

BIAs step in to keep things clean

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Local BIAs are chipping in to help their neighbourhoods during the ongoing civic workers strike.

"We're doing our best to cope with the strike," Chinatown BIA chairman Stephen Chan told the Sun yesterday.

The BIA has brought in a bin to collect businesses' organic garbage, he said.

Volunteers are also patrolling the streets on weekends picking up garbage.

"Just to tidy up the place," Chan said.

Downtown-Yonge BIA executive director James Robinson said his group was in a good position at the start of the strike because it already had a clean-streets team in operation.

The three-person team normally supplements city service by providing graffiti and poster removal along with litter sweeping.

"What we've done is re-prioritized their responsibility so they are really focused on litter sweeping right now and we've extended their hours," Robinson said. "They're really focused on litter and cleaning up around the (garbage) and recycling bins."

The BIA is also letting businesses know where the city has established transfer stations. So far, Robinson said his BIA hasn't brought a dumpster into the neighbourhood.

"That right now would be a big undertaking for us because we have a pretty high density ... and I don't know if one would be enough," he said.

"The best thing would be a speedy recovery to the strike.

"We're trying our best here but we really do need the city workers to be back at work doing their job."

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