

**Greater Rockridge Neighborhood
Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes
Thursday, April 13, 2017
Rockridge Library, College and Manila
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):

Michael Ubell – Chair
Barbara Minton – Vice Chair
Eric Neville - Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

Mike Ubell opened the meeting at 7:38 PM. Eighteen people attended the meeting. The NCPC officers and Oakland Police representatives introduced themselves. OPD representatives present were Community Resource Officer (CRO) Anthony Hutzol and Neighborhood Services Coordinator (NSC) Patricia Rose.

Priorities

Mike Ubell asked the meeting about new priorities, since we had none the previous meeting.

A resident reported continued illegal dumping near Lake Temescal. Attendees decided not to make this a priority.

Chris Jackson (Operations Manager of the Rockridge District Association) reported a “5150”¹ at 57th and Telegraph, a homeless who lives on the sidewalk and drags trash around. Officer Hutzol said he has talked to him. The man has promised to stay away from there, for fear of going to “the mental place” (John George Psychiatric Hospital, used by OPD). **Attendees agreed this should be a priority.**

A resident complained that bicyclists ride on the sidewalk on College Ave., and *never* get ticketed. She has almost been run down several times, and the bicyclists are rude and argue when she tells them that riding on a sidewalk is illegal (which it is, Oakland Municipal Code 10.16.150). At least once, a bicyclist has caused her serious injury. Someone else will be hurt. Apparently, Oakland policy is to ignore violations of this law.

Attendees agreed this should be a priority.

Chris Jackson reports that Oakland is getting shared bikes, whether we want them or not; and the streets will be striped for bicycle lanes. Oakland city management won't stripe sidewalks, and won't use negative language in signs about bicycling (i.e., they won't put up a sign that says “don't ride on the sidewalk”). College Ave will have 4 bike rental kiosks for the next year, we have no choice. Chris doesn't think they'll be used.

¹ “5150” is a section of the California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) ... which authorizes a qualified officer or clinician to [involuntarily confine](#) a person suspected to have a [mental disorder](#) that makes them a danger to themselves, a danger to others, and/or gravely disabled. – Extracted from [Wikipedia](#).

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

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[http://groups.yOfficer Hutzoloo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/](http://groups.yOfficerHutzoloo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/) [http://groups.yOfficer Hutzoloo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/](http://groups.yOfficerHutzoloo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/)

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A resident asked why bicycles don't have licenses. Officer Hutzol replied that owners are supposed to register bicycles, it's California state law. The law isn't enforced in Oakland, although Davis and some other cities enforce it. Mike Ubell remarked that bicyclists don't understand they have to obey the vehicle code.

Oakland Police Dept. Status Reports, beat 12Y and 13X

Officer Hutzol reported on both beats, in the absence of Officer Jurgens. There was no data from beat 13X.

Officer Hutzol showed his *Robbery vs. burglary* slide, since many people are confused about this.

- Robbery, by definition, must be done by *force or fear*.
- A residence or car cannot be "robbed" - only a person can be robbed. A residence or car can be "burglarized."
- If someone runs by and snatches your purse or laptop without threatening you, that's theft, not robbery.

Many property crime issues we now see began or increased with Proposition 47 (*Reduced Penalties for Some Crimes Initiative*, 2014). Officer Hutzol offered to drill down for some statistics which Karen Ivy has agreed to publish. Because of the changes in Proposition 47, low-level criminals now feel "decriminalized," especially those who commit auto burglaries. If an officer identifies an auto burglar, all he can do is write a ticket requiring the offender to show up in court. Nobody goes to jail – or to court. Auto burglaries represented the biggest spike in 2017 crime numbers.

Homeless sleeping in cars

The Oakland Municipal Code (from 2012) prohibits sleeping in cars; but a comparable law in Los Angeles was [ruled unconstitutional in 2014](#) and similar laws now can't be enforced. Officer Hutzol does welfare checks on car sleepers. Cars can't stay parked on Oakland streets more than 72 hours and must move at least one mile every 72 hours. "Coincidental moving of the vehicle" doesn't satisfy the 72 hour requirement; you have to drive it somewhere else.

Robberies

Beats 12Y and 13X are flat on robberies since last year, and we've had none since 14 March 2017. Oakland Police arrested 4 juveniles (aged 12-15) on March 14 and there have been no robberies since. The juveniles all lived on the west side of Telegraph. There was a mugging next to Cactus, but the victim didn't want to press charges, he just wanted his stuff back; the mugger returned the stuff and went free. 40th Street has constant carjacking and auto burglaries. Some robbers fake their cars to look like Uber cars, and then rob people who ask to be picked up. If taken to court, robbery almost always pleads down to petty theft these days.

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Larceny increase

“Larceny” includes auto burglaries and thefts from Safeway, with no *fear or force*. We’ve seen a lot of purse snatches and laptop grabs. Without force or firearms, the robber (often a kid) just gets a ticket and has to show up in court; generally they don’t show. Sitting with your purse or laptop out, at a coffee house or on the street, is a very bad idea. The thieves don’t use force, so it’s just a property crime, and impossible to prosecute. It’s even legal to carry a BB gun (which may look like a real firearm), but if you use a BB gun in a robbery, it does NOT cause a firearm enhancement.

Juvenile crime

The current focus on restorative justice means nobody goes to jail. The penal codes don’t enhance firearm charges on juvenile offenders. There is lots of recidivism. Adults in gangs exploit this - they use kids with firearms to commit crimes, and the juveniles are immediately released back to the public. When asked about parents, these children don’t identify as having parents; the parent they identify *is* the gang. We have gang recruitment going on at Tech High and McClymonds. The children in gangs all know each other, and want to “fit in.”

60 day robbery snapshot

Beat 12Y: 4 robberies (5.6% of city total)
Area 2: 71 robberies (18.83% of city total)
City wide: 388 robberies

Deep East had 38% of recorded robberies in the last 60 days.

General questions

A resident asked about OPD cars moving “really fast.” Officer Hutzol said he wasn’t directly involved, but he understands from a Watch Commander that a “5150,” carrying a BB gun that looked real, ran when challenged, and fought physically with officers. The officers issued a “40B” call, meaning *officer needs help*. Responding to that, some Oakland officers drove *very fast* on residential streets to reach the scene. Officers have to balance threats to the public with threats to officers in a current battle with a suspect. The resident said people told her officers were “going 60 mph.” Officer Hutzol replied that without a radar gun, you don’t know how fast they were going. Department policy allows police to drive up to 25 miles per hour over the speed limit. The resident reported that her neighbors mostly said, the police were just doing their jobs.

A resident asked if we have a lot of “5150s” in this area. Officer Hutzol said that when 5150s are picked up by the police, they are often taken to John George Psychiatric Hospital. If the staff there can’t identify the person,

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they ask where he wants to go. If the person says, I want to go to Oakland, one of the places he can be dropped off is at Rockridge BART.

A resident asked where you can get a BB gun that looks like a real gun. Officer Hutzol said, you can get them all over. They're not expensive; you might even find one in the trash.

A resident asked whether a mental health team is involved with 5150s. Officer Hutzol confirmed that OPD has a new unit, which sends a crisis team, an OPD officer paired with a licensed clinical social worker, to each call. The crisis team does triage. The resident reported hearing that mental health services are not available. Officer Hutzol agreed that John George is so badly overbooked that they can't give any help unless the person really want it.

Cameras – work together

Video footage is now essential for court cases. If you have no video, the DA won't charge. Forget fingerprints, that unit is backed up at least a year on homicides alone. You must have *cameras*. Officer Hutzol likes the Nest camera for a high mounted camera, the Ring brand for over the door. Mike Ubell mentioned the city web site where you can [voluntarily register your cameras](#). It isn't a requirement to register. The NCPC has a brochure on it. After burglaries, the police canvass the area, looking for cameras that might have caught something. The registry is meant to help find video footage.

A resident again mentioned bicycles on the sidewalk. Bicycles on the sidewalk are illegal, but enforcement of the law was ruled *unconstitutional*, but by an Appeals Court, not the Supreme court. The police can't enforce it. If you want it enforced, you'd have to talk to the City Council, who banned the enforcement practice. Going to City Council would have to involve an organized group, with a lot of people talking in support. That's what the bicyclists did. The resident said she wrote to her council person and told about her problems. She considers bicyclists arrogant and irresponsible.

Cathy Leonard (Community Policing Advisory Board) noted that we give courses in bike safety but we can't make people take them. Chris Jackson said the Bicycle Coalition is extremely powerful.

Cathy Leonard – Community Policing Advisory Board Survey

The whole point of the Community Policing unit is talking to people, and trying to work on community priority projects identified by the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC). Community Resource Officers walk the neighborhood, and walk the beat.

Community Policing Advisory Board (CPAB) oversees all NCPCs in Oakland. Cathy Leonard has been on the CPAB for about 3 years. The Board has created a survey for citizens to take: What do you think about your local NCPC

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is doing, what do you think about your CRO, what should be improved, etc. We don't really know what every beat is doing. Ms. Leonard was very complimentary about our CRO, Officer Hutzol.

After a brief introduction, Ms. Leonard passed out the surveys, which attendees filled out at the meeting and returned. Following the survey process, the meeting adjourned.

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for April 2017

Beat 12Y:

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* The homeless person living on the sidewalk at 57th and Telegraph, who spreads junk all over the sidewalk.
2. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Bicyclists riding in high-traffic pedestrian areas, like College Avenue sidewalks.

Beat 13X:

3. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* No priorities at present.

*Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council meetings
are normally the SECOND Thursday of even-numbered months.
Next meeting **Thursday, June 8, 2017** at 7:30 PM
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See you there and stay safe!*

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