

Greater Rockridge NCPC - Minutes (12Y/13X)
Thursday, February 11, 2010
Rockridge Library Community Room, College and Manila, Oakland
General Public: 7:00-9:00PM

NCPC:

Frank Castro – Acting Chair
Vice Chair – ***available, please volunteer!***
Denise Jorgensen – Treasurer (out of town)
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

PSOs: Beat 12Y Officer Patrick Gerrans; Beat 13X Officer Randall Chew (on leave due to injury)

NSC: Ana Martinez

General Introductions

Frank Castro opened the meeting at 7:02PM, and announced the change in chairmanship following Chris Jackson's decision to withdraw. Debbie Ramirez filled in as NSC for Ana Martinez who is out sick. OPD Officers attending included Officers Gerrans from Beat 12Y, and Officers Krump, and Sivila from Beat 13X. Sixteen people attended the meeting.

Review of crime statistics (Vivek Bhatia)

Vivek began by answering a question about what police Area we're in (Area 1) and how the police service areas are laid out. He referred to various web sources of beat maps (Rockridgeresidents.org, RockridgeNCPC.com, oaklandpolice.com). Vivek explained that he only reports on crimes against person and property, to keep the presentation light. Crimes against the person for January 2010 in Beats 12Y/13X had too few incidents to calculate a percentage increase; the wet weather in January may have had an effect. Not all beats were this lucky. Beat 12X went from 6 incidents in 1/09 to 29 incidents in 1/10.

Crimes against property in Jan. 2010 are well below this month last year (from 44 to 28 incidents). Property crime in Fruitvale, however, has been way up (almost 100% increase) even though Area 2 overall is 7% down from 2009.

Vivek mapped the days and times when property crimes happened – and they're happening *at night*, after 6PM. Daytime crimes are relatively rare, but nighttime crimes are quite heavy. The majority of crimes occurred Monday-Friday in January, a few on Sat.; no crimes were recorded on Sunday for January... (Do criminals take Sunday off?)

A resident asked if there is any correlation with recyclers, garbage days, and property crimes? There isn't enough data on garbage days in various areas to tell. A lot of the vehicle thefts and auto burglaries are closely grouped – physically near each other and within a couple of hours of each other. So *report* suspicious incidents to the OPD non-emergency number, 777-3333.

OPD Report

Officer Gerrans reported that Officers Vergara and Haney are covering Beat 13X for Officer Chew. Officer Vergara has been concentrating on auto burglaries, especially around The College Preparatory School, and has started an OPD safety tips blurb in the school's e-newsletter, covering auto burglaries (don't leave visible stuff in the car, lock things in the trunk) and traffic issues. These thefts are opportunistic and take very little time. Report suspicious activity to 777-3333 (non-emergency) – such as someone trying car doors. If you see a theft in process call 777-3211 (from a cell) or 911 (from a wired phone). The night patrol officers have been warned to keep an eye on the area on Golden Gate above the school.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

- RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com
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Please remember that U-turns near schools during school hours are illegal, as is double parking; you can be ticketed. Also please slow down around schools.

Beat 12Y Priorities

Officer Gerrans has scouted the area at Miles and Cavour, where cars were reportedly parked for sale, and hasn't seen any obvious signs of anyone selling cars. The incidents may be time sensitive and not happen during his shift, which is mostly at night. A resident from the area says she gave her neighbors the "suspicious incident" sheet, and they are calling in suspicious cars. If you think a car has been abandoned, you can report it to the non-emergency number, be sure to give the license plate number. Cars parked over 72 hrs can be tagged.

The shoplifting incidents happened on College Avenue in July and August 2009. Two females and one male are under investigation; they reportedly went into a clothing store, stuffed a stack of jeans in a bag and ran. They got a lot of merchandise and may have hit other stores. The investigation is continuing. OPD has no definite named suspects; they are trying to get positive identification from surveillance photos. The suspects may be responsible for other similar thefts.

A resident asked, are the restaurant crimes over, like on Lakeshore, Piedmont, and Grand Avenues? Officer Gerrans said OPD is still investigating that, they still don't have definite identification, although it's been almost a year. They hope to get DNA and fingerprint evidence back soon.

Illegal trucks on Chabot Road between College and Claremont

The situation hasn't changed since last month, heavy trucks still use the road. Officer Gerrans is finding some vehicle code violation numbers for the residents, and they are putting up some flyers.

Radar trailer on Keith

The radar trailer on Keith may have been removed. The NCPC hasn't seen any correspondence on that recently. There's a lighted sign on Broadway showing the speed limit. A resident of the area said it has made a big difference in the speed of Broadway traffic. The street is much calmer now. Nila Kim thinks that sign is permanent. She'll see about getting the radar trailer rotated back into position on Keith in a few weeks.

Neighborhood Issues

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A resident, who lives next to the Nude Sushi establishment on Telegraph Avenue, complained that the employees hang out in the parking lot behind the store between midnight and 3 AM. They are very noisy, talking, laughing and horsing around. It's a delivery-only restaurant which delivers till 4 AM (closed Sunday); the problem isn't the customers, it's the employees. There are residences all around, but she lives right next to the parking lot. The resident asked, isn't there a law about noise at that hour? Officer Gerrans confirmed that there is a law, after 10 PM they shouldn't be making that much noise. Nila Kim noted that Jeff Johnson in Jane Brunner's office is looking into this. The resident said this has gone on 6 nights a week for at least a year. They've talked to the manager of the business, who told them to shut up and let her make a living. The resident has kept a log since October of incidents, complaint calls, and police incident numbers. The resident complained to the building landlord, who tried to talk to the business owner, but she just smiles and doesn't change anything. Karen Ivy noted that this can be a priority for Beat 12Y. Debra Ramirez suggested they may be able to use civil nuisance abatement processes against this, and advised the resident to contact Ana Martinez to follow up. The detailed log is really good, you need documentation of the incidents. There are alternatives if law enforcement isn't working. Logging works for nuisance activity as well as drug activity. We could see when their business license is up for renewal; if necessary the NCPC can write a letter to the business and the building owner. Officer Krump says she's been out there 3-4 times, telling them to desist, and asked if it is still happening. The resident said that it stops for a few days at a time and then starts again.

Captain Toribio attended and addressed the meeting. He said that he is impressed with Officer Gerrans. The North Oakland PSOs presented their enforcement plans to the District Attorney, and Officer Gerrans and Officer Cunnie did an outstanding job. Officer Krump got a commendation on the OPD web site today – she found *and detained* a suspect identified as a strong-arm robbery perpetrator. On the subject of the restaurant robberies, the suspects arrested in Area 2 may not be related to the robberies in Area 1, but OPD made some other arrests in Area 1 and the Area 1 robberies stopped. Street robbers target specific victims, don't be a target. Be aware of surroundings, don't look like you're carrying valuables. Identify strangers. Lock doors and windows, don't leave ladders or boxes you can climb on around the yard.

OPD Currently has 775 sworn officers out of a possible 803 – they want to have both a lateral and a full-blown academy later this year if funding can be arranged. There will be a watch change in March – officers who've been on 911 call get to choose where to work, North Oakland may get some officers back. The officers are going back mostly to 4-10 schedules, the 3-12 schedule became an officer safety issue. The Chief wants to build up Patrol to improve 911 response and cover officers' backs. The community reports 911 response as a top priority, OPD is downsizing other groups to bulk up Patrol. Officer Chimpky has retired on disability and OPD won't backfill his position, they're also losing other foot patrol officers. The College Ave. walking officer will stay for now but we have no guarantees. OPD must cut \$3 million from its budget now, and another \$10 million in July for next year's budget.

Captain Toribio wants to do marketing to the ShopOakland business community on Black Friday in Nov. – he wants to have officers walk the business districts in Area 1 (Chinatown, Piedmont, Temescal, College) on Black Friday to encourage people to shop locally. The reporter from the OaklandLocal web site suggested he Google "Plaid Friday," a Shop Local movement, and tie his effort in with that.

The OPD dispatch center took 650K calls last year; OPD is down 14 dispatchers from their full staffing, with 5 people off on long-term disability. OPD is hiring 14 new dispatchers but it's a very demanding job and the failure rate is high. OPD is civilianizing the 911 center – removing the sergeants back to patrol. The dispatchers are civilians.

Merchants' Issues

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No one attended the meeting from the RDA. A resident will talk to RDA reps and see if they would like her to represent them at the NCPC meetings again, as she has done before.

Review of Previous Month's Priorities and Setting of New Ones (10 minutes)

If the neighbors still think the "car sales" are an issue they need to attend next month's meeting and continue to follow up by calling in incidents. We're dropping it as a priority for now. The resident from the neighborhood will encourage them to come next time.

Debra Ramirez will work with the resident about nuisance handling on the Nude Sushi establishment.

The only Beat 13 resident attending the meeting said Beat 13 is quiet as far as he knows. A resident asked about "the home invasions" - last year Officers Vergara and Chew did a deep investigation and caught several suspects, who were charged with almost all the incidents and are facing something like 60 years in jail.

We'll remove the Keith Ave. traffic priority for now, and leave the priority for truck traffic on Chabot Road in place. We'll leave speeding on Broadway by College Preparatory as a 13X traffic priority and Nila Kim will find out if a radar trailer was ever placed there.

Priorities (three allowed per Beat)

Beat 12Y

1. Shoplifting on College Ave.
2. Employees of "Nude Sushi" (6228 Telegraph) making noise in parking lot behind restaurant between midnight and 3 AM.

Beat 13X

1. No priorities for Beat 13X this month.

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

- Truck traffic on Chabot Road between Claremont and College which is prohibited (with signs) between 06:00 and 14:00.

Traffic Priority - 13X (one traffic priority per Beat)

- Speeding past The College Preparatory School, Broadway frontage road.

In 2010 all meetings will be the SECOND Thursday of the month.

*Next meeting will be **Thursday, March 11, 2010** at 7:00 PM in the Rockridge Library Community Room, College and Manila - GUEST SPEAKER & SPECIAL FOCUS ON IDENTITY THEFT*

See you there and stay safe!

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