

**Greater Rockridge
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) - Minutes
Thursday, April 11, 2019
Rockridge Library, College and Manila
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):

Chair - Michael Ubell

Vice Chair – <position open>

Treasurer - Eric Neville

Secretary & Information Officer - Karen Ivy

Mike Ubell opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. Oakland Police representatives at the meeting included Officer K. Jurgens-Duenas, Neighborhood Services Coordinator Patricia Rose, and Officer A. Volynets (from beat 9). Officer Mac was in training.

The Vice Chair position is still open. Mike Ubell solicited volunteers for the position but got no response during the meeting.

OPD Status Reports, beats 12Y and 13X

In Officer Mac's absence, Officer Jurgens-Duenas presented statistics for both beats.

Beat 12Y		
Crimes	2/14/2019 – 4/11/2019	2/14/2018 – 4/11/2018
215PC Carjacking	0	0
211PC Robbery Firearm	5	3
211PC Robbery Strongarm	3	2
459PC Residential Burglary	7	9
459PC Commercial Burglary	2	7
459PC Auto Burglary	56	19

The peak days for robberies are Wednesday and Friday, generally in the evening. The main hot spot is just west of Claremont Avenue, victims are mainly people walking home from BART.

Q: Has anyone been caught?

Chris Jackson: maybe 1 person was caught.

Residential burglaries are down from last year, auto burglaries are way up. The peak days for auto burglaries are Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, between 1800 and 2000 hours (6PM to 8PM). Chris Jackson reminded the meeting: Do not leave *anything* in your parked car. Ever.

One of the officers noted that the thieves now have an app that identifies active Wi-Fi devices in a car. This is another reason not to leave active electronics in your car.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

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Beat 13X		
Crimes	2/14/2019 – 4/11/2019	2/14/2018 – 4/11/2018
215PC Carjacking	0	0
211PC Robbery Firearm and Strongarm	1	0
459PC Residential Burglary	0	4
459PC Commercial Burglary	0	0
459PC Auto Burglary	2	5

Officer Duenas reported an incident in 13X: on 03/15/19 around 10:30 AM, the victim was working as a Fedex driver in the 5800 block of Virmar Ave. The suspect approached the victim and yelled that she didn't need to block traffic. The victim felt threatened and tried to take a picture of the suspect. The suspect snatched her phone and got back into his vehicle. The victim attempted to grab her cell phone back through the suspect's driver's side window. The suspect then accelerated his vehicle and drove off. The victim feared for her safety and let go of the suspect's window. The suspect later returned as was taken into custody.

Priorities

Resident: if someone is acting mentally ill on the street, should we call 311?

A: No, call the OPD non-emergency number (**510-777-3333**). They can send a trained officer, plus someone from Homeless Outreach. 311 is the replacement for the old Public Works phone number.

Chris Jackson commented that it's very hard to get anything done about mental health issues, there are just not enough services available. State law won't allow us to compel the mentally ill into conservatorship. We can't force them to take pills; that's why Shane is a problem. He refuses to take pills.

Mike Ubell commented that people now have to wake up overnight sleepers in the play structures in Frog Park.

Officer Jurgens responded that OPD has been trying to abate the number of auto burglaries. That and commercial burglaries are their primary priorities. The Homeless Outreach team is supposed to coordinate homeless issues, not the police.

Resident: Can someone just put up a tent wherever they want?

Officer Jurgens: Pretty much.

At this point in the meeting, a member of the FROG Park team (meeting on the library balcony) came into the meeting and asked to talk about people living in Frog Park. The NCPC officers invited them in.

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The Frog Park team reported 2-4 people living in tents between the DMV offices and Clifton; this has been reported multiple times. They produce feces, water pollution, and general mess, and for a time they had an attack dog. The city told the Frog Park officers that they'd shut the camp down by end of February 2019, but the camp is still there.

The Redondo end of Frog Park (called Little Frog Park) is scaled for children 5 and under. The redwoods near there have been used for camping with serious outcomes: feces on sidewalks, and on the slides, etc. The play equipment is unusable. The Frog Park team has 50-75 volunteers who do cleanup. The city told them last year to stay 20 feet away from homeless camps. At a recent briefing the city said the new policy is to stay 100 feet away from homeless camps. The park is only 20 feet wide; that's the whole greenbelt. Who set up this policy and how do we change it? The Frog Park team intends to clean the park area regardless, they feel they must get rid of needle sticks and feces. Little kids play in the park and in the water. Can someone from OPD be with the team on Earth Day to help them clean up?

Another member noted that, because the camp is also right by the farmer's market, it's really affecting the area. They've reported this to Joe deVries (assistant to the City Administrator). He said they'd do this area "after the lake is cleaned up", by Feb. 21; that also didn't happen. The Frog Park volunteers built this park in 2001 and they refuse to put up with this.

Chris Jackson agreed that the camp on Claremont Ave. is growing. And a group in Oakland is now demanding the police back away even farther from the homeless.

Officer Volynets said that officers can enforce criminal behavior but can't arrest people for camping out. The Boise decision ([Martin v. City of Boise, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals](#)) says a city can't act against the homeless if the city has no shelter beds available; that decision currently stands, as the full 9th Circuit declined to consider a challenge. The Frog Park leader said that there are shelter beds available in Oakland.

Chris Jackson reported that the drains in West Oakland were so crammed with feces that Oakland Public Works wouldn't clean them up, they paid a private contractor to come in and clean it out. The John George Psychiatric Pavilion is so overrun with patients that a patient brought in is medicated, given a BART ticket, and released on the street again, before the officer can finish the paperwork.

No new priorities were suggested for either 12Y or 13X. The Frog Park homeless camp has been on the priority list since December.

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Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for February 2019

Beat 12Y:

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Bicycles and electric scooters ridden on the sidewalk on College Ave.
2. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* The homeless camp in Frog Park is getting bigger and more troublesome.

Beat 13X:

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* No current priorities.

*Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council
normally meets on the SECOND Thursday of even-numbered months.
Next meeting **Thursday, June 13, 2019** at 7:30 PM
Rockridge Library, College and Manila
See you there and stay safe!*

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