

Greater Rockridge NCPC - Minutes (12Y/13X)
Thursday, March 26, 2009
Rockridge Library 5366 College Avenue
General Public: 7:00-9:00PM

Nineteen people attended the meeting. Chris Jackson called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 PM.

Crime statistics – Vivek Bhatia reported that he had no updated statistics this month because OPD is behind in publishing the reports, technician was temporarily reassigned and is only just back on the job. But the NCPC officers think things have gotten worse, based on anecdotes and reports on the Yahoo! groups.

No OPD officers were in attendance on March 26, because the funeral of the 4 officers killed in the line of duty on March 21 was scheduled for the next day, March 27.

A resident of the Clover-Ross area complained that he has gotten a runaround from the PSO about a break-in at his house and would like some formal reports. They've had multiple incidents recently, are these break-ins normal? Another Clover-Ross resident put together a list of incidents and sent it to Chris Jackson, who passed to Officer Gerrans, who phoned her. Officer Gerrans said he didn't think the list was alarming – it was 9 incidents in 10 days in about a 500 foot radius. The residents think it is alarming.

Karen Ivy will investigate the relationship between the official OPD spreadsheets and the CyberWatch emails some people can now subscribe to, and will report at next meeting, and also on the Yahoo! lists. The crimes reported in both places don't seem to match up.

A resident noted that the times shown on the database report are the time the *report was taken*, not the time the crime was committed. Can we get another field in the database that shows the time of the crime?? Violent crimes seem to happen late at night, house break-ins seem to be early morning and late afternoon (when kids are being dropped off and picked up).

There's an effort along Shattuck Avenue to get services to the homeless, and some homeless who don't want services are moving into Rockridge. Also, the construction at Chabot Elementary is flushing out some new homeless. There's a homeless path you can see up behind the school and the tennis club. Residents weren't sure if this should be reported to CalTrans or OPD? Chris Jackson reported that CalTrans is working with GoodWill to go around and keep the homeless camps abated. Members of the tennis club who want to report homeless issues can call Nila Kim, in Jane Brunner's office. Ms. Kim wasn't present but Chris Jackson reports that she is coordinating this for Ms. Brunner, call 238-7001 ext. 3 for Nila Kim in Jane Brunner's office. A resident complained that burglars were caught, but released, one was kept only for cocaine possession; why were they released? The District Attorney couldn't make the charge stick; the police can arrest on much lower evidence standards than the D.A. requires to go to trial. A resident of Clover-Ross had an invader in her house while she was there, fortunately nothing taken and no one was hurt; but it took her a long time to take the situation seriously and call for help. The NCPC officers recommended that she should have gotten herself and the children out of the house, and then called OPD.

Chris Jackson noted that we in Rockridge are a soft target. If they try to break into a house in West Oakland, they'll get shot; they come here because we're easy targets. We leave doors open, we leave laptops visible in the windows. A resident commented that some of these guys are looking for specific things, if they don't find it they leave. And they're not, as a rule, violent. They're after crimes of opportunity. You want to look like a harder target than the next house or car. Dogs help; The Club helps.

A resident suggested that cameras are useful if they're visible, so intruders know they're watched. The cameras are \$100-\$200 or so, the card for the computer is around \$100. Another resident asked, are they legal in court? As far as we know, yes. A citizen questioned the value of an alarm system? It has some value; it tells them you know they're there.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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

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A resident reported a road rage incident at Roanoke & Chabot – a van coming west on Chabot ran the stop sign, nearly hit the resident's car. The van driver swore at the resident when she honked. The resident thinks they were from Rock LaFleche school, but couldn't find a phone number to report the problem. Several residents complained about the parents at Chabot Elementary and the way they drive (very aggressively, also double parking and illegal turns) and walk (jaywalk).

Someone asked, how can we show our appreciation for our OPD officers? Chris Jackson said that officers want to work in north Oakland because we appreciate them. To commend an officer we need to send a *letter*; the instructions on how to commend an officer are on *rockridgeresidents.org* in the forums.

Chris Jackson noted that we have no walking officer on College now, despite a \$5000 intimidation robbery recently. Officer Chimpky is on paternity leave. College Ave. is the 2nd largest tax revenue source in Oakland, we can't afford to have these incidents. Denise Boisvert-Jorgensen stated that the homeless come from all over Oakland to the Presbyterian Church Friday suppers, and they'll break a car window for a quarter. Chris Jackson recommended residents keep an eye out for people who "camp out" in vans and buses; some of them come out in the small hours looking for opportunities. You can't report a van to OPD unless you can tell dispatch that you see *someone* in the van, otherwise they won't take the call.

A resident asked about cars parked for a long period: are they exempt from the 72 hour limit if they have an area sticker? We think the car is NOT exempt from the 72 hour limit, even if it has a sticker. If a car has been there a long time, call the non-emergency number and ask them to check the plate, to see whether it's stolen (tell them you know they can't tell you who is the owner, you just want to know if it's stolen). If a car is sitting for a long time and has broken windows, you can call and tell them that.

The subject of freelance recyclers came up. This *is* theft, but OPD won't take the calls because "Waste Management won't do anything." Karen Ivy suggested that's a contract issue with Waste Management, which should go to Jane Brunner. The city of Alameda allows the county to prosecute recycle theft, they have a zero tolerance for recyclers. Some people in Rockridge think the recyclers are OK, because they're poor. It's still theft, and has the potential to raise garbage rates for the rest of us.

Priorities

Beat 12Y

1. Increased criminal activity in and around Clover-Ross neighborhood – 9 incidents in 10 days reported from CyberWatch.

Beat 13X

1. Automobile arson incident on Thomas Ave, also 2 trespassing incidents, 12 burglaries, several vandalized autos, and theft of artwork from a residence.

Traffic Priorities - Both Beats

Chabot & Ross 4-way stop – drivers don't stop at the stop signs. Please enforce.

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