

**Greater Rockridge NCPC (12Y/13X)
Meeting Minutes Thursday, November 15, 2013
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

NCPC Board members present: Karen Ivy, Secretary and Molly Singer, Treasurer. Karen Ivy presided. Also present were Officer Jason Trode, Beat 13X PSO (temporarily also covering beat 12Y), and beat officers P. Davis and J. Warford. Lieutenant Christopher Bolton from Area 2 command also attended.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. Twenty-two people attended the meeting.

Police Chief Recruitment Survey Cards

The City of Oakland is soliciting citizen input about what they want in a new police chief. Patricia Rose, NSC, handed out survey cards to those in attendance. The survey is also available on-line at Oakland's [Police Chief Recruitment](#) page (survey links are at the bottom, in 4 languages). There is additional information about the recruitment schedule on this site.

Ms. Rose also announced a Home Security seminar on Tuesday November 19th from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Faith Presbyterian Church at 49th and Webster. These meetings are being held in various neighborhoods by the City. She also pointed out that a new brochure about safety tips for the holidays was available at the sign-in table.

OPD Status Reports, 12Y and 13X, and neighborhood issues discussion

The normal crime report was not available due to Frank Castro's absence. Karen Ivy provided handouts created by [OpenOakland](#), a part of the Code for America project. The report was a five-year crime analysis of how beats 12x and 13Y stacked up against the Oakland city average. [Beat 12Y](#) was worse (higher than average) in 5 crime categories and better off in 12. The worst category was Larceny which was 195% above the city-wide average. The best category was Sex which was 14% below the city-wide average. [Beat 13X](#) was better off in all 23 categories. The best category was Robbery_Firearms which was 5% of the city average. These analyses are available for *all* Oakland police beats at [ElectronicArtifacts.com](#).

The findings were corroborated by Lieutenant Bolton and Officer Trode, who said that robberies and burglaries - especially auto burglaries - were the main problems in our district. Between October 1 and November 11 there were 16 robberies in which victims were accosted – mostly with firearms. The losses were generally cellphones and laptops which are resold at flea markets and on Craigslist.

Lieutenant Bolton explained that, in the last two months, the District 2 beat officers have been on special duty, looking for crime rather than responding to crime. They have seen robberies reduced by 57% in District 2 compared to a 20% reduction in the citywide. Since June, the district has gone from over 12 robberies a day to 5 robberies a day.

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

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Officer Trode spoke about an armed robbery that occurred around 5:00pm on Broadway Terrace. In this robbery the victim chose to fight the robber, who eventually ran away. Officer Trode urged people not to risk their lives for a cellphone or laptop.

An attendee asked if crime is seasonal. Lieutenant Bolton said yes, it is – crimes tend to peak in summer, at holidays, and whenever it is dark. The Lieutenant also said there would be heavy police rotation on College Ave. during the upcoming holidays. He also spoke about the police force's continued ventures into using the internet and social media to communicate. He mentioned [Nixle](#) that can provide subscribers with alerts from the police department via email or text message. He also gave his twitter account, [@OPDChris](#).

Karen Ivy raised a question from the Yahoo groups: why does OPD not share victim sketches with the public? Lt. Bolton responded that OPD does not have in-house sketch artists and relies primarily on videos. There was a discussion about the police's reliance on videos in identifying suspects. The police hesitate to release sketches unless they're very sure of the accuracy, because an inaccurate sketch of a suspect can hurt the investigation.

There was discussion about the benefits of using a flashlight when walking at night since it acts as a deterrent to robbers and supplements the street lights.

Logitech Cameras

Karen Ivy said there would not be a discussion of Logitech cameras. Volunteer Sue Donaldson tried to contact Logitech about getting a group discount but Logitech has not returned calls. It appears they are no longer offering this program.

Karen asked if there were any attendees who have a Logitech or other security camera who would be willing to speak about their experience. An attendee said that she did purchase two cameras and the picture quality was good – better in daylight or supplemented by motion detector lights at night. She said that nothing has happened since she got the cameras. Another attendee mentioned [Dropcam](#), which uses WIFI and regular D batteries but is currently only for indoors. Karen Ivy said that the previous Logitech presentation materials are available [at this link](#) for those who are interested. Remember when reviewing the slides that the group discount they offer *no longer exists*. The only discounts Logitech currently offers are for purchases of multiple cameras by individuals.

Another attendee recommended people interested in security cameras look into [DropCam](#).

Priorities

13X Issue - Auto burglaries, smash car windows near south entrance of Lake Temescal.

Officer Trode reported that the police, in conjunction with the Parks department, increased the patrol of the Lake Temescal Parking lot, and left flyers on windshields to alert drivers. He reported that, in the past 90 days, there has been a major reduction in burglaries at this site. We will remove this priority from the list for now.

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13X Issue - Residents near CCA report increasing street robberies as students move back in for fall classes

Officer Trode noted that, if there have been increased street robberies in this area over the last few months, no one has reported them to the police. An attendee reported that California College of the Arts has installed a private security guard at College Point (Broadway and College). Officer Trode said that he is aware of this and felt more uniformed people on the street are beneficial. Officer Trode also said that he would reach out to CCA administration to see if he can increase student awareness of the hazards of walking around using earphones and carrying exposed cell phones. We will remove this priority from the list for now.

There was a lively discussion about the increase in private security programs and mention that, in addition to CCA, Rockridge now has 3 private patrols using VMA Security Services and that the biggest issue was whether the guards should be armed or unarmed. Several attendees expressed concern about armed private security guards. Guards are unarmed for this test period. The Lieutenant was not aware of this new patrol and Karen Ivy said she would send him the maps of the private security patrol areas. The Lieutenant said that they work with these companies to make them aware of hot spots and that these companies do report incidences to the police. They have good working relationships.

A resident complained about a motor home parked on 51st Street near Miles. It has Alaska plates with stickers through 2015. Someone moves it regularly for street cleaning. Officer Trode said that if a vehicle is moved *1 mile in every 72 hours*, it's legal. If you think it's been there longer than 72 hours, call the Abandoned Auto Detail (*not* the non-emergency number), (510) 777-8622. [*Ed. Note:* you can also email AbandonedAuto@oaklandnet.com.]

None of the attendees asked for additions to the priorities.

Priorities for November 2013:

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 **December 12, 2013** at 7:00 PM*
Rockridge Library Community Room, College & Manila
See you there and stay safe!

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