

Greater Rockridge NCPC (12Y/13X) - Minutes
Thursday, January 14, 2010
Rockridge Library Community Room, College and Manila, Oakland
General Public: 7:00-9:00PM

NCPC:

Chris Jackson – Chair
Frank Castro – Vice Chair
Denise Boisvert Jorgensen – Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

PSOs: Beat 12Y Officer Patrick Gerrans; Beat 13X Officer Randall Chew (on disability)

NSC: Ana Martinez (new Neighborhood Services Coordinator for 12Y / 13X)

OPD officers present: Officer Patrick Gerrans, Sgt. Bernie Ortiz, Sgt. A. McNeil, Officer A. Mack, Officer Maureen Vergara, Officer A. J. Frye, Sgt. J. Bassett, Capt. Anthony Toribio

Chris Jackson opened the meeting at 7:02 PM. Twenty-four people attended the meeting. There were no citizens present from beat 13X.

General introductions

At the chairman's request, everyone in the room introduced himself briefly.

Crime Statistics Review

Vivek Bhatia was unable to attend the meeting so there was no review of crime statistics. Residents registered at Rockridgeresidents.org may log in there and view the latest statistics – registration is free.

OPD Report

Officer Gerrans reported that he is closing the priority for the Canning property as of now. There has been no drug activity there for some time and the people hanging out on the corner actually live there. Chris Jackson commented that the blue house is now for sale. There were no other priorities for beat 12Y in November.

Officer Gerrans noted that OPD has also been out on Claremont, issuing numerous traffic tickets to speeders.

Shoplifting and other thefts on College Avenue approach \$10,000 since June-July, and wants to work on reducing that. That will be a priority for beat 12Y this month.

Captain Anthony Toribio addressed the meeting. He welcomed Ana Martinez, the new Neighborhood Services Coordinator for 12Y/13X – she has lots of experience from Area 2. He also thanked Chris Jackson for his continuing help. He then addressed local crime trends.

On paper 2009 looks much better than 2008 – reported crime is down 11%. There were 8 fewer homicides, roughly 20 fewer shootings, and 150 fewer commercial burglaries; residential burglaries were flat (residential burglary was up double-digit over 2008 at mid-year, but the police have tightened down enforcement hard). Over half of burglaries are due to houses left unlocked; burglars seem to be stealing small items such as electronics. There is a 30% drop in auto thefts, OPD isn't sure why – possibly community alertness.

People are still afraid; OPD is managing as best they can. The department has dropped from 839 officers to 780. They're going to a new shift plan, modifying the 3/12-4/12 shifts to a 4/10 shift. The chief wants to send more officers to Patrol, but they're losing 4-5 officers each month to injury and retirement. An academy is in the works, no date yet; we need to stop the loss of personnel. Over the next year, more officers will be on patrol than this year, more officers will be working late day-evening and weekend shifts, when crime happens.

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OPD hopes to use technology to improve efficiency. Each area has a civilian technology specialist, trained in crime analysis, using technology to identify patterns/trends (using a software tool called Forensic Logic) by mining all systems for reported crimes by time-of-day. OPD is a beta customer, working with the vendor to improve the product; it doesn't do everything they want it to do yet. Also, the department data isn't all digitized, and isn't necessarily entered correctly with all boxes checked.

OPD plans to buy a program to manage resources better: it will calculate workloads in all parts of the city, based on call volume and type of reported crime, and create a deployment model based on the analysis. Chief Batts used this program in Long Beach; Forensic Logic was in Oakland before Chief Batts came.

A resident asked about all the police cars sitting around on Broadway under the freeway (next to the Police Administration Building). Can't those get fixed, and is OPD getting money from the federal government to fix cars? Captain Toribio noted that the city shutdowns are affecting auto maintenance, and patrol car availability. The resident asked if they can put cars out just to look like there are cops around. Captain Toribio noted that they do that, and it has moved burglaries to other areas.

Denise Boisvert-Jorgensen asked where additional patrol officers will come from. Could civilians do things to free up sworn personnel? Captain Toribio said the officers will come from other areas, such as Youth/Family Services, Investigations, etc. OPD has no budget to hire civilians but is open to volunteers. They can always use people with IT skills. Chris Jackson suggested the NCPC put this out on the Yahoo groups and ask for volunteers.

The revised OPD part of the city web site will go up on January 28th. It'll be more accurate – the current online directory dates to Chief Tucker. Each area will have a page, with command staff and hours. Toribio will be able to post items to the Area 1 page: officer commendations, crime alerts, synopsis of major incidents.

Several residents have complained about being unable to get feedback from OPD on major incidents: the captain noted that OPD puts officers on "perimeter posts" to keep people in or out of a crime area – they really *don't* necessarily know what's going on inside, which is why they don't tell the neighbors anything. OPD does need to get better at telling people what happened, even if after the fact. But it's TOO much work for him to update all the Yahoo groups. Better communication requires changing the department culture, and it takes time.

The NCPC officers agreed to see if we can put the explanation of how crime scenes are managed in the Ask-A-Cop column in *Rockridge News*.

Captain Toribio stated that his goal is for every officer to drive on every street in their beats, regularly; cops in transit tend to drive directly from A to B. If they're on the side streets, someone may see them and desist; and they'll learn other ways to get places, and issues with side roads in the neighborhoods.

Denise Boisvert-Jorgensen asked if Oakland is still getting parolees. Captain Toribio said yes, we are, and it'll get worse, because not everyone will get close supervision because of budget cuts. Denise asked about ankle bracelets. Captain Toribio said they have about 30, but there are administrative issues. They can't put the bracelets on parolees (it's a union issue w/ parole officers). Also, they have to *find* the probationers to put the bracelets on – they want to use bracelets on the top 15 or so people, who are mostly violating probation anyway. Oakland gets about 3,000 parolees/probationers *per year*. There are about 10,000 parolees in Alameda County now, the majority in Oakland.

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A resident asked, how do parolees and probationers live when they get out? Do they have jobs, places to live? Captain Toribio replied, not really, and they go back to where they were arrested, and they go back into crime. Measure Y resources, working with the police, meet with probationers and parolees, and try to guide them.

Neighborhood Issues

Chris Jackson announced that the NCPC would like to arrange subcommittees to deal with specific issues. We've had some discussions of recycling thieves – Southern California is using “bear resistant” recycling cans to defeat the thieves. Chris asked if someone would drive a subcommittee to look into this, and Frank Castro volunteered to head it up, if he can get some volunteers to help. Citizens have to become harder targets, and the city is broke.

Frank Castro commented that Oakland has a \$10 million deficit through June 30, city council has to cut that much to balance *this year's* budget. There will be a budget meeting on Feb. 2 (*Ed. Note:* the budget meeting has moved to Feb. 16), Frank urged people to attend. For next year the deficit will be \$25 million. A resident asked if a council member doesn't have a budget game on the web site? Nila Kim confirmed that yes, Jean Quan has that on her web site. You can go play “city budget” on the web at <http://www.oaklandbudgetchallenge.com/>. Chris Jackson predicted that we're going to lose crime reduction teams and walking officers, to get enough officers on patrol. We may lose the Neighborhood Service Coordinators, they may disband the department. Dorothy Eng noted that they're considering closing the senior centers, and a lot of seniors depend on them for a daily hot meal.

Chris added that the NCPC needs to update the safety flyer – that'll take \$670 which we don't have. Karen Ivy added that we'll also have to renew the web hosting contract – another \$100. Residents need to get to know your neighbors, watch for problems, and *lock the doors and windows*.

A resident of Chabot Road between College and Claremont complained of illegal truck traffic on the stretch, which is posted illegal for trucks over 4.5 tons. The truck drivers ignore the signs. The street has speed bumps, and when the trucks are empty they rattle and bang over the bumps. Three small children live within the first block above Claremont. Truckers mainly drive from Claremont to College but they can go both ways; they do this from around 06:00 AM to the middle of the day. He's tried stopping trucks, he's talked to the companies – nobody responded except Trader Joe's, which rerouted the trucks. He hasn't been able to get through to OPD on this. He's called the companies, and contacted Jane Brunner's office. This will be a traffic priority for beat 12Y. Chris Jackson suggested the residents call the companies now and tell them, we're asking OPD to ticket illegal truck traffic. Ana Martinez suggested maintaining a call log to record what phone calls are made to whom. Chris Jackson said that if the resident will print a flyer, Chris can hand them out to the truck drivers and to the stores. The NCPC can't do it all without help.

Radar trailer on Keith

Nila Kim reported on the radar trailer on Keith: the city won't do a stop sign, Engineering says there isn't enough traffic. The radar trailer is helping. She's trying to get the crosswalk striped. The neighbors need to call the speeders in. Denise Boisvert-Jorgensen asked if the radar trailer can say, *No trucks*? Nila will see if there's a radar sign that says “No Trucks”, and coordinate with CalTrans and OPD.

Denise Boisvert-Jorgensen reported that the Dean of California College of the Arts replied to Chris Jackson before Thanksgiving, regarding our complaint about the CCA related graffiti on College. He hasn't contacted the NCPC again, we need to follow up. We're still working on it.

Lacking any attendance from beat 13X, we didn't get feedback on last month's major issue for 13X, the vehicle burglaries along Golden Gate: Ana Martinez says that OPD is patrolling Golden Gate,

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and communicating with the College Preparatory principal. They'll be distributing flyers to the students on vehicle safety.

"Car sales" on Miles near Cavour (5100 block) by DMV parking lot

Residents complain that a neighbor left a car parked for almost 2 months. They didn't call it in because they thought it belonged to a resident; when they finally got it tagged, it was moved within hours, and replaced by a brown Toyota Land Cruiser 6KCB920, which is now itself past the 72 hour limit. Ana Martinez asked if the residents know whether it's just somebody with a lot of cars? The neighbors think the person who does this lives on Lawton, and uses this corner to "display" cars - they've seen him polishing them. Someone seems to be moving cars onto that corner. No one has gotten a description of the person. Ana Martinez noted that if it's a middleman, the cars probably aren't registered to him, but some may be - residents need to use the log sheet, and take down the car descriptions and license plates, get as much detail as possible, and write it all down with dates. Email the details to Ana, Nila Kim, and Officer Gerrans; let's see if we have a pattern. A second option is to get a description of anybody seen hanging around the vehicles, and see if he matches the description on the registrations. Chris Jackson suggested cruising Lawton to see if someone is working on cars there, which they might then move to Miles for sale; if anything suspicious is reported, OPD can move in for a "smart inspection."

Merchants' Issues

December 2009 was a safe and profitable shopping season, the Rockridge District Association brought in extra security, which went very well. Some property owners want to disband the Business Improvement District. The district helps support the neighborhood. The district tried to go to a different form of organization, and a group of people are now trying to disband it. The issue of the BID is scheduled to go before the city council; Chris said that if you think the street looks good, and you like the clean and safe look, send an email to Jane Brunner and tell her so. Ana Martinez commented that there's a BID in the Fruitvale also. She said the business owners get wrapped up in their businesses, residents should also let *them* know if you think the BID is a good thing, and how nice the clean streets look.

A resident commented that she and her husband have noticed how good College looks, with Shane Powell gone, and fewer homeless people on corners. Chris Jackson noted that a thriving shopping center improves our property values. Let council members know that you appreciate it. Nila Kim noted that all BIDs have to go through council review, it's a normal process.

Denise Boisvert-Jorgensen noted that the NCPC used to organize graffiti removal projects, we could do that again.

Last Minute Update

On January 15 the NCPC received an email from a resident reporting 3 auto burglaries which all happened on January 14 in beat 13X: two in the 5400 block of Thomas and one in the 6000 block of Monroe. We have added these incidents as a priority for beat 13X.

Priorities (three allowed per beat)

Beat 12Y

1. Shoplifting on College Ave.
2. Cars "for sale" at SW corner of Miles & Cavour

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Beat 13X

1. Car break-ins and dumping of stolen property on Golden Gate Ave. uphill from The College Preparatory School, usually from 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM.
2. Three car burglaries in one day (Jan. 14), in the 5400 block of Thomas and the 6000 block of Monroe.

Traffic Priority - 12Y (one traffic priority per beat)

- Speeding on Keith at Presley
- Truck traffic on Chabot Road between Claremont and College which is prohibited (with signs) between 06:00 and 14:00.

Traffic Priority – 13X (one traffic priority per beat)

- Speeding past The College Preparatory School, Broadway frontage road.

In 2010 all meetings will be the SECOND Thursday of the month.

*Next meeting will be **Thursday, February 11, 2010** at 7:00 PM in the Rockridge Library Community Room, College and Manila.*

See you there and stay safe!

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