

**Greater Rockridge
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Agenda
Thursday, April 13, 2023
Rockridge Library and
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM**

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):

Michael Ubell – Chair
Jon Travis –Vice Chair
Eric Neville - Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer
Officer Meeran Gichki – Community Resource Officer, beat 12Y
Officer Silvestre Triana - Community Resource Officer, beat 13X

7:00 – 7:10 PM – Introductions

Mike Ubell opened the meeting at 7:05PM. 15 people altogether signed into the meeting in person, including 2 from Neighborhood Services and the 2 speakers from OIG (several came late), and there were a few attendees on Zoom.

7:10 – 7:30 PM – Oakland Police Dept. (OPD) Status Reports, beats 12Y and 13X

We were told that Officer Estifanos was assigned to attend but he didn't, unless he signed in on Zoom without identification. So Mike announced the meeting would go straight to item 2, the presentation.

7:30 – 8:00 PM – Oakland Office of the Inspector General, #CandidConversation presentation and Q & A

The speakers from the Oakland Office of the Inspector General introduced themselves and put up their PowerPoint presentation on the Zoom session. The speakers were Kiana Gums, Director of Communications and Engagement, and Shayleen Morris, Chief of Audits of Evaluation. Ms. Morris said she would go through some background information, go over frequently asked questions, explain what they're currently working on, and describe past projects. She put up a slide showing the 6 current staff members, with the note that they have more staff coming on soon. She said she would go over who they are and what they do, they're a new agency and she won't assume people know about them. She offered to take questions at any time. She put up a slide with a brief description.

The Office of the Inspector General is an independent civilian oversight agency that monitors and audits OPD's policies, practices, and procedures. Their primary task is to audit the 52 tasks of the Negotiated Settlement Agreement (NSA). They also can review the Community Police Review Agency (CPRA), which investigates actual officer misconduct. She read the entire mission statement:

The mission of the OIG is to ensure accountability, enhance community trust, and increase transparency via fair and thorough assessments of OPD's compliance with the law and departmental policies.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

1

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She said this is very normal for an Inspector General's office in other cities, which may also investigate fraud and abuse, but the local Inspector General's focus is public safety specific, which is narrower than in some other cities like Chicago.

A frequently asked question is, how did OIG come to be? It was established in November 2020, after 81% of voters approved Measure S1. The OIG doesn't investigate police misconduct, they look for patterns in OPD's policies, practices, and procedures. The CPRA investigates individual officer misconduct claims, like excessive use of force. The OIG considers how did the misconduct happen? What allowed this to occur? The OIG reports to the Oakland Police Commission. Staff members work for City of Oakland.

The office is fairly new. They've asked for a staffing study of OPD. They submitted a mediation program report, reminding the city that it is legally required to start a mediation program. They also did an Ethics Commission review – the Ethics Commissioner can enforce requests for files OIG is allowed to have; if the deadline has passed the Ethics Commission can launch an investigation. The OIG is currently working on several items: an audit of Negotiated Settlement Agreement's Task 42, a strategic plan for 2024-25, and M-03 policy creation, to make sure the department and public know the procedures for the complaint and investigation process. Task 42 is a review of field training from the trainee's perspective.

Kiana Gums put up a file titled *Candid Conversation*, with six questions. The following questions were starred, and she asked specifically for responses to them:

- What does “independent civilian oversight” of OPD mean to you?
- Are you confident in The City of Oakland's ability to hold OPD accountable? Why or why not?
- What would increase community trust of Oaklands safety and oversight structure?

Here are the other questions, which she said people could bring up if they wished?

- How would you describe the community's relationship with OPD? With the City of Oakland?
- What do you feel is missing from Oakland's current dialogue around safety and oversight?
- General thoughts around safety and civilian oversight in Oakland?

Mike Ubell: So, you're trying to protect us from police misconduct? If a police officer does something wrong, you guys are out there looking for patterns. How do you find the patterns, and how do you get the teeth to enforce the change?

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2

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Kiana Gums: Our job is to disrupt the old patterns. We don't have teeth, we use data to recommend changes to the Police Commission or the City Council.

Mike Ubell: Do you look at the data over 5 or 10 or 20 years?

Shayleen Morris: We go as far back as necessary, usually about 5 years. We might look 10 years back, but old data may not apply, procedures may have changed. We investigate with an objective, nonpartisan point of view. Our Police Commission is one of the most powerful in the country; they can hire or fire the police chief. And you can read our recommendations, attend Police Commission meetings, and talk to your representatives about what you want.

Resident: What's your relationship with the police? If they don't listen to you, and you don't have authority to make changes, how does that work? Are you accepted? Do they listen to you? How's it going?

Shayleen Morris: We're developing professional relationships with the sergeants and lieutenants. Our overall partnership building has gone well. Our Inspector General has a really good working relationship with OPD. They seem very open to suggestions. They've been under federal oversight for 20 years; they want to get out from under!

I'm not from Oakland, I'm from Seattle. I've worked in Chicago, I've worked in Portland. Other cities are also going through massive changes, but I'm very positive about Oakland.

Resident: Did the Police Commission fire the current chief?

Kiana Gums: No, the mayor did that.

Resident: Can you do anything about the fallout from that?

Kiana Gums: We haven't been asked to do anything about that, and it's outside our jurisdiction unless we're asked.

Shayleen Morris: We oversee the entire agency, not one person. The Commission hasn't told us to look into that.

Mike Ubell: The mayor fired the police chief, and she did not consult the Police Commission, at least based on public information. She can't *hire* a chief unless the Police Commission gives her a slate of candidates.

Resident: Was the previous chief fired by the Commission?

Shayleen Morris: If you attend the Police Commission meetings, you can listen and ask questions.

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3

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Mike Ubell: My wife is at the Police Commission tonight, otherwise she'd be here. The Community Police Review Agency can take complaints about individual officers.

Shayleen Morris: The Community Policing Review Agency can investigate individual officers based on a positive finding of misconduct. We investigate OPD processes, not people.

Resident: I'm concerned about the processes that should have been investigated and weren't, especially the coverups that go on, related to the former police chief. What about Officer Lao and Officer Lee? Are we falling back with the federal oversight tasks?

Kiana Gums: Yes, the judge has extended the sustainability period has been extended to Sept. 26 when they will reconsider.

Shayleen Morris: We aren't a temporary monitoring organization, we're permanent. We'll be here when Oakland is out of oversight, when the federal monitor is gone. We are nonpartisan and objective. If the Commission was tasked and didn't complete something, we can call them on it. If you're honest and transparent, you get more trust. If I don't know an answer, I will I tell you, and I'll get back to you.

Resident: So, what's the difference between the Police Commission and your office?

Kiana Gums: We investigate requests from the Police Commission. We have audit and investigative experience. We recommend changes in procedure, they execute. We are objective.

Resident: I don't know what independent civilian oversight means yet, you haven't done anything yet. What's your strategy for telling people what's going on? How do you engage different groups?

Kiana Gums: I'm an Oakland native, I have a lot of contacts. You have to get out in the street here. We have social media, but we want to get out and talk to people. We need to bring stakeholders together to decide how we should operate.

Resident: Do you have a regular spot on your web site so we can track what you're doing?

Kiana Gums: We have a quarterly newsletter. We'll have our own personal space for quarterly meetings, but we want to go out to the community.

Shayleen Morris: We want to make you more powerful because you know more. We want to inform you. We publish our audits and investigations so everyone will know what we have recommended. And we'll follow up with departments – have they done that yet? And we'll tell people if they haven't.

Kiana Gums: We're on social media telling people what police officers should be doing. We also have "ask question Fridays."

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4

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Resident: How do we find all this?

Kiana Gums: We have a mailing list (www.tinyurl.com/OIGMailingList). We're on Instagram and Twitter @OaklandOIG, and on Facebook and LinkedIn (search for "City of Oakland, Office of the Inspector General"). You can follow the City of Oakland on NextDoor. We're still a very small team. All our information is on the web site.

Resident: I'm not on any of those. How about email? It may be hard to reach younger people, they don't use email. If they don't know about you, how do you reach them?

Kiana Gums: We plan to get into the schools, down to middle school. We'll let them know we're here and we want to get information.

Shayleen Morris: – In last 3-4 days the Inspector General has been out in the community all the time. She works unbelievably hard. Our social media will show you where we are.

Resident: What's the IG's background?

Kiana Gums: She was the deputy inspector general for Baltimore's Office of the Inspector General.

Shayleen Morris: She was on the National Police Foundation in D.C. She has a lifetime of experience in law enforcement. I think she's great. There was pizza at the last Friday meeting, she's very giving!

Kiana Gums: And we are accountable to you. If you don't like what you see, email us, call us. We want feedback, please hold us accountable.

Mike Ubell: The Federal monitor only looks at constitutional policing. Does the OIG look at crime solving? People note that the monitor only cares that the police are constitutional and behave properly, but not that they solve crime. If 10 cars a day are broken into on College Avenue, is the Monitor looking into it?

Shayleen Morris: If it's related to one of those 52 tasks, then we do need to audit those cases, yes. If there's a pattern of car break-ins, what directive should the police follow to investigate that crime? We hope that with a constitutional policing body that values human life, we'd have a highly effective body that would help in reducing crime. What policies are in place, and can they be better? That's why we've requested a staffing study, we need to know if they are understaffed, and where they are understaffed. We are objective, we need evidence before we can recommend a solution. We *need* the staffing study as a basis for recommendations.

Resident: Do officers not act on crimes because nothing here is prosecuted??

Shayleen Morris: That's possible, we need to find out. We talk to officers too. The officers want to be here. We want the community to be safe and the officers supported.

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5

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Resident: You're really saying, you need data – statistics.

Shayleen Morris: We need data (basic information, numbers) and statistics (summaries of data). Data transparency is one of our goals.

Resident: If I see 10 break-ins on College Ave. between noon and 6 pm, what do you do with that? Do you do anything?

Shayleen Morris: If you *call the police* 10 times between noon and six, those calls are data, that tells us what happened – data gives OPD, and us, “hot spots.” We must have as much data as possible; we ask the police for data and they send it for us to analyze for trends and statistics. Our office wouldn't coordinate the staffing study, we would use it when it's done.

Resident: We used to meet with Captain Bolton, he wanted information. He was talking about hot spots.

Karen Ivy: In November 2020, I got curious, and did a little research. I found that San Francisco has over 880,000 residents and 1,869 police officers (data from 2019). That's one cop for about 470 residents. Oakland has about 429,000 residents and 792 officers, one cop for about 542 residents. And Oakland is 78 square miles, San Francisco is 47 square miles. You can do the math on cops per square mile.

Mike Ubell: The question is, how many police officers are on call for service?

Resident: People don't report crimes because they spend 20-30 minutes on hold.

Shayleen Morris: – There's no excuse for that. We need to learn more about how they function. The phone calls are recorded, but not necessarily whether they speak to someone. We hope to ask the question, what calls were *placed*, not just what calls were *responded to*. We'd look at how long response to a phone call takes, how long does it take officers to arrive at the scene.

Resident: I hope your office is properly staffed.

Shayleen Morris: We're very particular about whom we hire, and we're definitely growing. The Chicago office I was in was huge.

Resident: You were established by Measure S1?

Kiana Gums: We were established by Measure S1, but we're funded by the Oakland general fund. And we're looking for grants!

Resident: I think it's wonderful that you're doing this. But there's a shortfall in the Oakland budget. Even underfunded, we'll do the best we can.

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6

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Shayleen Morris: Thank you!

Resident: We all know there aren't enough cops. How do you mesh these 2 things? Because no matter what you do, it all still comes down to, we need more cops. Do you tell OPD, I was with these people in Rockridge, and they're pissed because there aren't enough cops?

Kiana Gums: There are people in Oakland who want more police, and there are people in Oakland who want fewer police because they're afraid of them. We hope to be impartial and do our best to create an optimal public safety system.

Resident: Right now there's 10 break-ins a day. Could you come back in 6 months and see what's happening then? It would be interesting. You could ask, what have you done?

Shayleen Morris: We're just getting started, and all these differences are exactly why the Inspector General is pushing so hard for the staffing study, because some people say there's not enough police, some say there's too many; let's count and see what we've got, what are they doing. Then we can make recommendations.

Resident: The Inspector General will recommend more cops to the Police Commission. What do they do? Ask the city for money?

Shayleen Morris: Everybody can see our recommendations, the mayor, the city council, everyone. The recommendations may not all be implemented. We recommend, they have to find the money, and maybe find the qualified candidates. They may have to negotiate with the City Council.

Mike Ubell: Oakland has a financial shortfall coming, maybe \$900 million, and Measure Z which funds cops needs to be renewed. People will be asked, do you want to pay more for more police? Right now we're at the minimum number specified in Measure Z, which will expire in 2 years and have to be renewed. It's a property tax. Will people want to spend more money?

Resident: Didn't we just do that, a couple of years back, and didn't it specify a minimum of police?

Mike Ubell: Yes, it specified a minimum, and we're floating right around that. That was 8 years ago, it has to be redone. I'd guess folks in this room would pay another \$50 on their tax, but others may not.

Resident: What about alternative methods for, say, mental health issues, to free up officers? Could OIG recommend that?

Kiana Gums: Whatever the data says would optimize the situation, we recommend. We NEED the staffing study for a baseline for our recommendations.

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7

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Shayleen Morris: 2020 shifted a lot of things, a lot has changed, and our office is new; we need the staffing information. Remedies can vary – maybe more officers, maybe mental health alternatives.

Karen Ivy: Who does the staffing study?

Kiana Gums: An outside consultant.

Shayleen Morris: It takes time to hire the consultants and get that done.

Mike Ubell: MACRO is doing mental health response; it started a couple of years ago; but they're not operating in all areas of Oakland yet (not in Rockridge). It's cost effective to send MACRO because they're cheaper than cops. And positions in OPD like Public Information Officer, don't need to be occupied by a sworn officer; you don't need a badge to talk to the press.

Resident: Somebody without a badge could do the desk work.

Kiana Gums: Oakland Department of Transportation (DOT) is now looking into abandoned autos instead of the police.

Mike Ubell: I saw something that said since DOT took over abandoned cars, they've taken huge numbers of abandoned cars off the street.

Shayleen Morris: Thank you for having us, I'll leave cards on the table. Our email is oig@oaklandca.gov.

8:00 – 8:20 PM – Neighborhood discussion and Oakland Police Q and A, including new priorities

Mike Ubell: About this time we usually discuss neighborhood issues. Does anyone want to bring up neighborhood issues? Other than 10 break-ins on College Avenue?

Resident: Only 10 break-ins today??

Karen Ivy: Break-ins on College Avenue have been an NCPC priority for 12Y for about the last 5 months, that's what we want the police to work on!

Mike Ubell: Our next meeting might be a joint meeting with RCPC, we haven't negotiated it with them yet. We'll announce it if it happens.

Mike Ubell closed the meeting at 8:20pm.

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for February 2023

Beat 12Y:

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8

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1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Car break-ins on College Ave., especially in the library parking lot.

Beat 13X:

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

*Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council meetings
are normally the SECOND Thursday of even-numbered months.*

*Next meeting **Thursday, June 8, 2023** at 7:00 PM*

Rockridge Library and virtual meeting

Zoom link is available at <https://rockridgencpc.com>, NEXT NCPC MEETING

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