

Greater Rockridge NCPC – Rockridge RCPC – Oakland Yellowjackets Bicycle Club
Joint Meeting Minutes (12Y/13X)
Thursday, April 8, 2010
Rockridge Library Community Room, College and Manila, Oakland
General Public: 7:00-9:00PM

NCPC:

Frank Castro – Chair

Vice Chair – ***available – please volunteer!***

Denise Jorgensen – Treasurer

Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

PSOs: Beat 12Y Officer Patrick Gerrans; Beat 13X Officer Randall Chew (out with injury)

NSC: Ana Martinez

At 7:05 PM Frank Castro opened the meeting and introduced the NCPC officers. He also introduced Fred McWilliams of the Oakland Yellowjackets bicycle club and Stu Flashman of RCPC. The OPD officers present introduced themselves. Frank Castro noted that NCPC meetings are the place to meet your sworn police officers face to face. Seventy-three people attended the meeting including five OPD officers (plus Chief Batts and his party).

7:10 PM Special speaker Chief Anthony Batts, Oakland Police Department

Chief Batts chose to talk about his recently published [Strategic Plan Framework](#). He is just starting his 6th month on the job in Oakland after 28 years working in Long Beach, 8 as police chief. He has a great respect for the OPD officers. Long Beach had similar problems to Oakland, he worked with a consultant, Scott Bryant, who built a strategic plan for Long Beach in 1995 which brought it out of the doldrums. When he came here, he called on Mr. Bryant to consult for Oakland. The chief said that he really likes the Rockridge neighborhood.

OPD's new official motto is: "We will be there when you need us." The chief admitted this isn't currently true; but it's getting better. The basis of law enforcement is that when you call the police, they arrive fast. He's been attending community meetings and listening to stories like this one: "the burglar broke in at 11 AM, at midnight I got tired of calling you." The motto is the department stretch goal – they will make it true.

Chief Batts has made major staffing changes, moving 30 detectives from desk jobs to the street. People still in desk jobs go into the street once a week (and soon twice) to support patrol. They've scheduled extra coverage at night when crime is up.

The *Mission* of the Oakland Police Department is to provide the people of Oakland an environment where they can live, work, play, and thrive free from crime and the fear of crime. This is a new mission. The traditional mission was to provide professional law enforcement services. That's too weak.

The department's new 5 point vision statement is available on the new Oakland Police web site:

[Our Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals and Values](#)

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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Review them there, but the most important one is that, by the year 2015, Oakland is one of the safest large cities in California – both in reality and perception.

The Chief said that he didn't leave his family in Long Beach to come up here, where he knows no one, and be mediocre. Oakland is in San Francisco's shadow; it deserves better. Too many people die here – 100 people or more every year; how can we sit around and say, that's OK. That level of carnage is not OK. If OPD doesn't start dealing with it, we should ask for heads to roll – starting with his. It'll take the entire community – it can't be done by a short bald guy riding in on a horse. New York did it, only when the people said, "Enough."

Scott Bryant: Oakland can do it. Real estate developers have told him that a major company chose not to move its headquarters to Oakland because the employees threatened to quit if they did. The community has to be in on the effort.

It should take no more than 5 minutes for OPD to respond to a call; right now it's 15 minutes at best.

OPD isn't currently trusted by all segments of the community; it has to be trusted.

The police must work with the neighborhoods: the PSOs, the NSCs, the NCPCs. It's a good model, and needs to expand. Over 50% of Oakland residents say that they see crimes happening around them.

OPD must become an effective organization – it isn't now. OPD had the worst survey results, in terms of officer morale, that Mr. Bryant has seen in 30 years. Employee response was disastrous – the *best* response was 42% who felt they had good career prospects. In an anonymous survey, only 26% of officers feel valued by Oakland community, 18% feel their work unit is adequately staffed, 15% feel the command staff cares about them, 10% feel valued by city government, 7% feel respected by city government. Chief Batts is working on this.

In the Chief's opinion, OPD's employees are excellent, but its systems are broken. There's too much demand, not enough supply. He has told the City Council that he could use another 800 officers.

Failing that, the department must focus on what it can do, and do it well. A survey of citizens returned the top 4 important issues: violent crime, 911 response, illegal gangs, and domestic violence. The chief has chosen to focus on gangs, guns, and drugs. This leaves about 8 other important issues hanging.

The city has a \$38-42MM budget shortfall coming into the next fiscal year; he will almost certainly have to cut further. Cutting civilian staff means pulling sworn officers off the street to do civilian jobs. If that happens, the department focus will narrow. If resources increase, they can cover more items. The chief said he doesn't do politics – he's just interested in saving lives.

This entire presentation is on the OPD web site home page.

What are his action plans? Move bodies to the street; use technology to plan workload and deployment; increase coordination with other enforcement agencies. This January they took ~200 guns off the street. Crime is down 38% in January across Oakland. The command staff has instructions

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not to attend meetings without understanding crime in the city. Chief Gascon tells him Oakland guys are all over San Francisco – so, there are business deals going on, because there isn't a gun war. Where do the guns come from? He wants to take down the gun suppliers. It's harder to buy tennis shoes in Oakland than to buy a gun. He has asked Boxer, Lee, and Feinstein for help from the federal government, specifically to get ATF to give more resources to Oakland. He's also asked the DEA to help cut off the drug supply. They made no progress in Long Beach until they quit hitting street dealers and went after the suppliers.

7:45 PM Questions and answers

Question: How are you going to make dept.-wide PSOs work?

Answer: It's important to have equity – all parts of city are important. In Long Beach, every beat had 24hr coverage. We don't have beat integrity here; officers are all over the place, which is inefficient. They will redesign the beat system so the cop stays in his beat, knows the area, knows the community. Patrol cops tend to say “we do real policing, we don't do community policing.” In Long Beach he trained *everyone*, down to the janitors, in community policing. OPD is currently about 75 officers down from the correct beat configuration.

Question: Why can't we get vehicles?? Why is the city using measure Y dollars for vehicles?

Answer: As far as he knows they don't. He doesn't have money for new cars. Cars with over 60K miles have to come off the line, and they aren't replaced. He's looking for grants; they haven't got the money. Otherwise cops will have to ride buses to walk the beat, or ride bicycles.

Question: what's the plan for academies and where does the money come from?

Answer: They had a suggestion to plug some command staff holes with lateral officers. He doesn't think it's such a great idea – lateral applicants usually have problems. Out of 40 applications 5 had clean records, he turned the others down. The Chief told the City Administrator that they *have* to run an academy soon; they lose 5 officers a month. He has authorization to put together an academy, and has 22 recruits lined up.

Question: why can't we get any action out of Animal Control on a dog that bit someone?

Answer: He has never had an animal shelter under him before; Long Beach didn't have that under the police. People are dumping their little dogs in animal shelters, it's inundated. He's still learning about animal shelters.

Question: any progress on getting a curfew??

Answer: The Chief drove around the city when he first came. He saw a lot of kids hanging out on corners. On a map of crime “hot spots” - robberies, burglaries, violent crime – International Blvd. is *all* hot spots. At the center of every hot spot is a liquor store; outside all those liquor stores are kids, loitering. He wants an anti-loitering ordinance – *not* a curfew. Under an anti-loitering ordinance, after 10 PM, people under 18 years old can't stand around on the corner. When they did that in Long Beach,

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the shootings went down. The kids weren't doing the shooting; they were the targets. This doesn't mean kids can't be out on the street. They can be in transit; they just can't hang out on a corner. Most Southern California cities have this: kids who don't go home when 10 PM is announced are taken down to a facility and officers call their parents to come get them. Someone suggested to ask the young people what they think, but kids aren't going to want to go home! We need to save the lives. Parents of children who have been victims of violent crime support this. He has been in 80 meetings; people want what they call a curfew. He can't push it; the residents have to push it.

8:00 PM NCPC Election

Frank Castro was nominated as permanent chair; the nomination was seconded, and he was elected.

8:05 PM Earth Day cleanup announcement

Frank Castro suggested that Earth Day activities, on April 17, will be described in the *RockRidge News*.

Reports/Discussions (flexible 10 minutes each depending discussions at hand)

Brief presentation on crime statistics (Vivek Bhatia)

Crime stats will now be presented every other month. Today will be a very thin slice.

Crimes against person: 12Y is 46% down over this time last year, 33% over 2008. Crime in 12X is way up because of the Safeway shootings but is coming down a little.

Crimes against property: the numbers are way down, 7% down over last year, 28% down over 2008. These are mostly vehicle theft, and thefts from autos.

Numbers are still high compared to 5 years ago. People are not listening to iPods, are paying more attention to their surroundings. Remember to be alert, so as not to be a victim.

OPD Report

Officer Gerrans reported on the priorities.

Shoplifting - he followed up 2 cases. This is normally done by investigators. He reviewed videotapes, and followed up witness statements. He couldn't get a positive id. That case is pending further leads, can't go any further; it'll be filed. However there haven't been any other thefts, for whatever reason. He'll be following up on a commercial burglary at *The Graduate* on College.

Nude Sushi – he's been by several times, he went in one night and talked to the kitchen staff. All they do is prepare and deliver food, and their hours are 5 PM to 3 AM.

Resident: they're still making noise, last night it was at 3 AM, and it's 4-5 times a week. The only night they're silent is Sunday when, they aren't there.

Officer Gerrans - There are only 3-4 people there, they do play music.

Resident: it's the music. They've moved it to the Telegraph side instead of the parking side, but she lives on the Telegraph side of the building on 2nd floor. This is really affecting my work.

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Original complainer: Her problem is largely solved, but it's moved to the other side of the building. The kitchen staff have a boom box; also the delivery cars have booming stereos; the noise comes from the roof. It's heavy bass from the cars and loud music from inside, less often loud talking from inside.

Officer Gerrans – Sounds like the music is the biggest issue. Ana Martinez is working with the nuisance abatement people on this. Keep personal logs of incidents when you call to complain.

Ana Martinez: I have all the logs, took some photos, a major inspection is scheduled for next week. We're putting together a case, we've contacted the property owner. With only online and phone ordering, it's not a normal restaurant business.

Resident: how did they get a license to operate in those hours, in a residential area? These restaurants seem to attract people who drive around in boom cars, sit in areas making noise, what can we do about mobile sources of noise?

Nila Kim – We may see if the city needs to impose specific conditions on it.

Traffic priority: Ana Martinez gave the Chabot resident the proper municipal codes, he's handed out his flyers. Close this.

Beat 13X: The PSO officers in the hill beats have been working on 13X – they left a black-and-white in front of The College Preparatory to abate speeding, and have put extra controls on Golden Gate. OPD traffic division was notified about speeding on Broadway by the freeway.

Extra patrols were requested for Thomas Ave. (due to auto burglaries) in the dog watch.

Resident: Four drunken kids climbed onto the building roof to tag it, she called OPD and the officer came in less than 10 minutes and was very polite, but nobody was arrested because her neighbor went up and escorted the taggers down to the street before the officer got there. But OPD response was great.

Neighborhood Issues

A resident reported that his yard sign was tagged again, he got a video, the quality isn't good. But he's sure it's the same kid he reported for this last year. Officer Gerrans asked him to send the photo along with the crime stats.

The resident wasn't present but we discussed a report from 5445 Vicente – they had a burglary in February, it's a 2nd story apartment. The burglar got inside and stole a laptop, just a few feet from the residents. The resident tried to report the burglary online and the report was rejected. Karen Ivy reported to OPD that the site was deceptive (it implied that burglaries could be reported) and suggested a change, which has been made. Officer Gerrans noted that they really don't want people to do online reporting of burglaries, it has to be called in to dispatch. Frank Castro said that the same house has been burglarized again recently. There's a lattice on the first floor, they just climb up. Ana Martinez suggested that the residents should request a security survey of the residence. The contact is

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Eddie Simlin, 328-6200, to arrange a survey of building to see why it's being targeted. He can recommend how to harden the target, if Officer Gerrans thinks it would be useful.

Resident: The 400 block North St., and around the corner on Dana, has had a rash of smashed car windows, also of people getting into cars and rifling through them, probably after 10-11 PM. There's an active neighborhood watch in the area. This will become a priority. *Resident:* car windows were also smashed on Oak Grove (5600 block), but cars were apparently not entered. Someone also mentioned seeing glass on the street, a few blocks away.

Merchants' Issues

There was no representative of the Rockridge District Association present at the meeting.

Priorities (three allowed per Beat)

Beat 12Y

1. Car window smashing in 400 block North St. and Dana, and 5600 block of Oak Grove
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)

- People aren't stopping at the stop sign at the top of Keith, interferes with traffic leaving the freeway.

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

- None this month.

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

*Next meeting will be **Thursday, May 13, 2010** at 7:00 PM in the
Rockridge Library Community Room, College and Manila.*

See you there and stay safe!

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