

Greater Rockridge NCPC Meeting Minutes (12Y/13X)
Thursday, September 13, 2012
Rockridge Library Community Room, College & Manila
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 and asked those attending to introduce themselves briefly. Frank Castro was unable to attend. Twenty people attended the meeting.

Validate Existing Priorities

The first order of business was to validate last month's priorities and see if any of them can be closed.

- Reports on Rockridge Neighborhood Watch Network show that the laptop thefts from College Avenue cafes resumed recently, this time including a pistol-whipping, so that stays, although no one concerned with the issue was present.
- The resident who lives next door to The Hut confirmed that late night noise from patrons continues to be a problem.
- A resident of the 5300 block of Shafter said that there have been no more burglaries in last month, but there's still a lot of concern, and they've had a series of armed robberies, including one on National Night Out. Several neighbors have put up motion sensor lights. The resident repeated that the thieves who committed the burglaries come in big trucks, with teams of thieves; people who are seen committing the burglaries match the reports from College Avenue thefts. The resident noted that the 5300 Shafter block has easy on/off access to the highway.
- No one was present from the area around 58th and Telegraph but OPD officers confirmed Yahoo group reports that armed robberies and muggings in that district are ongoing.

Joint OPD Report, beats 12Y and 13X

Problem Solving Officers Lane and Balaoro

Beat 13X, Officer Jo Balaoro

Burglaries in beat 13 remain his main priority, both residential and auto. He passes out a burglary checklist regularly (copies are available from the NCPC); security deficiencies on houses are common. *Many* burglars enter through unlocked or open doors or windows. A current project is robbery suppression on Ocean View Drive (which is split between 12Y and 13X at Broadway).

Beat 13X crime statistics for the last 30 days

In beat 13X	Citywide
Burglaries: 2, 1 residential, 1 auto	699
Robberies: none	415

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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Stolen vehicles: 5	540
Thefts: 2	368
Assaults: none	784
Homicides: none	13

Beat 12Y, Officer Donald Lane

His priorities include high visibility patrols and citizen education, especially in the area around Shafter and Colby. The beat has had a lot of burglaries and robberies, so they have increased patrol visibility, in hopes of persuading the crooks to leave. School just started, so burglaries should go down, although some burglaries are still occurring.

Beat 13 crime statistics for the last 30 days

In Beat 12Y	In Beat 12X
Burglaries: 21	Burglaries: 8
Robberies: 7 (2 strong-arm, 5 armed)	Robberies: 15
Car thefts: 12	Car thefts: 12
Thefts: 6	Thefts: 6
Homicide: 0	Homicide: 0

Crime rates in beats 12X (below Telegraph) and 12Y (above Telegraph) are very comparable. Officers arrested a person for an armed burglary, who just walked into an unlocked garage. Windows left open remain a very common way for thieves to get in. Even a second story window is vulnerable, if it's open: thieves will look around for a ladder or an unlocked garage where a ladder might be stored. In one house they broke a window; at Iddis restaurant (on Telegraph) they *removed* the glass from the door but didn't break it! On College Ave. a woman walked in her back door, didn't lock the door, and took a shower. While she was in the shower her house was burglarized, a laptop stolen. All the windows used for access are in the rear, crimes happen in mid-afternoon or early evening. OPD has no leads at this point except the one guy they caught. These burglaries are possibly homeless people committing crimes of opportunity. The teams that were kicking doors in seem to have stopped or gone elsewhere.

A resident asked about the Pavé robbery. OPD has arrested 1 person, 2 more are being watched; they can't discuss it further because it's still under investigation.

A resident asked the difference between robbery and burglary. Robbery is theft from the person. Burglary is theft from a house or car.

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A resident on Ross Circle reported receiving a very artistic “Death threat” on the Yahoo groups. Officer Davis (beat 12 Patrol) thinks it's “just kids.” The homeowner doesn't take it very seriously, but it's been reported.

Robberies are still taking place, they seem to be committed by teams of 3 people.

Q: Are home security systems a deterrent? A: for some people; not for others. It's a preventive measure; it may also help catch the crook. OPD doesn't have statistics on who has home security and who doesn't. Sometimes an alarm is triggered by the cat, sometimes it's the guy breaking in the back door. Hill houses are far apart, people don't always hear a neighbor's alarm. Officer Balaoro emphasized we should get to know our neighbors.

Q: How many burglars are professionals, working 9-5, and how many “just kids”? A: Professional burglars don't hit houses, they want higher value targets. Most burglaries around here are just opportunistic.

Officer Balaoro reported that most people who are burglarized don't learn. They still leave doors and windows open or unlocked and curtains open, with valuables in plain view. He encouraged people to have window coverings.

Measure Y West Oakland Team

Measure Y grantees this year were assigned programs, including support for victims of sexual exploitation of minors and juvenile justice re-entry programs. Ali ar Rasheed from Measure Y West Oakland handed out a fact sheet on what his program does and doesn't do, and a brochure. Measure Y money doesn't go entirely to violence prevention. Fire and safety programs get most of it, followed by police services. Violence prevention gets 40% of the money, about \$5 million per year. His program is Oakland Street Outreach, in west Oakland. OSO teams only work 3 specific areas, not the whole town. West Oakland has a team of 5; central East Oakland, a team of 11; and “deep East”, a team of 9 workers. The level of retaliatory violence in their target areas is way down over the last year. OSO is particularly concerned about violence around schools, and around senior citizens.

Operation Ceasefire is based on a public health model: to fight gun violence as if it were a virus. If affected by gun violence you are infected. They try to identify the source, identify how people get infected, and work out how to break the cycle of infection. OSO still provides training and job resources but they have shifted resources to preventing incidents from happening. They use case management services, and maintain ongoing relationships. The goal is to get people off the street, check in with them regularly, maybe relocate them to get them away from the area. Two to three years ago, they used a more one-shot approach; their actions are now ongoing. They try to pull the “followers” out of the group. They use relationship networks to identify shooters and determine reasons for the incidents. They feel they have made an impact in the last year. They may know who the members of the “teams” are. He personally works social media (Facebook, Twitter) – information about crimes often gets posted there before OPD knows. OSO works with OPD.

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OSO staff includes some former “gangstas”; they aren't considered “snitches.” They can talk to people who won't talk to the police. Their core schedule to be out on the street is Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays, 11 AM – Midnight. They try to break the cycle, prevent the feuds that lead to shootings.

Q: what can you offer the kids on a small budget? A: We have relationships with local small business owners; in some cases former thugs work in stores. Each team has at least 1 case manager, to help get mental health and drug recovery services. They have a certified state health clinic. They try to establish positive relationships with adults for kids on the street.

Q: how do you feel walking the streets talking to people? A: he personally does more back-channel intelligence; the team on the street is men in their mid-20s and 30s, they've left the lifestyle but still live in the neighborhood. Their teams never go in where there's active gunfire; if shooting starts they leave.

Q: Are the street team members resented? A: Not really; a lot of people out there want to leave the life, but don't know how. They know the street team made it out. For every 10 people they talk to, probably 4 want to get out now. Their motto is “Guns down; life up.”

Q: How do you measure your effectiveness? A: We have an extensive database, and produce weekly reports of initial contacts and engagement, also track case management systems. We can look at peaks and valleys in shootings and interventions. A lot of changes were made a year and a half ago, which help them do a better job. He does a lot of data entry. There's been a 30-35% decrease in retaliatory shootings over the last year, they take credit for that.

Q: What can we do? A: Go to city council meetings, tell your neighbors. He expects to expand their target areas. They're working in North Oakland now. If you see signs of organized criminal activity, call them. They had a report of little kids mimicking shooters, so they did a presentation to 3-5th graders, and listened to them. They intend to put out articles and make presentations over the next 60 days or so, to try to publicize the programs.

There was no report from BART PD as there was no officer in attendance.

New Neighborhood Issues and Additions To Priorities

A resident said she had come *again* to complain about bicycles speeding on the sidewalks and almost running people down, especially on College Avenue. She asked, is it against the law in Oakland? Can't we just get “no bikes on the sidewalk” signs? Patricia Rose said that OPD officers patrol College Avenue area, she will remind them to watch for bicycles on the sidewalks.

Denise Boisvert said that yes, it *is* illegal to ride bicycles on the sidewalks in Oakland. Our former PSO used to run bicycle busts regularly. A resident suggested we tell Chad the security guard. He talks to people.

With OPD so short staffed, the NCPC is afraid we won't get resources for this as long as no one is hurt. We considered running an article about riding bikes on the sidewalks in the *RockRidge News*. We also considered talking to the Bicycle Coalition.

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Q: How do they get permission to ride bicycles on the street? Oakland policy encourages bicycle riding. Does Oakland doesn't license bicyclists? Should the bike shops have a sign? What is the penalty for riding bicycles on the sidewalks?

Priorities for September 2012:

12Y:

1. Laptop thefts from College Ave. cafes
2. Late night noise from The Hut
3. Uptick in robberies and muggings around 58th and Telegraph
4. Rash of home burglaries and armed robberies on Shafter
5. Bicycles nearly running people down on College Avenue sidewalks.

13X:

1. No priorities requested for 13X

Meetings are the SECOND Thursday of the month.

*Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 11, 2012** at 7:00 PM
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See you there and stay safe!

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