

Greater Rockridge NCPC Meeting Minutes (12Y/13X)
Thursday, November 10, 2011
Room P1, The College Preparatory School, 6100 Broadway
General Public: 7:00-8:30PM

NCPC:

Frank Castro – Chair
Barbara Minton – Vice Chair
Denise Jorgensen – Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

Barbara Minton opened the meeting at 7:02 PM and attendees introduced themselves. Two representatives from The College Preparatory School introduced themselves. Fourteen people attended the meeting.

Crime Statistics

Since Frank Castro was unable to attend, no crime statistics were presented. We will attempt to get them later and post them on the web site.

13X OPD Report

Problem Solving Officer Trent Thompson attended the meeting but said he couldn't stay because of the recent fatal shooting at 14th and Broadway. He asked for reportable items from beat 13X. A resident reported his catalytic converter was stolen; the block captain from the Carlton/Brady Neighborhood Watch reported an attempted catalytic converter theft in his neighborhood. Officer Thompson commented that you can't secure the catalytic converters, thieves cut them off with a hacksaw. Metal thieves want the platinum and copper. A representative from The College Preparatory School reported two car break-ins in the last week, and said that the Seneca Center has had 6 car break-ins on Chabot Road in last 10 weeks. The Seneca Center plans to extend their parking, and build a lower lot, right now many people have to park on Chabot Road. The latest break-in attempt at The College Preparatory School happened at 3:30 PM on Wednesday, Nov. 9 – a well-dressed Hispanic male wearing a beige knitted cap broke into a parked student car. He was intercepted and ran off along Golden Gate Avenue, without stealing anything. Officer Thompson regretted that the description was not more detailed.

Officer Thompson reported that the campers at Occupy Oakland are being robbed regularly. The shooting victim doesn't appear to be related to Occupy Oakland; he was pronounced dead on scene.

Denise Boisvert-Jorgensen announced that the Montclair NCPC will be holding a presentation on security cameras on Saturday November 12. Officer Thompson said he will be there. The NCPC plans to plaster Montclair with Logitech cameras, Logitech will be there Saturday to discuss their equipment. Officer Thompson commented that these are very high-tech cameras, which produce beautiful footage. The meeting will be at Montclair Elementary at 10 AM.

A representative from The College Preparatory School asked if it is legal for a school to install cameras pointed at the public street? Officer Thompson said yes, it is legal.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

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The block captain from Carlton/Brady Neighborhood Watch reported that thieves tried to steal the catalytic converter from a car parked on Carlton at 4:30 AM. The car owner's wife was awake feeding a new baby and interrupted them before they could get the converter.

12Y OPD Report

Problem Solving Officer Maureen Vergara was unable to attend. Officer Thompson wrote down the issues we had collected and said he would pass them on to her.

Bicycles being ridden on sidewalks
A mugger on BMX bike, sometimes armed
Apartment burglar, broke into building at 6100 Chabot and burgled 2 apartments
Catalytic converter thefts generally

A resident of the area around Shafter and Cavour reported that his area has had four burglaries over the last 6 or 7 weeks. He works from home, and recently caught 3 teenagers looking in his basement window. He reported the incident to police, but the kids were gone before dispatch answered the phone, and no one came out. The kids were back on Wednesday the 9th, one of them rang the doorbell around noon, and asked for a neighbor who doesn't exist. Officer Thompson said the kids may be from Oakland Tech, but there's no way to identify them except to go through a high school yearbook looking at photos! He'll talk to the school district police about the problem.

Officer Thompson advised attendees to stay away from the UC Berkeley campus and from 14th and Broadway, riots are possible in both places tonight. Every able-bodied officer OPD can spare will be dealing with the riots, so there will be no response to neighborhoods until it calms down.

Denise Boisvert-Jorgensen asked if there is an academy in the works? Officer Thompson said yes, there should be a Lateral academy very soon, and a recruiting academy probably around the first of the year. OPD is also bringing back former officers who left.

Karen Ivy explained what an academy is, and a lateral academy. Denise Boisvert-Jorgensen noted that the OPD academies are top-rated nationwide, people want to get trained here. Denise thinks there's a commitment period for attending an academy, that is, the officer has to work for OPD for a stated amount of time, and is expected to repay Academy expenses if he – or she - leaves OPD before that. Karen says she's not sure.

Reports on Previous Projects

Barbara Minton reported, that after the last NCPC meeting, the neighbor who was running the illegal car repair operation out of his garage has vanished, there's not a sign of him or his wife, and the house is quiet as a tomb.

The resident who complained about noise from McNally's bar reported that she had worked with PSO Vergara, with the Alcohol Beverage Action Team, and with the City Administrator. They sent official letters, and the noise has improved considerably. The cold weather is helping because the windows are closed, the bar had a recent DJ party that wasn't a problem.

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A representative from The College Preparatory School said he has read about a 'Cat Club' that is supposed to prevent catalytic converter thefts.

No issues relating to merchants in beat 12Y were raised.

BART Police Department Report

No BART officer attended. Denise Boisvert-Jorgensen reported that our BART liaison has asked us to warn people, around holidays you're more likely to be followed as you leave the BART station. Be aware of your surroundings. Denise told people there were handouts available about the extensive construction work at MacArthur BART station, which is probably going to increase traffic at Rockridge BART.

Other Issues

Tamera White introduced herself, she is a member of the Community Police Advisory Board; the CPAB works with the police and acts as a liaison between community and police. They meet once a month at city hall, and include a volunteer from each district. Representatives from different organizations attend. Ms. White works with the programming services committee. She's working on a document called Tools & Tactics, about how to start an NCPC and grow it; the document is outdated. She's getting input from NCPCs on how make it more fluid, and possibly update it annually. She just got a copy of a survey done 3-4 years ago of the NCPCs, by an outside firm. Barbara Minton asked who oversees the CPAB? Ms. White said that each council member has a representative for their district, the CPAB doesn't talk directly to City Council. There are 10-12 people on the CPAB, which reports annually to the Public Safety Committee of the City Council.

A resident commented that she works as an aide to Pat Kernighan, and attends NCPC meetings in district 2. She's also on the Hillcrest PTA board, which meets the same night as the Greater Rockridge NCPC. She wanted to come and hear if we have the same issues as district 2; she said it sounds very similar.

Setting of Priorities

The group decided to remove McNally's Bar from the 12Y priority list because of the improvement. We'll keep the reported car burglaries along Colby between 60th and Alcatraz (from last month) and add a request to patrol the area around Shafter and Cavour for teenage burglary suspects. We will add the rash of catalytic converter thefts on Carlton for beat 13X.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

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Priorities for October:

12Y:

1. Rash of car burglaries along Colby between 60th and Alcatraz, and generally from Claremont toward Berkeley.
2. Patrol Shafter & Cavour area, teenage burglary suspects active during the day, casing houses, ringing doorbells to ask for non-existent neighbors.

13X:

1. Catalytic converter thefts on Carlton.

Meetings are the SECOND Thursday of the month.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, December 8, 2011** at 7:00 PM
in the community room at the Rockridge Library, College and Manila.

See you there and stay safe!

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