

**Greater Rockridge NCPC / RCPC Joint Town Hall - Minutes (12Y/13X)**  
**Thursday, September 25, 2008**  
**Rockridge Library 5366 College Avenue**  
**General Public: 7:00-9:00PM**

Twenty-six people attended the meeting including the following OPD officers:

- Officer Randall Chew, Beat 13X PSO
- Officer J. Cunnie, Beat 12X PSO
- Officer Doug Chimpky, College Ave. walking officer
- Sgt. B. Ortiz, PSO supervisor
- Officer Maureen Vergara, Beat 13Z PSO (Montclair Village)
- Officer H. Nguyen, Bicycle Patrol, upper Telegraph

Vivek Bhatia presented his latest crime stats. Crime in beats 12Y/13X is generally up 13% in 2008 over 2007. Crime in August was at the 2008 median. Aggregate violent crimes in 12Y/13X for 2008 are up 11%. Vivek is now tracking both year-to-date and median-per-month and finding that they do not necessarily move together. Area 1 on the whole has lower crime rates, 12Y/13X higher; is crime being pushed into Rockridge?? Or not? More details are on the web site [www.rockridgeresidents.org](http://www.rockridgeresidents.org) (free login required). Officer Cunnie commented that a 200% spike in robberies in June is undoubtedly affecting the numbers.

Vivek noted that his block is experimenting with weekly Friday happy hours to keep the neighbors acquainted with each other – it's in a front yard (on private property) – and presents a public face that they all know each other.

### **OPD Reporting**

OPD did a bicycle stop on College, gave out 75-80 tickets, handed out flyers on traffic regulations for bicycles. Officer Gerrans has been on the beat a lot in the last month; he's presently on vacation, and Officer Cunnie is covering for him. West Grand & Telegraph is one of the worst intersections for bicyclists west of the Mississippi. Chris Jackson noted that bicyclists on the sidewalk are a major issue especially for older pedestrians. Denise Boisvert-Jorgensen said she's had trouble with bicycles on Broadway, too.

On the recent robberies (including restaurant takeovers), OPD did almost nightly operations; there were 2 crews doing takeovers, both have been taken into custody. For now. East Oakland is still being hit, Rockridge less so. In the Nomad Cafe robbery, OPD got fingerprints which were in the system; the published video really wasn't much of a factor. Cameras produce terrible images of top of heads; to get usable photos, merchants have to put more money into the camera equipment, and place the cameras to shoot upward toward faces. A citizen asked whether any of the takeover robbers posted bail? OPD said that some did, but some had very high bail and are still in jail. Sgt. Ortiz commented that if OPD makes a mistake about the accused's rights, it can taint the case when it goes to court.

A citizen asked what can be done about people who run traffic lights when the police aren't there? Officer Chimpky suggested that the motorcycle division could possibly set up an ambush, because they can hide; nobody does this in front of an officer.

We'll make people who run lights the traffic priority for 12Y.

Citizens from Beat 13X reported that on Friday 9/19, 20-30 cars were involved in a huge ruckus at Lake Temescal, around midnight, they seemed to be spinning doughnuts in the parking lot. The neighbors called OPD and didn't like the response they got from dispatch. Also, neighbors heard automatic weapons in Mt. View Cemetery at night; rumor has it that the police found AK47 shell casings. Very scary stuff. Sgt. Ortiz noted about the Lake Temescal incident that people find a place to do sideshows, and by the time OPD gets there, they're gone, they're only there around 20 min. What about E. Bay Regional Park District, which has a police force? You'd have to have both phone numbers, although OPD and EBRPD are supposed to notify each other. The park district is supposed to put up a traffic barrier at the parking lot entrance but sometimes they forget.

### **IMPORTANT RESOURCES:**

- [RockridgeNCPC.com](http://RockridgeNCPC.com) & [OaklandPolice.com](http://OaklandPolice.com)
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/> & <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

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Sgt. Ortiz suggested that we start thinking about how the NCPC wants to handle New Year's Eve. Chris Jackson added that Halloween this year is on Friday night.

A resident of 13X said that he and his wife like to walk down from Contra Costa Road to College for dinner, is that still safe? To be honest, no, but Officer Chimpky says trouble rarely happens in that general area. Be alert, carry a stick or pepper spray.

A resident reported a problem house at 5552 Kales (the rear unit): the tenants get drunk, scream profanity at each other, and play loud music starting at 3 AM. This has been going on for at least 2 years. The neighbors are scared of these folks although no one knows of any actual violence, but they're really loud and sound threatening. The neighbors have seen them buying cases of beer. Officer Cunnie gave the resident Officer Gerrans' email and his own, and recommended the neighbors call the police, and then email Officers Gerrans and Cunnie with the incident numbers. OPD can issue a warning, and then if they get another call they issue a citation.

The resident responded that they had called police twice, and an officer showed up twice; Officer Cunnie asked if the racket was still going on when officer got there. Apparently the officer went to the door and asked the woman if everything was OK, she said yes it was, and he left.

Chris Jackson suggested the neighbors get the truck license number and give it to the PSO, have OPD try to catch them DUI. Officer Chimpky said to tell dispatch when you call that you want officer contact, it's easier for OPD if they can get back to the complainer. The officer won't necessarily come by at 3 AM even if that's when the call goes in.

Jim Dexter, NCPC chair from beat 13Y, noted that incident numbers sometimes disappear, and reports aren't always put into database, so stats are uncertain. The resident agreed that yes, one incident number had disappeared.

Jim Dexter asked how PSOs are to respond to 3 AM calls, since it's not their shift. Sgt. Ortiz repeated that OPD needs citizens to witness; they need documentation, so write it down. The resident said frankly she's afraid of these people, and not willing to be a witness. If an officer shows up while the noise is going on, they can cite for noise; but people hear the OPD coming and stop. Officer Cunnie repeated: email us, we'll notify patrol to check for noise, and Officer Gerrans will notify the landlord that there's a nuisance issue. A citizen asked about *rottenneighbor.org*. Apparently you just need to post the address. One of the neighbors has met the landlord once or twice but is not getting any response. A neighbor just recently found out who the landlord is. Chris Jackson asked, how bad can it be if no one has acted for 2 years??

Chris Jackson agreed that the house on Kales will be a priority for next month.

Jim Dexter asked for clarification: the PSOs can talk to patrol, and have them check out the place. But how can the PSOs be there at 3 AM if needed? Sgt. Ortiz responded that that's a management scheduling issue, OPD can be flexible if needed, based on the situation. There's one PSO for a beat, and a whole bunch of patrol officers – they need to spread the load, not put everything on the PSO. But the PSO tries to handle it first.

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**Merchant Issues:**

The Rockridge District Association has a new representative, who attended. RDA just signed a new contract with the Statewide Protection Agency for private security, the guards will travel up and down College, and check side streets. A resident noted that one of her neighbors is really afraid of the private guards, thinks they look like thugs with guns. Officer Chimpky noted that they aren't armed, and one of them is a park ranger in Hayward. Jim Dexter said that they've done security contracts in his beat, and we need to make sure they know who the PSO is, and have them call the local walking officer directly as well as 911. Officer Chimpky said they already have his cell phone number. Yeda Altes noted that a few years ago they did have problems with private security guards, but it was a different company, which didn't do background checks; that's probably why the worries. The RDA representative said that RDA is now doing Merchant Watch; on 9/21 at 3:18, there was an assault on College, why wasn't it reported? Incident was on sidewalk in front of a business, not against a business. Officer Chimpky said it could have been a domestic violence call, and the employee doesn't *want* it reported. All the merchants on College have Officer Chimpky's cell phone number. A citizen asked if NCPC can work with RCPC to give recognition to merchants that get the Merchant Watch training?

Denise Boisvert-Jorgensen asked about the bicycle that NCPC bought for Officer Chimpky? Officer Chimpky still uses that but not necessarily when you might see him.

Officer Nguyen reported that there will be a tip-a-cop event to raise money for the Special Olympics. Officers in uniform will pair up with restaurant servers to ask for donations for Special Olympics. Dates are Thurs. 10/23 at Garibaldi's, and Thurs. 11/6 at Pasta Pomodoro.

Someone asked about the crime maps that used to be on the NCPC web site. The volunteer who was doing that has stopped, but if you Google "Crimeview Oakland" you can bring up the official maps, and search on reported crimes by beat or address.

**Priorities**

**Beat 12Y**

1. College and 63<sup>rd</sup>  
There is a lot of loitering, suspicious-looking people on the benches by Yasai and outside Cole Coffee. There have been some drug-related arrests there. This is right by the Berkeley border, people slide across the border when OPD shows up.
2. 5552 Kales  
Nuisance neighbors in rear unit. 3 AM nuisance - Screams, profanity, loud music, alcohol, possible domestic violence.

**Beat 13X**

1. Sideshows in Lake Temescal parking lot Friday 9/19, parking lot not secured.
2. Mountain View Cemetery – partying and drinking, automatic weapon gunshots reported.

**Traffic Priorities - Both Beats**

People who run traffic lights: can motorcycle div. set up ambush?

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