

Greater Rockridge NCPC - Agenda (12Y/13X)
Thursday, August 27, 2009
Rockridge Library 5366 College Avenue
General Public: 7:00-9:00PM

NCPC:

Chris Jackson – Co-chair & Moderator
Denise Boisvert Jorgensen – Co-Chair & Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

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

NSC: Paul Brekke-Miesner

7:02 PM Chris Jackson opened the meeting. Introductions went around.

No PSOs or other OPD officers attended the meeting. Paul Brekke-Meisner, the Neighborhood Services Coordinator, reported on behalf of OPD.

Local crimes: The armed robber, a black male 18-23 years old, has been around for the last few weeks: he holds up (mostly) single females by asking directions to Highland Hospital, then present a gun. He is usually in a car driven by another man. The gunman appears to be high. They steal a different car every time and abandon it after the robbery. The current advice is, if someone pulls up and asks for directions, run. OPD has found no apparent pattern, the robbers seem to drive around looking for an opportunity.

Captain Toribio has people reviewing crime statistics looking for patterns, a new development.

A resident commented that he is often asked for directions to the freeway when walking his dog; good signage would be a safety issue, can we get directional signs? Chris Jackson replied that it's a good idea but the city has no funding available. Theoretically citizens could pay for a sign if we could raise the funds, but then who'd pay to put up the pole? Also, it's not clear whether freeway directional signs are city or CalTrans responsibility.

A resident reported a woman running the "my car broke down, I have to get to Sacramento" scam; his house painters paid her a dollar. Someone similar has been hitting College Ave. businesses.

A resident complained that bicycles on the sidewalks threaten her, she's almost been run over. Chris Jackson agreed, that's an issue. Our walking officer is on disability, we have no walking officer, and OPD can't backfill the position because he's still employed.

A resident noted that the traffic on Broadway is also deadly, and asked, if city needs money, why aren't these people being ticketed? Paul Brekke-Meisner said that they are, regularly.

Minor crimes:

- California College of the Arts students have put "art" all over the sidewalk again; one of the artists left a clipboard with personal identification and CJ has it. The NCPC needs to work with the CCA administration to stop this. CCA knows who these people are and their security people won't cooperate.
- Someone is tagging houses and other property in the Lawton area. A resident has photos and videos; the taggers appear to be juveniles but the pictures are very fuzzy. Recently a "kids playing" sign was stolen; shortly afterward, a *Rockridgeresidents.org* sign in a yard was tagged. The tag has been seen all over the area, including on his neighbor's house. That house has been tagged before (the resident was present). Videos of the sign theft and of the recent tagging have been posted on *Rockridgeresidents.org* and given to OPD. According to the time stamps on the photos and videos, this all happened around 03:15 AM. After posting the videos, the resident heard from an anonymous tipper who claimed to recognize the tagger, and gave a name and address on Lawton, on the cemetery side of Broadway. The owner of the security cameras talked to the people at that address with inconclusive results.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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

Greater Rockridge NCPC - Agenda (12Y/13X)
Thursday, August 27, 2009
Rockridge Library 5366 College Avenue
General Public: 7:00-9:00PM

Can OPD do something with this evidence? Can a uniformed officer follow this up? Is house tagging a crime? It's clearly the *same tag* on the sign in the video, and on the neighbor's house. Chris Jackson said it's felony vandalism if the damage requires more than \$400 in repairs. The NCPC will loan the resident a better video camera to try to get better photos.

Paul Brekke-Meisner asked for copies of the prints and will discuss them with Officer Gerrans; the time stamps give good reason for Patrol to follow up in the small hours when the PSOs are off duty. A resident said that, as a former protective services worker, she wonders what these kids are doing on the street at 3 AM?

A resident complained of the noise on Broadway, a quality of life issue: rolling boom boxes audible even with car windows up, Harleys with no mufflers. Mostly this is during the evening. This won't be a priority, but Paul Brekke-Meisner will pass it on to Patrol for special attention to speeding and noise.

Merchants crime and issues: College Ave. has had around 41 break-ins in the last couple of months. People always ask, which merchants? Chris Jackson never gives locations to keep businesses from getting a bad rap. They've had \$7000 worth of shoplifting.

A resident asked who pays for the Rockridge Out & About festival? Chris Jackson responded that the Business Investment District pays for that; the BID has hired a fundraiser to do promotions to bring business to the street.

There are plans for a fundraising booth at Out & About, to raise money for more bicycle racks on College Avenue. The city used to install bicycle racks for free, but due to current budget problems they now charge for each rack (\$200), to install each rack (\$120), and for the permits to install each rack (\$100). But if citizens buy the racks and donate them, they're installed for free and with no permit fees.

Vivek Bhatia's Crime stats presentation followed the discussion of neighborhood crime: Vivek explained that he pulls stats from crimespotting.org, get a historical view to see whether we should worry about crime. He just wants the mega-trends, and uses medians not means. He explained his 3 "buckets": crimes against the person (includes some that only Vivek considers violent); crimes against property; and personal property/drug crimes. This full presentation is available to registered users of Rockridgeresidents.org.

Property crime: 2009 is a little better than 2008, but 2008 was bad, and recent trends are moving up. All crime is up, all over town. In July, Rockridge had 59 incidents and Fruitvale had 25. July was much higher than the 2009 median but still better than 2008. There were 40 stolen cars and 43 burglaries in the last 90 days. Lock doors, lock cars, don't leave stuff visible in cars. Crimes are happening on side streets, not near BART, the area around BART has been quiet.

Crimes against person: July was 156% over the 2009 median. 2009 was up from 2008. The 2009 median was 9 crimes against the person; July 2009 had 23. Crime is up-ticking everywhere. Fruitvale was lower than 12Y in this category too.

Recommendations: know your neighbors; have zero tolerance for "broken window" syndrome; be aware of your surroundings; don't open door to people you don't know; clear back brush from walkways. Paul Brekke-Meisner repeated, lock doors and windows – the number of *unforced* entries they get is astounding. Become a harder target. People in East and West Oakland are more likely to have guns in the house than Rockridge residents.

A resident asked, what about recycling thieves? It is a crime, but it never gets prosecuted because Waste Management won't prosecute.

Paul Brekke-Meisner reported that OPD met with Oakland Housing Authority police yesterday, warned them we expect better responses on the N. Oakland properties; it was a good meeting.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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

Greater Rockridge NCPC - Agenda (12Y/13X)
Thursday, August 27, 2009
Rockridge Library 5366 College Avenue
General Public: 7:00-9:00PM

A resident asked what vehicles most commonly broken into: The answer was, Toyota Corolla, Honda Accord, Toyota Camry, Honda Civic.

Paul Brekke-Meisner confirmed that OPD allows three *priorities* per beat. The breakdown between crime priorities and traffic priorities is up to the NCPC.

Priorities

Beat 12Y

1. OHA property on 5800 block Canning – drug activity seems to be acting up again.
2. White house at Vicente & 58th – suspected drug activity.

Beat 13X

1. Tagging activity on houses and property on Friday and Saturday nights around 3 AM, on Lawton near Broadway

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

- Bicycles on sidewalks along College Ave., increase enforcement.

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

- Speeders on Broadway between Highway 24 and 51st .

Next meeting is Thursday, September 24, 2009 at 7:00 PM, in the Rockridge Library Community Room, College and Manila. See you there and stay safe!

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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