, as they have harmed a historic neighborhood that is home to a Los Angeles community that is built and run by people of color, immigrants, seniors, and families. If the BID is allowed to continue on, it will only do further damage to the people of Chinatown.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 12:23 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: We do not support this racist, incompetent organization in Chinatown. The Chinatown BID does not support mom and pop businesses, contributes to a neighborhood of gentrification and displacement, and harasses the local community. Just the other week, members of its organization were bullying and threatening folks on social media who dared to call them out for being racist and violent. This is an organization that serves its own interests, rather than the best interests of the local community. LA's Chinatown has changed drastically since its inception and it's time for Chinatown BID to go.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 01:40 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: As someone who goes to Chinatown often, I strongly oppose the Chinatown Business Improvement District because it is harmful to the Chinatown community. The BID does not care about the residents and small business of Chinatown -- instead, it actively harasses community members for simply existing on public streets and accelerates gentrification in the neighborhood. We do not want luxury (price-gouged) housing and increased policing that makes residents feel unsafe -- Chinatown needs support for existing family-owned small businesses and actual affordable housing. BID has done almost nothing for small businesses during the pandemic, and prefers to support property managers who evict and displace small businesses and residents during a pandemic instead of community members who have lived in the neighborhood for decades and are struggling to get by. George Yu, the BID president, has said that customers of an immigrant-owned restaurant in Chinatown are "dirty," and that wiring for streetlights should remain unfixed so that unhoused people will be electrocuted by "natural selection." These comments are unacceptable from anyone, and especially for someone in a leadership position for a supposedly public community organization. Not only is the BID cruel, but it is incompetent as well. BID refuses to make meetings open or accessible for community members despite labeling itself as public. After refusal to release public records about BID, George Yu would not even appear in court twice when summoned, and LA County Superior Court issued a warrant for his arrest. BID was unable to get the required amount of property owner petitions by the 2020 deadline to continue the BID for the next 5 years -- Chinatown itself does not support BID. Even events that are meant to "support" Chinatown like Chinatown Summer Nights are unhelpful and actually harmful because BID chose to only bring in outside restaurants for the event instead of existing, long-standing restaurants in Chinatown. There is more, but the bottom line is that BID and George Yu only support gentrification of Chinatown and harassment and displacement of community members it considers "undesirable." BID must be abolished and community organizations should actually help existing businesses and residents of Chinatown, not drive them out.

Communication from Public

Name: TL

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 01:52 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: The Chinatown BID does not adequately represent the interests of all members of the Chinatown community. Business owners who have been in the community for decades have been hurt by the BID's focus on bringing upscale businesses and housing into Chinatown. Furthermore, community members have been harassed by BID security officers and have been made to feel unwelcome in their own home community. This is unacceptable and not the right solution for the Chinatown community. Thus, I am opposed to the renewal of the Chinatown BID.

Communication from Public

Name: Milly

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 02:46 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: The Chinatown BID does not serve the community. There are multiple and numerous instances of racism, harassment and incompetency, physical violence, inflicted on community members by the BID. George Yu has demonstrated a deep disrespect for the legacy community that has lived in Chinatown for generations and supported each other, rather than relied on a violent, unaccountable private security force that only has allegiance to one group of people -- gentrifiers and the wealthy. Even the people who serve on the BID board don't represent the longtime working class community, but represent groups like Atlas Capital who are trying to build a 700 unit luxury building with NO AFFORDABLE HOUSING. The BID is fueled by so much money and corruption--its time to say no and take a stand against a group as violent as the BID.

Communication from Public

Name: Sophat Phea

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 03:01 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, I live in Chinatown for over 30 years and my mom has a small shop in Chinatown. I do not support the renewal of BID. BID has failed the community even with the large amount of funds taken. CCBA has shared “33 business owners from the original 414 ten years ago, which meant the business has not been thriving.” What’s worst is this entity is lead by the most hated in Chinatown, George Yu. He partners up with developers who are also on the BID board to continue gentrifying Chinatown even further. They obviously do not care for the older small businesses in Chinatown like they do for the newer hip businesses they brought in. Where are they this year when we’ve been in a pandemic for 7 months and how have they supported the small businesses that are suffering severely at this time? At their meetings, they focus on new businesses and doesn’t include supporting the older small businesses. This should’ve been the time they stepped up, yet we’ve faced more disappointments. The BID securities are also a joke. They’re lazy, bullies, and are pretty much useless. It’s time to finally admit that BID does not work for Chinatown and they got to.

Communication from Public

Name: Thomas

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 04:22 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I am urging the City Council to vote NO to renewal/establishment of the Chinatown BID. It has been multiple years since the formation and introduction of the Chinatown Business “Improvement” District. I have lived in Chinatown for 56 years. My family and those just like mine have been paying this tax for several years to no avail. I have lived here for over half a century and the efforts implemented by BID have worsened our community. In addition to families being evicted, small businesses that are vital to the community are forced out. Many places that the BID characterized as part of their “benefit zones” do not even generate revenue, but are simply smaller property owners. My home was demarcated as a part of the benefit zones, despite being a single family home that I do not generate or collect revenue from. Many families just like mine and small businesses are forced to subsidize plans from already-wealthy investors. Those who benefit are outside investors who have no stakes or long family histories in Chinatown. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Wei

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 07:22 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I do NOT support Business Improvement District. They are a biased and mismanaged organization and have done nothing to aid neighbors during this trying pandemic! We must have more organizations whose priority is PEOPLE. Abolish BID. We do not want them in our community.

Communication from Public

Name: Tiffany Le

Date Submitted: 09/29/2020 08:50 AM

Council File No: 12-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Please get rid of the Chinatown BID! They don't do anything positive for the community - in fact, they routinely harass low-income residents and perpetuate gentrification!