

Greater Rockridge NCPC (12Y/13X)
Meeting Minutes Thursday, January 9th, 2014
Rockridge Library Community Room, College and Manila
General Public: 7:00-8:30PM

NCPC:

Frank Castro – Chair
Barbara Minton – Vice Chair
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer
Molly Singer – Treasurer

Molly Singer called the meeting to order. Present also were Barbara Minton, Vice Chair, Captain Toribio and PSO Trode of OPD, and NSC Patricia Rose. There were 19 attendees in all.

Melissa Jordan, senior web producer at BART, announced her research project about community policing efforts near BART stations, and BART police progress in general. She solicited comments from the public. BART plans to use data more, and will use CompStat.

Captain Toribio

Captain Toribio asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves. He discussed what's happening with OPD. Last year saw area-wide reductions in crime; however, these reductions came from already high crime statistics, so the decrease is good, but much work still needs to be done.

In 2013, for example, we dropped from a 39% increase in area-wide robberies in July (from YTD robberies in July 2012), to a 3% increase at the end of the year. There has been a downward trend in North Oakland although we still have had robberies in Beat 12, including a recent armed robbery on Lawton. There were no robberies in Beat 13X. The holidays brought a big decrease in robberies, maybe due to partnerships with other agencies, school police, etc. Before the holidays, we mostly saw strong-arm robberies, not armed. Lately, we've seen more armed robberies. The robbers seem to have moved from Claremont and College to Claremont and Telegraph area.

Officer Trode noted that there were three residential burglaries in 13X this evening on Ocean View. A silver Chevy Cruze may have been involved in some incidents of kicking in doors up in the hills.

We have been assigned a Burglary Investigator, we haven't had one previously. A burglary occurred in Beat 13Y and a citizen emailed a photo of a car. The investigator believes these are the same people who have been doing the area break-ins. Investigator is being promoted, so he'll be leaving, but will be replaced very quickly. He has already identified 2 or 3 cases where we have identified suspects and are on the verge of making arrests, something that would not have happened before, when the cases would have just languished because we did not have the investigative capacity to do the follow up.

Area 2 has started using social media such as Twitter, Nixle, and NextDoor, especially sending OPD alerts thru them. People have started sending us information, photos, etc. This information sharing and communication is very beneficial.

Use of surveillance cameras is critical. We are looking for cameras where these robberies and burglaries are taking place. It's also important to also utilize good prevention

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measures: locking doors and windows, use of motion detection lights, knowing your neighbors, etc.

We have good news on staffing, an academy class graduates in April with 50+ trainees, and another started about a week ago (50+ trainees). A third class is in field training and will be released to street duty around mid-January, and will help to fill the vacancies. We will promote officers to fill these administrative gaps, and fill their positions with people from the classes. We've hired about 20 civilian technicians to handle calls an officer would do, so officers can work on enforcement efforts and response times. The civilian technicians can tow cars, take reports, and do other non-enforcement things an officer would normally have to do. They are currently in training.

Question: You say you have a new investigator for Burglary. Do you have one for robberies?

A: Yes we do. What makes this area so attractive for robberies? It's easy to get in and out of commercial and neighborhood areas—easy freeway access points, and there are lots and lots of people walking and driving - potential victims. It's easier for crooks to do a couple of robberies and make money than be out on street corner, selling drugs. This is a city-wide trend.

Question: How can we get information on crime in the area?

A: Crimemapping.com on line is still the best way. We're looking for a better way to send out data, especially more and better data. We must be involved with the community, and talk to groups and individuals.

Question: How are the security patrols doing?

A: Captain Toribio said that VMA Security is doing patrols; OPD is in communication with them too, sharing info.

The security company started operations in mid-October. At this point, after only a few months, they have provided a measure of deterrence, and have improved the perception of crimes. The community that has employed the extra patrols feels a sense of security in that they know they have an extra set of eyes and ears around here. We have no specific examples of cases where security patrols have seen a crime, called us and we responded. I think they have come across victims, such as auto burglary victims; we have sent them our ID templates that they have given to victims.

Officer Trode commented that unreported crimes are an ongoing problem and urged citizens to call OPD when crimes occur.

Question: Has anyone considered security cameras at exit points?

A: Yes, there has been discussion about that. The issues are cost, also how and who monitors the cameras. We could expand license plate readers by increasing the number of cars that have them. We are looking at that. Also we park marked cars in high crime areas as a deterrent.

Question: With all vendors available for surveillance equipment, can you recommend one?

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A: No. I can't. But the Neighborhood Services Division link on the OPD web page provides a guide to personal surveillance systems. Very helpful.

Question: When people are moving, they put out stuff on the curb for people to pick up, is that a good thing? I have an organization that takes stuff like that and gives it to charities. Could you recommend this on your social media?

A: No, I couldn't do that.

Question: Have you made any headway on the construction site robberies?

A: The investigation is ongoing. We have information on the vehicle used, we are looking for witnesses to identify the suspects and those linked with that car.

Officer Trode noted that neighbors are key: people who are home may see crimes, notice suspicious people, and call them in. Call the nonemergency line (510-777-3333), spread the word in your neighborhood. Beat 13X has had an uptick in burglaries, and auto burglaries; keep your cars clear of visible objects.

Crimemapping.com gets info from OPD stats.

A resident reported that sometimes calling nonemergency works. They called them, an officer came and talked to the suspicious person, and he left.

Captain Toribio said that PSO Jason Trode is covering 13X, Y and Z , and 12Y as well. We hope to replace our missing PSO soon. (The new PSO is Officer Gunther Lee. He was previously assigned as the Beat 12 patrol officer and will be on loan until Officer Del Rosario returns.)

Neighborhood Issues and Priorities

A resident complained about daytime noise at a service station/car wash on Telegraph Avenue near 62nd. The portable air compressor makes loud and unpredictable noise, it's very annoying. The business license was granted without taking into account the people who live nearby. This isn't a criminal problem because the noise is in the daytime. The NSC recommended the residents try the city's business licensing department. They seem to care about helping people.

The group didn't request any changes in the existing priorities for OPD.

A resident asked who could help set up the security cameras he bought, and get them working? The vendor is in Canada and can only support by telephone. The meeting suggested he advertise on social media and see if someone would volunteer to help.

Captain Toribio reminded the meeting that the next Citizens' Police Academy begins on March 3. There will be more information later but anyone interested in attending the academy should sign up early. Classes are held Monday nights and last for 14 weeks.

NSC Patricia Rose explained to the meeting that citizens may now request a permit and trim their own street trees, instead of waiting for Public Works to get around to it. The form you

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have to fill out is found at [Prune Your Own City Tree Guidelines](#) on the Public Works web site, it includes instructions and requirements.

Priorities for January 2014:

12Y:

1. Robberies and burglaries in 12Y generally
2. Robberies in Shafter corridor (Miles, Shafter, Locksley), the street lighting is very poor. (NB: the city is replacing *all* the street lights with LEDs.)

13X:

1. Auto burglaries near the school around Golden Gate and Ocean View.
2. Parking past the *No Parking* limit sign on Golden Gate, makes it really hard to drive up the street.

Meetings are the SECOND Thursday of the month.
*Next meeting is scheduled for **February 13, 2014** at 7:00 PM*
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See you there and stay safe!

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