



Seattle Chinatown International District Public Safety Council 2018 Annual Report

By the Community Members of the
Chinatown International District Public Safety Council

Published September 2018

In the months following the devastating loss of Donnie Chin, community members in the CID called on the City of Seattle to invest in the safety of the CID and find justice for Donnie's murder. In response, Mayor Ed Murray convened the CID Public Safety Task Force in 2015. That Task Force was composed of CID business owners, nonprofit leaders, residents, community stakeholders, and an inter-departmental collection of City staffers. After months of work, this group released the CID Public Safety Task Force Report in June 2016, which included a set of recommendations to improve the perceptions and realities of public safety across the District.

Shortly after the release of the report, the Task Force reconvened as the Public Safety Council to continue to hold the City and community accountable to actualizing the recommendations. The Public Safety Council is supported by the CID's public safety team of three full time staff – Vicky Li, CID District Community Engagement and Outreach Specialist for the Seattle Police Department; Jenifer Chao, Strategic Initiatives Advisor at the Department of Neighborhoods; and Sonny Nguyen, Public Safety Coordinator for the CID, who is housed directly in the neighborhood. These three have worked together to push forward many of our recommendations as well as address new public safety issues surfacing in the neighborhood.

As Community Co-Chair of the Public Safety Council, I am proud of the difficult work undertaken by the Council, the Public Safety Coordinator, and the community as a whole to build a safer and stronger neighborhood. Though this report focuses on the work of the CID Public Safety Council, I would be remiss not to express my gratitude for the powerful work happening at the City level, most particularly at Seattle Police Department and Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. We are all thankful for their work in this neighborhood and look forward to continuing our partnerships towards new models of communication and crime prevention.

I hope that this annual report can communicate how proud we are of this work, and how excited we are to continue developing and building strategies to meet the needs of this unique neighborhood. And most of all, we look forward to your continued support and collaboration to build a stronger, safer CID.

Thank you for taking the time to view the Chinatown International District Public Safety Council's 2018 Annual Report.

Jessa Timmer
Community Co-Chair, CID Public Safety Council
Executive Director, Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area

Public Safety Task Force Report Recommendations Progress

The Public Safety Council was originally convened to enact and advance the recommendations published in the Chinatown-International District Public Safety Task Force Report. While implementation for some of these recommendations is still underway, other major tasks have been completed, and still others are worth revisiting to discuss the feasibility and actual desire of the community for implementation.

Section 1 – Improve Communication and Coordination between the CID and the City



The first set of recommendations largely sets out the process to create the CID Public Safety Council and the partnerships required for its function.

Photo: Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best, Tamarind Tree owner Tam Nguyen, and Mayor Jenny Durkan discuss neighborhood issues during the tour accompanying the West Precinct boundary change.

Recommendation A	✓Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a high level Mayoral position responsible for coordinating City CID efforts and partnering with CID community. • Establish funding for a CID Public Safety Coordinator (Public Safety Coordinator) to coordinate public safety problem solving and serve as liaison between the community and the Mayor’s office and City departments. • Form a steering committee of CID community and key City department representatives • Create a CID Public Safety Agreement between the City and CID organizations for mutually agreed upon set of partnering guidelines, public safety actions, timeframe and partner roles. 	<p>This recommendation created the position of the CID Public Safety Coordinator and the Department of Neighborhood’s (DON) Strategic Initiatives Advisor currently filled by Jenifer Chao. The role of Seattle Police Department’s Chinatown International District Community Engagement and Outreach Specialist currently filled by Vicky Li, was created in the mayor’s response plan to the task force recommendations. This team of three staffers from different organizations works together to coordinate public safety work across the district.</p>
Recommendation B	✗Needs Re-evaluation
<p>Create a regular public safety presence by opening a Public Safety Center in CID.</p>	<p>SPD has shared concerns around the feasibility of such a center with special concern to the safety of officers that would staff it. It is worth reevaluating the underlying needs that creating a center would meet and if the neighborhood feels there are alternatives to meet those needs.</p>

Recommendation C	☆Ongoing
Reinstate the Community Service Officer (CSO) program as a pilot program to create an ongoing channel for communication between CID and the Police Department.	At the time of publishing this report, SPD is in the process of designing an updated CSO program.
Recommendation D	☆Ongoing
Strengthen efforts to recruit and hire more officers with sensitivity to CID and other communities of color.	While 40% of SPD’s new officers in 2017 were people of color, this recommendation specifically calls for SPD to publish a plan on how to address disparities and disproportionality in recruitment of officers who are Chinese, Vietnamese, and Native American, which has not been done. In the interim, SPD is currently investigating opportunities to incentivize multilingual ability. The Community Police Commission has released a report and set of recommendations for SPD regarding recruitment and hiring, which can be found at www.bit.ly/2O09NHB
Recommendation E	✓Complete
Move the Little Saigon area of the CID neighborhood from the East Precinct into the West Police Precinct to provide better tracking of patterns of crime and address public safety needs in the whole neighborhood.	This was one of the first major actions in the partnership between Mayor Jenny Durkan and then Interim Police Chief Carmen Best.
Recommendation F	☆Ongoing
Improve 911 responsiveness to CID incidents and increase public safety awareness education efforts.	This recommendation specifically calls for a review of current procedures in the 911 call center. The Public Safety Council has yet to conduct this review.

Section 2 – Target Criminal Activities and Related Environmental Factors

The recommendations made in this section consider continuous and ongoing efforts to address crime in the neighborhood. Due to the very nature of these recommendations, none could ever be considered “Complete” and not “Ongoing,” as they involve constant maintenance and cultivation even after the tasks within each recommendation are completed.

Recommendation A	✓Complete ☆Ongoing
Reduce chronic drug dealing and drug use in CID.	SPD and the Public Safety Coordinator have completed all the tasks involved in this recommendation, including working with the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program and enforcement of Stay Out of Drug Area orders. This remains a priority for SPD.

Recommendation B	☆Ongoing
Address proliferation of unauthorized encampments and tent shelters.	InterIm CDA is currently working on developing the area under I-5 into a usable active space as recommended to deter unauthorized encampments under the overpass. SPD has continued to provide outreach services to individuals in encampments and performing cleanups of the area.
Recommendation C	☆Ongoing
Ensure that hookah bars operate legally and without disruption to neighborhood residents.	The city has yet to create a regulatory license for hookah lounges, though all but one hookah lounge has left the neighborhood, with a hotel development planned for the site of the last remaining lounge.
Recommendation D	☆Ongoing
Shut down illegal massage parlors, especially those involved in human trafficking and prostitution	SPD is working with the FBI on ongoing investigations to address human trafficking and other criminal activities in massage parlors.
Recommendation E	☆Ongoing
Address the sale of stolen goods and Electronic Bank Transfer (EBT) fraud.	The Public Safety Coordinator is investigating strategies to coordinate community pressure to prevent businesses from engaging in EBT fraud and to monitor and report businesses that continue to knowingly engage in EBT fraud.
Recommendation F	✓Complete ☆Ongoing
Target high incidence crimes such as shoplifting and car prowls.	SPD and the City of Seattle has strengthened partnerships with the neighborhood to reinforce the specific actions in this recommendation including utilizing specialty courts and addiction treatment options. The Public Safety Coordinator and SPD’s Community Engagement and Outreach Specialist have been working with SPD officers and the community to monitor and address hot spots in crime.
Recommendation G	✗Needs Re-evaluation ☆Ongoing
Reduce chronic problems of public drinking, trespassing, public urination/defecation and indecent exposure.	Many of the strategies listed in this recommendation are underway but public disturbance citations suggested here are often at odds with the city’s larger strategy to address homelessness.

Section 3 – Foster Public Safety through a Vibrant & Healthy Neighborhood

The recommendations made in this section concern public realm and amenities. Similar to the above, these will be ongoing and continuous efforts impossible to check off as “complete” tasks. Instead, they require renewed commitments and shifts in strategies as time goes on.

Recommendation A	✗Needs Re-evaluation ☆Ongoing
Invest in supporting physical and safety improvements, maintenance and ongoing programs activities in parks, alleys and plazas and green spaces.	When conversations initially began around constructing and managing the public restroom in Hing Hay Park, as listed in this recommendation, some members of this community shared objections. The Public Safety Coordinator believes a community conversation around the desire for such a restroom is required before moving forward on construction.
Recommendation B	☆Ongoing
Install effective lighting throughout the area, especially in dark and crime-prone pockets.	SCIDpda has finished the initial lighting study for the neighborhood. It is now moving forward to City Council to approve funds for improvements.
Recommendation C	☆Ongoing
The CID needs more frequent garbage pick-up and street cleaning, including the alleys where dumpsters and grease containers are located.	The CIDBIA has hired a Sanitation Program Coordinator to manage sanitation in the neighborhood.
Recommendation D	☆Ongoing
To provide accessible safe spaces and activities for youth, senior and families, expand City funding support, hours and program offerings at two key institutions, the International District/Chinatown branch library and Intentional District/Chinatown Community Center.	Hours at the International District Chinatown Community Center have been expanded. Conversations will need to be had about how best to strengthen the partnership between these two community amenities.
Recommendation E	☆Ongoing
The task force believes the key to a healthy neighborhood is a balanced and vital mix of commercial and no-profit activities to serve both residents and community centers as well as to attract visitors coming into the area.	The City and community organizations are looking into incentivization programs for commercial vitality in the neighborhood. Also outstanding in this recommendation is the BIA assessment which has not been approved as of this report's publication.
Recommendation F	☆Ongoing
Develop a comprehensive framework and implantation plan for City investment in long-term preservation and development of the CID as a culturally diverse, historically significant areas of Seattle.	Outstanding in this recommendation is a plan from the city to develop or make accessible tools for property owners to implement building upgrades to comply with unreinforced masonry regulations.

To read the original recommendations in full, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/2OUt0Y4>

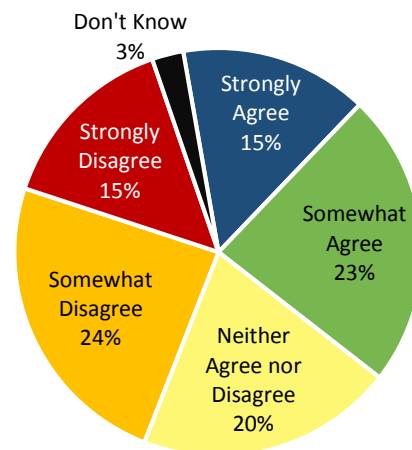
The Chinatown International District Public Safety Survey

The annual public safety survey has been in its current iteration since 2016, led by the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority in partnership with Seattle University and other partners throughout the years, including InterIm CDA.

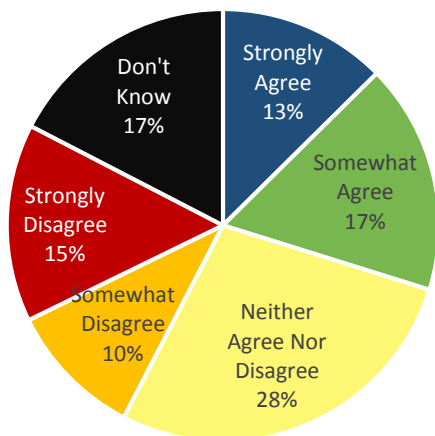
Surveying 423 stakeholders across the three areas of the Chinatown International District (Chinatown, Japantown, and Little Saigon), the neighborhood has used it as a tool to measure perceptions of public safety, community trust in police, perceptions of cleanliness, and more. Data from this year's survey conducted in early 2018 around experiences in 2017 will be used throughout this report to illustrate community feedback on the state of public safety in the district.

On this page are two of the broader questions around public safety in the neighborhood. 38% of survey respondents either agreed or somewhat agreed with the statement "The Chinatown International District is a safe place to live and/or work," with 39% of respondents disagreeing or somewhat disagreeing. Similarly, 30% of respondents agreed or somewhat agreed that "Streets and public areas in the CID are cleaner than they were one year ago" while 25% of respondents disagreed or somewhat disagreed. Of note are the 28% of respondents that felt the neighborhood was more or less just as clean as the year before ("Neither agree nor disagree").

"The CID is a safe place to live and/or work."



"Streets and public areas in the CID are cleaner than they were one year ago"



For more information and findings from the survey, you can go to the CIDBIA website's public safety page at <http://cidbia.org/what-we-do/public-safety/>

Priority Areas: Homelessness

Homelessness has long been a priority of the CID. The graph to the right shows data from the CID Public Safety Survey revealing a significant majority of respondents are consistently concerned about homelessness. Whether these respondents are worried about the impacts of the homelessness crisis on the neighborhood or worried for the well-being of homeless individuals cannot be determined from this data.

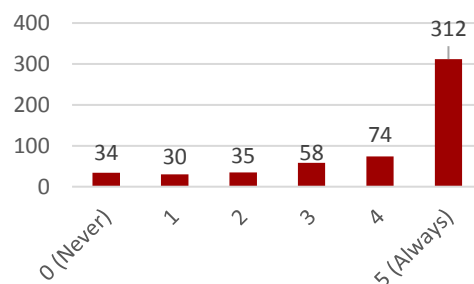
The conflict surrounding the CID's role in addressing homelessness came to a head in early 2017 with the placement of the Navigation Center. The Public Safety Coordinator participated in Friends of Little Saigon's facilitation and presentation of community concerns to the Office of the Mayor, calling for better practices in outreach and ongoing communication as well as addressing concerns around public safety and sanitation. DON's Strategic Initiatives Advisor is pushing these conversations forward by conducting engagement with the community at large about their vision and concerns for their neighborhood and providing language support.

In response to frequent reports and calls from the neighborhood, the city's Navigation Team scheduled outreach services and clean-ups for major encampments in the neighborhood along the I-5 corridor in February 2018, performing the regulatory weeks of outreach preceding the clean-ups. Though these areas were designated emphasis areas, encampments began reappearing within two weeks.

The CID has developed strategies to address the impact of homelessness both on the neighborhood as a whole and on those living unsheltered in the neighborhood. The Public Safety Coordinator and the SPD Community Police Team Officer regularly work with the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program (LEAD) to connect individuals at the intersection of homeless, chemical dependency, and criminal activity to case managers. Seattle Public Utilities has worked with the CID Business Improvement Area to host several trainings about safety around used syringes and supplied the Public Safety Coordinator with a large sharps box to hold needles from across the neighborhood in lieu of a public sharps disposal box.

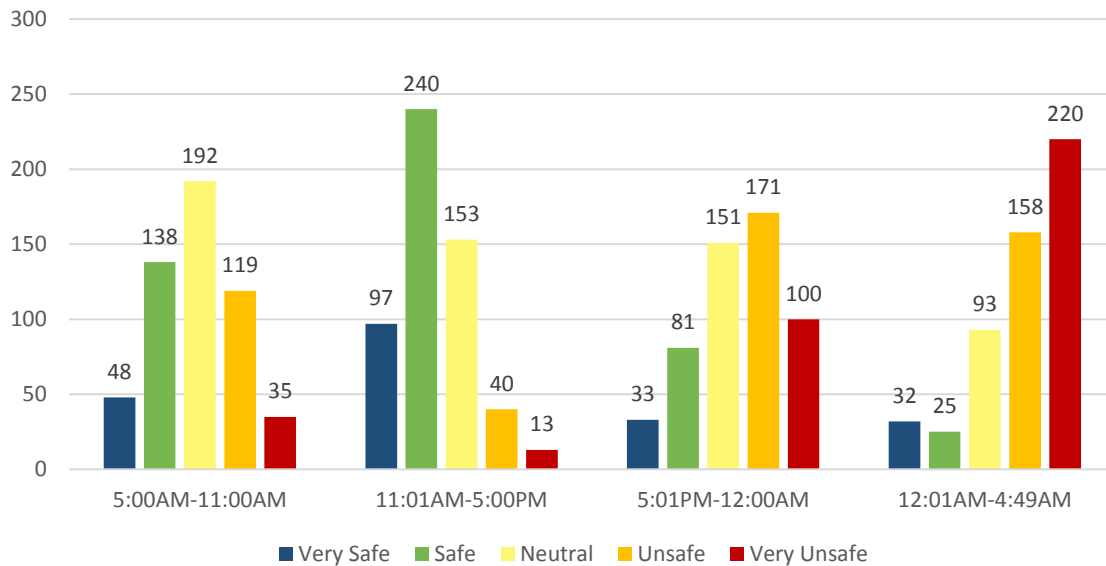
One of the most significant change in homeless services this year was the shift in funding from Seattle Human Services Department. The Metropolitan Improvement District (MID) previously provided a full-time outreach worker to the CID, acting as a liaison between neighborhood businesses, homeless individuals, and homeless services. This position was removed when the City chose to fund different outreach models with the possibility was of returning pending ongoing conversations between the Public Safety Coordinator, other community stakeholders, and the City. In the meantime, DON's Strategic Initiatives Advisor has convened a monthly meeting with HSD, the Navigation Team, community members and local service providers to strategize around more effectively meeting the needs of homeless community members.

How Often Respondents are Worried About Homelessness



Priority Areas: Nightlife Activation

How Safe Do Respondents Feel Walking in the CID



It is no secret that the CID has a poor reputation for public safety at night. Above is data from the Public Safety Survey showing a very strong perception of unsafety in darker hours. Although the CID does have a relatively low violent crime rate, it is often said in public safety that perception is reality. Looking at the neighborhood through a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design lens, it is clear that a main contributor to the perception of danger in this case is a lack of visibility. Two of the Public Safety Coordinator’s main strategies to increase visibility is to improve lighting in the District and to have more eyes on the street.

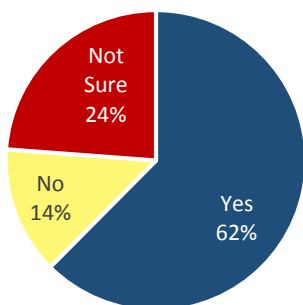
Community stakeholders including the Public Safety Coordinator have supported the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority in finishing a lighting study. Results from this lighting study will help inform advocacy to the city, private developers, and property managers to improve lighting across the district.

The CID Framework’s Public Realm Workgroup, chaired by the Public Safety Coordinator will work to improve public space in the neighborhood, including welcoming activation and use throughout the evening. The more vibrant, well-lit, safe spaces available at night, the more people will use them. The Public Safety Coordinator has also been working with the CID Business Developer Shanti Breznau to reduce the proliferation of massage parlors and increase diversity in businesses open later in the evenings to better draw in more customers to the area throughout the night.

The Public Safety Coordinator is currently working with Block Watch to evaluate programming to better strengthen the impact of the program and continues to provide support to night activities throughout the year, particularly in the summer.

Priority Areas: Police – Community Relationships

2018 Responses: "Do you trust the police?"



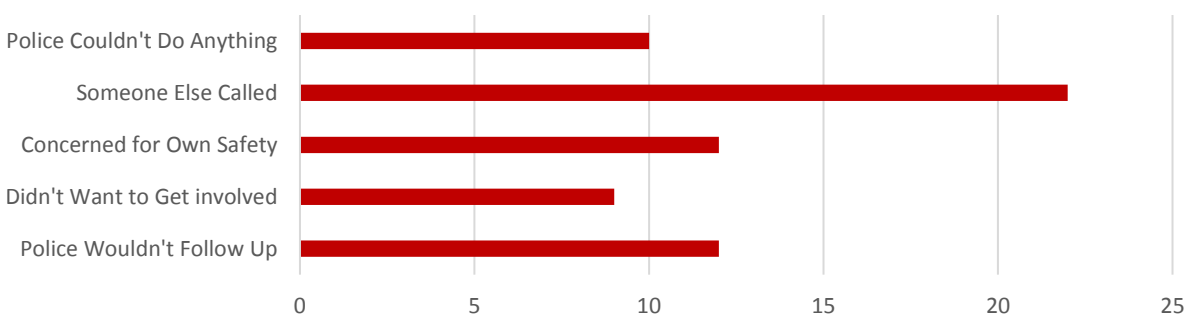
The SPD Community Engagement and Outreach Specialist has served an integral link in communication as well as policy and program feedback between the police department and the CID community. This role specifically dedicated to the neighborhood resulted in increased outreach, personal safety trainings, community engagement opportunities, SPD representation at community events, and stronger collaboration between SPD and the neighborhood on several projects.

One of these areas of collaboration is the new Coffee with Cops series of events. SPD and the CID Public Safety Council worked to host a series of events at Sup Shop, Eastern Café, and the Seattle Pinball Museum. These events offered residents and stakeholders in the neighborhood the opportunity to meet with police officers in safe and casual settings to build stronger relationships with the officers serving the neighborhood. Both populations have shared positive feedback concerning this event series, which the Public Safety Council hopes to continue moving forward.

One of the largest projects SPD undertook to meet a community request was redrawing the West Precinct Boundary to include Little Saigon. This has been a consistent ask by the CID neighborhood for decades, and was finished in January 2018 under then Interim Chief Carmen Best. This move also dedicated a Community Police Team officer to the neighborhood where we previously had a different officer serving either side of I-5, each also serving neighboring communities.

The graph above shows that 62% of survey respondents said they trust the police. Compare this to the 57% confidence in police found by a national Gallup poll in 2017. While this community is developing a stronger and more collaborative relationship with police, there is still work to be done to maintain and cultivate that trust and most importantly, turn that trust in action as the CID is often described as a neighborhood that underreports crime. Below is data from the 2018 Public Safety Survey showing reasons people who witnessed violent crimes did not report those crimes to the police.

Top 5 Reasons Respondents Didn't Report Violent Crimes They Witnessed to the Police



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More Information:

To read the Public Safety Task Force's original recommendations, go to www.bit.ly/2OUt0Y4
To view findings from the 2018 Public Safety Survey, visit www.cidbia.org/what-we-do/public-safety/
To sign up for emails about public safety in the CID, please email sonnyn@seattlechinatownid.com.
To share your concerns, attend our Monthly Public Safety Forum in the Bush Hotel Conference Room, the third Tuesday of every month at 3PM.

Get Involved:

To apply for membership on the Public Safety Council, email sonnyn@seattlechinatownid.com.
To join Block Watch in monitoring the neighborhood, meet in Hing Hay Park at 6:00PM (5:30 in winter).
To share your concerns, attend our Monthly Public Safety Forum in the Bush Hotel Conference Room, the third Tuesday of every month at 3PM.

Acknowledgements:

The Chinatown International District Public Safety Council community members would like to thank Seattle Police Department, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle Public Utilities, and Seattle University for being strong partners in our work towards a better, safer neighborhood.

Thanks go to all of our current Public Safety Council community members – David Leong, Jamie Lee, Sue-May Eng, Minh-Duc Nguyen, Quynh Pham, Sokha Danh, and Community Co-Chair Jessa Timmer – and our city representatives, Captain Thomas Mahaffey and Julia Reed.

Finally, appreciations for all of our former council members, Ron Chew, Maiko Winkler-Chin, Tam Nguyen, Larry Larson, I-Miun Liu, Gary Johnson, Scott Lindsay, and Ben Han.