

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jared Dominici and I have been employed as an Officer with the Salinas Police Department for approximately four and a half years. I have worked the area of Salinas known as China Town in some capacity the entire time I have been an Officer. Over the last two years I have specifically worked this area on a nightly basis.

There is a large transient population that resides in this area of the city. Based on my training and experience I know that this area of Salinas is known for extremely high amounts of drug, gang, prostitution, and over all criminal activity. I have personally been involved in incidents in this area of Salinas where subjects have led me on foot pursuits, vehicle pursuits, as well as incidents where subjects have resisted arrest and have attempted to assault me. I have arrested subjects in this area of Salinas for drug possession, drug possession for sales, as well as various weapons violations. Over the past few years I have been first on scene at several homicides where subjects have been shot and killed in this area of Salinas open to the public, attempted murders, and shootings. On numerous occasions I have been made aware of shootings that have occurred in this area of the city that have gone unreported, and have received information that subjects in this area of Salinas carry firearms and other deadly weapons concealed on their person, in vehicles, as well as encampments.

Other Officers and I have spent countless hours trying to reduce and prevent crime, specifically violent crime in this area. At night subjects park in motor vehicles along the east and west curb lines of Bridge Street, south of East Lake Street. This also occurs on East Lake Street between Bridge Street and Soledad Street. The reason being is it is not a posted section like Soledad Street as far as parking goes. Subjects will park and sit in their motor vehicles and will purchase, sell, and drop off narcotics to be sold. There is also a high amount of prostitution that occurs in these areas, which contributes to overall criminal activity. These sections of the street are also highly visible from the Lake Motel, 13 East Lake Street. From the second floor of this motel, specifically the rooms that face East Lake Street, look outs can call out to subjects parked, and standing in the above mentioned areas to warn them of law enforcement coming into the area.

I also know that subjects will often times retrieve narcotics from vehicles parked in the above mentioned areas, and will take them into tents. From there, subjects will deal narcotics from the tents they are in. This happens in many areas of China Town, but specifically in the areas where there are no parking enforcement signs. One of the most common locations is on East Lake Street at the intersection of East Lake and Bridge Alley. Bridge Alley is very dark, is obstructed by chain link fence, encampments, and the mechanic shop at the corner of East Lake Street and Bridge Street. Subjects will park, loiter, and sell narcotics in the alley. Many of these individuals are not even from Salinas. One issue officers run into when attempting to contact individuals in these areas, is that they are mostly consensual in nature. We run into constant issues where subjects refuse to speak with us, provide identification, and do not move the motor vehicles. This does not happen in the areas where the parking is restricted like on Soledad Street and some sections of East Lake Street.

Based on the information provided, and speaking with Officers who routinely patrol China Town, we believe that restricting the parking on Bridge Street south of East Lake Street, as well as the Parking on East Lake Street between Bridge Street and Soledad Street, specifically the north and south curb lines, will help us in reducing criminal activity. I have already seen a reduction in the criminal activity that was occurring in the parking lot of 1 Bridge Street after it was posted 21-35 SCC. I believe the same can be accomplished with the areas I mentioned above if the parking situation was in some way controlled.

China Town is an area that I have grown to know very well. I know many of the people who call it home, a place of work, and an area in need. Other Officers and I have dedicated, and will continue to dedicate time and effort in restoring a very unique area of Salinas, and of this state. I appreciate the thought, concern, and effort from the multitude of agencies and organizations attempting to do the same.

Sincerely,  
Jared Dominici