

Greater Rockridge NCPC - Minutes (12Y/13X)

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Rockridge Library 5366 College Avenue

General Public: 7:00-9:00PM

NCPC:

Chris Jackson – Chair (absent)

Frank Castro – Vice Chair

Denise Boisvert Jorgensen – Treasurer (absent)

Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

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

NSC: Debra Ramirez

General Introductions

7:03 Karen Ivy called the meeting to order; in Chris Jackson's absence, Karen ran the meeting and took minutes. Introductions. Sixteen people attended, including 2 officers from BART Police Department, who said they would be attending regularly.

Presentation on crime statistics (Vivek Bhatia)

Vivek briefly explained the statistical methods he uses, what is a median, and what types of crime he tracks (against the person, against property, and violent/property/major drug). Last month (September) crimes against property were down across all areas, actually well down from the bad spike in July. We're slightly below last year's level but not significantly (< 10%). Over the last 9 months property crime is down 20% over 2008.

September crimes against the person are way down, 63% below median.

Violent/property/drug crime is also well down in September over 2008. From Jan-Sept. though property/drug activity is well up *in 13X*. Drug activity seems to be increasing in the hills.

Vivek closed with the usual recommendations: be vigilant, be alert, lock your doors and windows.

OPD Report

Officer Patrick Gerrans reported that the area around 59th, Canning, and Telegraph has had zero drug activity and no other trouble in the last couple of months, a significant drop, especially compared to the first half of 2008. OPD has made no arrests at all last 2 months. Officer Gerrans proposes closing this project due to total lack of activity, and the NCPC concurs. A resident asked if someone had moved out. Officer Gerrans confirmed that yes, someone did move out; he's not sure if that was the cause. OPD will still keep an eye on the area but will relax formal surveillance.

The problem house on Kales is in the same status as last month, civil action with city. The residents are fighting eviction. OPD will continue to monitor.

Officer Gerrans reported a lot of traffic issues in multiple beats, drivers don't yield to pedestrians. OPD plans a traffic operation on College soon even though it's not an official priority, will try to hit as many big busy streets as possible with traffic operations.

NSC Debra Ramirez noted that residents can call 238-3155 to report traffic issues, there's no need to wait for NCPC meetings. OPD Traffic Division can assign traffic officers. Reports go on a list; the officers may not show up right away, but as your paperwork comes to the top of the stack, they will come and work on it.

A resident noted that there have been 4 armed robberies on the street in last week, and asked if Officer Gerrans had any status. He responded that there are no named suspects yet. The incidents have been forwarded to the robbery investigators. One was near Trader Joe's, the others were in residential areas off College Avenue.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

- RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/> & <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

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A resident asked, for a given number of crimes, is there any way to know how many perps there are? If you have 40 crimes, is that 40 criminals? Officer Gerrans said it's very hard to tell. A spike of similar crimes usually means a small group of criminals did most of them, but there are always single crimes. The resident asked if there is an increased likelihood of catching people who commit multiple crimes? Officer Gerrans noted that for the 37 commercial burglaries a couple of months ago, OPD has an idea of the perps but no one in custody. It takes months to build up enough evidence to arrest someone. They think they've caught the second of the two men who were stealing cars and robbing solitary (usually female) pedestrians, OPD now has both in custody.

Neighborhood Issues

A group of residents from Keith Ave. near the Keith/Presley intersection has major concerns about the intersection. They all walk to BART, the neighbors walk children to Chabot Elementary. Traffic on Keith almost all moves much faster than the posted speed limit (25 mph). The street has a lot of resident small children and their parents feel they aren't safe walking to and from school. The residents expressed amazement that there hasn't been a death or serious accident – it's almost impossible to pull out of a driveway onto Keith. The residents feel they need a stop sign on Keith at Presley.

NSC Debra Ramirez said that stop signs can help but someone has to be there to ticket for real effectiveness. The city can do a traffic engineering assessment; residents should file a complaint, ask for an assessment, and list their concerns. She handed out problem solving worksheets (using the SMART process) to help to address the issue. Karen Ivy offered to call Jane Brunner's aide, Nila Kim, and ask if we can get Jane Brunner's speed sign trailer deployed just downhill of the intersection. Frank Castro reported that he called Traffic Engineering the day after the September meeting, having dealt with them before over residential parking, and the Presley intersection has been assigned to a traffic engineer. The residential parking issue took a year to get done. Frank will follow up and get the engineer's name to the residents, but warned it'll be a long process. A resident asked if they need a petition? Debra Ramirez said it depends on the type of change you want. For a speed bump, yes; she's not sure about a stop sign. She suggested the residents ask for a flashing light, a stop sign, and an assessment for traffic calming measures. Make sure the city knows it's close to a school. Another resident recommended they get the petition, get all the signatures they can, and send copies to everybody they can think of including Jane Brunner. Someone asked if we can we get the shrubbery at the intersection cut back, as it makes left turns onto Keith very hazardous. No one was sure if it was CalTrans or Oakland – Officer Gerrans thinks it's Oakland.

A resident asked whom to call about Neighborhood Watch; his neighborhood has done CORE training and was interested in doing NW. He's never been able to reach a human being at OPD. Another resident noted that the strength of Neighborhood Watch is getting neighbors together, so they know each other and work together; the formal arrangement is less important. Karen Ivy confirmed that the NCPCs are the formal liaison between OPD and the Neighborhood Watch groups, and referred the resident to the *RockridgeNCPC.com* web site for more information.

A resident noted that Montclair is really upset about solicitors, the 13Y PSO has been arresting them. There was even an article in the *New York Times*. Is this just Montclair? Are we interested in solicitors? Officer Gerrans said he knows about the solicitor organizations, a lot of them don't have the required permit. He wasn't briefed on the Montclair situation, that's 13Y. A resident noted that their neighborhood all put up the same "No Solicitors" sign, and have seen a marked decrease in solicitor traffic. Karen Ivy suggested the usual precautions about solicitors: put up "No Soliciting" signs, don't answer the door, call OPD non-emergency line to report them. Officer Gerrans said, if you have a solicitor who won't go away quietly but gets argumentative or threatening, call the emergency line, 911 from a land line and 777-3211 from a cell phone.

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Merchants' Issues

No one from the Rockridge District Association was present.

Priorities (three allowed per beat)

Beat 12Y

1. Monitor problem house on Kales for tenant misbehavior; ongoing.
2. Intersection of Keith and Presley – speeders endanger pedestrians including schoolchildren.

Beat 13X

1. None

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

- Speeding and not yielding to pedestrians on Claremont at the Forest/Colby intersection.

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

- Weekend traffic at top of Broadway Terrace, not yielding to pedestrians.

*Next meeting is **TUESDAY, November 17, 2009** at 7:00 PM, in Room P1 of the College Preparatory School, 6100 Broadway, Oakland, Ca 94618. November will be this year's LAST meeting. See RockridgeNCPC.com for map.*

See you there and stay safe!

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