

油尖旺民政事務處

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旺角政府合署六樓



YAU TSIM MONG DISTRICT OFFICE

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12 December 2013

Clerk to Panel on Home Affairs
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

(Attn: Miss Josephine SO)

Dear Miss SO,

I refer to your letter dated 27.11.2013 to the Secretary for Home Affairs.

Our written response to Hon Claudia MO's views on the Mong Kok Pedestrian Precinct as raised in her letter is attached at Annex.

Yours sincerely,

(Charlson CHIU)
for District Officer (Yau Tsim Mong)

**Responses to Hon. Claudia MO's comments on
the Mong Kok Pedestrian Precinct**

Background

The Transport Department (TD) proposed to the Traffic and Transport Committee under the Yau Tsim Mong District Council (YTMDC) in 2000 to put in place a pedestrian precinct in Mong Kok in order to improve the environment for pedestrians as well as pedestrian flow. Since then, the Mong Kok Pedestrian Precinct (MKPP) was set up at Sai Yeung Choi Street South and neighbouring streets on a trial basis. Throughout the years, TD consulted YTMDC from time to time on the implementation of the MKPP trial scheme.

YTMDC has always been concerned about the implementation of MKPP, in particular, the illegal hawking activities, street obstruction and noise nuisances in the area, and requested more stringent enforcement action to be taken by relevant departments. In view of the persistent unsatisfactory situation, YTMDC decided in August 2010 to shorten the implementation hours of MKPP by ending one hour earlier from midnight to 11 pm, and further reduce its implementation hours by ending at 10 pm since July 2012.

Roles of Government departments in the management of Mong Kok Pedestrian Precinct

The management of MKPP falls under the auspices of various Government departments, including Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), Lands Department (LandsD), Police and TD, etc. All along, relevant departments take enforcement actions under the corresponding legislations. For instance, FEHD is responsible for tackling illegal hawking activities and street obstruction; the Police would handle complaints against noise nuisance. Yau Tsim Mong District Office (YTMDO) would assist in district liaison and consultation where necessary, and convey the views of YTMDC to relevant Government departments.

In addition, as in the case of handling other complicated street management issues, Government departments would coordinate joint-departmental actions where necessary to maintain order and mobility in the pedestrian precinct, and conduct educational and promotional campaigns with YTMDC to promote the spirit of law-abidingness and self-awareness. With regard to illegal on-street promotion, relevant departments, including YTMDO, FEHD, Police and LandsD have distributed advisory letters with YTMDC members at the aforementioned area. Concerning obstruction caused by easy-mount frames, YTMDO and YTMDC have jointly issued an advisory letter to relevant organisations and shops to restate the importance of law-abidingness and self-awareness.

Recent discussion at YTMDC on MKPP

YTMDC discussed the management problems in MKPP at its meeting on 18.7.2013. Members pointed out that the congestion and noise nuisance created by pedestrianisation has caused serious disturbance to nearby residents and shops, and proposed to reduce implementation days of the pedestrianisation scheme at Sai Yeung Choi Street South. YTMDC further requested YTMDO to consult residents and shops of nearby buildings and pedestrians on the proposal.

In this connection, YTMDO conducted a two-week local consultation exercise from 27.9.2013 to 10.10.2013 to consult residents and shops of nearby buildings on the relevant proposal, and commissioned Hong Kong Shue Yan University to conduct an opinion survey to gather the views of pedestrians on the proposed reduction through on-street survey. The details and results of the consultation exercise are as follows:-

(i) Local consultation

YTMDO issued 745 consultation letters to building management organisations (including owners' corporations, owners' committees and management companies), residents or occupants of "three-nil" buildings and owners or tenants of ground floor shops in proximity to MKPP on 27.9.2013 to collect their views on the proposed reduction of implementation days of the pedestrianisation scheme. The results showed that 78% of the interviewees supported the reduction of implementation days, a majority of whom were in favour of the proposal to implement pedestrianisation only on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

(ii) On-the-street survey

Shue Yan University engaged pollsters to interview 600 pedestrians at various time intervals and locations by quota sampling to collect their views on the proposed shortening of the implementation days of the pedestrianisation scheme. The results showed that 61.5% of the interviewees were in favour of maintaining the current implementation days, while 38.5% supported a reduction in implementation days.

(iii) Views of other parties

Furthermore, YTMDO met with the street performers in MKPP on 8.8.2013 and 30.10.2013 to listen to their views on the proposed shortening of implementation days and their suggestions on improving street performance activities. Motor clubs and the Public Light Bus General Association also submitted their views on the implementation of MKPP during the consultation period.

Latest arrangements concerning the implementation of MKPP

The aforementioned consultation results and views collected from different channels were reported to YTMDC at its meeting on 21.11.2013. After careful deliberation of the consultation results and the views of relevant parties, YTMDC decided at the meeting to reduce the implementation days of the pedestrianisation scheme from seven days a week to Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. The effectiveness of the new arrangement will be reviewed in six to nine months' time.

Yau Tsim Mong District Office
December 2013