

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

**Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):**

Michael Ubell – Chair  
Vice Chair <position open, volunteers requested>  
Eric Neville - Treasurer  
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

**Introductions**

Mike Ubell introduced the Community Resource Officers and requested a volunteer for open position of vice chair. Mike also Introduced Angela Moore, the new Neighborhood Services Coordinator for beats 12 and 13. Sergeant Alain Manguy of OPD also attended the meeting and took questions. Thirty-four people signed in to the meeting.

**Presentation on the 2020 Census**

Mr. Zan Stewart spoke about the 2020 census, which will be available online. He emphasized how important it is to fill it out. For every person who doesn't fill out the census, the district loses \$19,500. The census is looking for workers in 5 job categories: office clerical (\$20/hour), field supervisors and recruiting assistants (\$27.50/hour), and enumerators (\$25/hour). Enumerators are the people who knock on doors to try to count people who haven't done the census online. These are temporary jobs, and can be extended. The census must be complete by end of July. You can apply if you're 18 years or older, a citizen or a green card holder, and have email. Apply online at <https://2020census.gov/jobs>. It's very easy to apply, and he encouraged residents to apply if interested. Hiring will start in early January. Workers will be paid for mileage and training as well as actual work. He left brochures on the table.

**Oakland Police Department Status Reports, Beats 12Y and 13X**

Officer Juergens-Duenas reported on crimes over the last 60 days in beat 13X, compared with the same period last year.

<b>Beat 13X</b>		
<b>Crimes</b>	<b>10/10/2019 – 12/12/2019</b>	<b>10/10/2018 – 12/12/2018</b>
Grand theft person	0	0
Robbery	3	1
Auto Burglary	3	9

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Residential Burglary	1	8
Commercial Burglary	1	0

She gave specific details on the 3 robberies:

1. On 10/29/19 around 2200 hours, a home invasion robbery/kidnapping occurred in the 5400 block of Golden Gate Ave. The first victim (V1) was sitting in the passenger seat of his vehicle near his residence when the first suspect (S1) (armed with a gun) opened the driver’s side door and S2 opened the passenger door and covered V1’s mouth. S1 asked for V1’s money, wallet, keys, and where he lives. V1 told them and they zip tied his hands and duct taped his mouth. S1-S3 went inside V1’s residence and searched the house. Part of the loss was V1’s wallet. The suspects forced the victim inside his own vehicle. They drove him to several ATMs in Berkeley and successfully withdrew cash from one of the banks. The suspects parked the car in a residential neighborhood, got into another vehicle, and left.
2. On 11/6/19 around 1700 hours and armed robbery occurred in the 6000 block of Lawton Ave. V1 was walking behind V2 (they don’t know each other). S1 ran out from a driveway and pointed a firearm at V2. V2 then ran away. S1 noticed V1 behind and started pointing the gun at him and demanding his property. Fearing for his safety, V1 handed him his backpack and started running. S1 caught up to V1 and pushed him to the ground and asked for his money. V1 gave S1 his money. S1 fled on foot.
3. On 11/18/19 around 2315 hours, an armed robbery occurred in the 5200 block of Broadway Terrace. V1 was walking when a vehicle parked a few feet in front of him. S1 & S2 got out of the vehicle with handguns and pointed them at V1 demanding his property. V1 said he didn’t have anything, S1 then pistol whipped V1 in the face and forced him to the ground. Suspects pocket checked V1 and took his wallet, phone, and backpack.

Officer Mac reported on crimes over the last 60 days in beat 12Y, compared with the same period last year.

<b>Beat 12Y</b>		
<b>Crimes</b>	<b>10/11/2019 – 12/11/2019</b>	<b>10/11/2018 – 12/11/2018</b>
Robbery Firearm	5	5

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Robbery Strongarm	8	8
Carjacking	0	0
Auto Burglary	76	56
Residential Burglary	2	11
Commercial Burglary	1	3

Of the strong-arm robberies in 12Y this year, one suspect is in custody, and 3 of the reports were attempted robberies. Of the 2 residential burglary reports, one was attempted.

**Q:** My car's been broken into 3 times over last year, and there's no sign of anything broken. How do they get in? **A:** if the car uses generic keys, they can file down a key, or pick the lock. They can also use a Slim Jim. Mike Ubell added that, for more modern cars with key fobs that unlock by proximity, there are devices that can amplify the signal of key fobs inside a house, if the fob is close enough (as in, hanging by the front door), and use that to open the car door. We haven't seen much sign of them around here.

**Q:** My garage was broken into 3 times last year. **A:** They can also key into the frequency of garage door openers. You might consider turning off the wireless, and using a manual lock, although that's less convenient.

**Q:** How do we deal with all this crime? Our firm has lost business because people won't come out after dark any more. **A:** Sgt. Manguy introduced himself as part of the Community Resource Officer team. He said that people get disgusted with repeated crime, and won't even report incidents; if a crime is not reported to police, they don't know where the crime is happening. [*Ed. Note:* the police use the reports of crime to assign patrols and officer surveillance.] Officer Mac added that they've been covering the library parking lot (a well-known hot spot for car break-ins). He has a key to the library upper room, and can watch the lot with binoculars.

**Q:** What can the police do if they see someone break into a car and then just drive off? I heard you can't pursue. Do you use a bait car? **A:** It's true we can't pursue even if an officer sees the incident, but we can get a description, get the vehicle ID. If they frequent a particular parking lot we can arrange to block it off and catch them there. Breaking into a car is a felony by itself, stealing a car is a felony. They can be arrested for this.

**Q:** But they won't go to jail, they'll just turn them loose, especially juveniles. **A:** True, the rules are different for juveniles.

**Q:** What about a gunpoint robbery? **A:** That's a felony.

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**Q:** The top of Chabot Road is heavily used by bicyclists and people on foot, including dog walkers and people just taking a walk. It has no sidewalks. There are a couple of cars that zoom up that road at high speed and do donuts, and then zoom back down. How do I report that? **A:** Officer Mac said, "I'll give you my business card," and did.

**Q:** What about the guy at 63<sup>rd</sup> street? He's screaming about assaulting Asian women. **Chris Jackson:** the business district is working with the police on this. The guy has been investigated, he doesn't fit the requirements for a 5150. They've decided they'll have to remove the bench he sits on to make him leave. They've only had a couple of official reports, although when we talk to people they say he's always making noise.

**Q:** If a woman is assaulted, can she use mace? If not mace, what? **A:** Yes, you can use mace if you're defending yourself. Some people have gone to jail for using mace irresponsibly but if you're defending yourself it's legal.

**Q:** How can the police pursue someone? **A:** We have to have a reasonable suspicion of a gun related or violent crime. We can't pursue for property crimes alone. If we get an anonymous call about a suspect, and they don't see the person carrying, then they can't pursue. They must have reasonable suspicion.

**Q:** I try to call 911 and it's not answered. **A:** 911 covers more than just Oakland.

Chris Jackson explained that dispatch has been overhauled, they're now fully staffed. They hope that wait times should be greatly reduced in 2020, but Oakland gets a huge volume of 911 calls, more in one day than some cities get in an entire year.

**Q:** I moved here from San Francisco and I'm afraid for my personal safety. What are you going to do? Are you increasing visibility? **A:** We use the numbers of reported crimes to target areas where crimes are happening. We do undercover stings, we have officers walking and driving around the neighborhood. We have to know where the crimes are. We are trying to be around more.

Mike Ubell noted that the meeting is running way over time. Does anyone have specific issues?

**Q:** What can we do about this? Chris Jackson suggested that Props 47, 57, and AB109 need to be revised, and suggested watching the ballot next year for possible initiatives.

**Q:** What about home cameras? **A:** Yes, those help. OPD doesn't preemptively check them but can use video if some is identified.

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**Paula Hawthorn, new District 1 representative on the CPAB**

Mike Ubell introduced Paula Hawthorn, the new District 1 representative on the Community Policing Advisory Board. Paula explained that CPAB is the community working with the police. Since the meeting was running late, she said she would hand it on to Dan Kalb and offered her card if anyone wanted it.

**Dan Kalb, District 1 city council member**

Dan Kalb thanked the NCPC leaders and asked about our listservs. (Yes, they still exist.) He noted that the police had already covered some of what he planned to say.

There's been a significant increase in crime in the last few months. It's not as bad as 2012-13, but it's not good. What did we do to address crimes and OPD staffing? OPD staffing was 630 officers, which was absurd. Increasing the number of officers requires police academies, which are expensive, so we budgeted for them. Today we budget for 792 officers including some which are funded by grants. This is better, but still not enough. And we only have 735 working officers. The numbers fluctuate, up when academies graduate, down when officers retire. We need substantial ongoing recruitment. We're trying to fill all budgeted police positions. When that's done he wants to budget for more officers, but we have to find the money for that. He did get more officers assigned to the investigations unit, since without investigations, there's no crime reduction. Repeat offenders do *most* of the crime – arrest 3 guys and the rate suddenly goes down. Success in solving crime includes luck – someone was there and saw something, someone's camera caught something happening. Oakland needs more investigators.

We know that calls to 911 can have long wait times, up to 4 minutes. Continuous recruitment of dispatchers is now an ongoing priority. We're also upgrading telephone technology, and arranging for 911 to go to our dispatch – and we're getting more calls. We know the problem and are working on it.

**Q:** How long do the police take to answer calls? **DK:** OPD says the median response time is 8.5 minutes for priority 1 calls (serious in progress crimes). Median response time for priority 2 calls is 1 hour 20 minutes. Response time is better than it was 5 years ago.

Dan meets regularly with Captain Bolton to review trends and specific crimes. He'd like to have walking officers in Rockridge almost every day, and so would the captain. But crime is still worse in other parts of town, so officers get pulled from North Oakland to East or West Oakland. He fights for north Oakland but knows it's a losing battle. The answer is more officers.

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He wants to see OPD recruit more Oakland residents, especially African American Oakland residents, for OPD; they need more local officers. If you know someone who is interested, send them over and don't worry about age.

### **Q and A**

**Q:** I'm here because I can't get in touch with you anywhere else. We had 2 nooses at our school, and I can't get a response from you. **DK:** I put out a statement in my newsletter. Let's make sure you get it.

**Q:** OPD has been under federal oversight for last 16 years because of the Riders issue. This hits morale and takes resources. Are the overseers abusing the situation? Are they moving the goal posts? **DK:** About the consent decree – there were originally 51 changes in policy and procedure that OPD had to do. After first 5-6 years they started working, by time Dan Kalb was elected to the council they'd got down to about 39. Lately it's been whittled down to 3-4, but it's now back up to 6, some of which are ongoing problems. This is why Dan supported the Police Commission which is now in place overseeing OPD. We don't know when we'll get out from under the consent decree, but we're working on it. Yes, the city has to pay for oversight. All we can do is push back on the overseers and push OPD also.

**Q:** Mental health issues and homeless people? **DK:** The city contracts with service providers, but mental health treatment is a county responsibility, under state law. Only Berkeley is exempt. Dan thinks the county could reach out more. There are road blocks; you can't force someone to go into treatment. A family or guardian could go to court to force treatment. Some mentally ill people are a danger, most are not. Some get sent to the John George facility but maybe for a few days.

**Q:** Who in the county do we approach? **DK** offered to send information. [*Ed. Note:* he sent the information to the NCPC after the meeting.] Alameda County has a hotline for housing services – Dial 2-1-1. Or people can reach out to our District 5 Supervisor Keith Carson's office staff: Emma Ishii, Social Services Policy Associate, 510-272-6663, [emma.ishii@acgov.org](mailto:emma.ishii@acgov.org).

**Q:** I was robbed Monday at 5:30 PM and reported it, and nobody came to follow up until 9 AM next morning, while I was at work. The officer finally showed at 3 AM. **DK:** I'm very sorry to hear that, please give the information you just said to my aide, Lisa Jacobs. I need to hear these stories.

**Q:** Why aren't repeat offenders off the streets? **DK:** There are only a small number of repeat offenders. But if the courts can't get convictions of individuals, all they can do is monitor them. Some repeaters are in gangs or groups, some not. Most repeat offenders are *not* homeless. Oakland's Ceasefire program approaches repeat offenders who are shooters; many of them are on probation or parole. We offer them a pathway out of crime,

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coupled with the threat of active prosecution if they don't take it, including bringing in federal prosecutors. Some take advantage of the offer, some don't. If they accept, they get a case manager, services, and training – and there has been success. At least dozens of people have gone out of crime. We need more attention to reentry programs. Dan pushed to accept a grant from FBI to solve murders and some people in the council meeting audience opposed it. Auto smash-and-grab is not a major police priority; the police do take evidence and try to follow up reported incidents. The basic principle is, protect life over property.

Mike Ubell said that he meets regularly with the captain. OPD are doing undercover work and increasing patrols. In a recent case one of the suspects rammed the police car; smash and grab is not worth risking injury to the police. Life over property means violent crime is more important.

**Q:** You said you pushed for a Police Commission in 2016. What's the difference between that and the police review board we now have? If I have a complaint, does it go to the Police Commission? **DK:** there used to be a review board that focused narrowly on police misconduct. We broadened the authority for the Police Commission; right now it's focusing on the Negotiated Settlement Agreement. [Ed. Note: Remember the Riders case?] Police commissioners are appointed, some by the mayor, some by a panel from the city council.

Mike Ubell noted that the police review board is still there, and it now reports to the Police Commission.

**Q:** My neighborhood is becoming the Wild West. I'm surrounded by homeless camps. OPD won't do anything; it's a low priority, tolerating trespassing. I'm happy to pay taxes, but our neighborhoods are turning into cesspools. We elected you to do more than that. We need more housing. **DK:** Yes, Oakland has a large homeless population, about 4,000. What can we do? The options are prevention, short-term crisis management and assistance, and long-term permanent housing. We're spending money in all those areas, with some success. We're trying to get money from the state government. The mayor has raised private money. We are helping many more people per year to get to long term housing than 5 years ago, but because the increase is so large we can't see the effect. We need to keep people from being homeless to begin with, perhaps with rental assistance. Short term crisis management includes dealing with organized encampments. Oakland's are large, some are better than others. City picks up trash from camps, but only once a week; we give some residents bags to pick garbage up. We also do clean-and-clears; sometimes they come right back or go somewhere else. We're trying to manage, trying to reduce the number on the street. We try to control where camps are allowed and where they can't go. The community cabins are mostly privately funded. Our navigation centers are helping - over half the people who have gone through those are now in permanent housing. The Holland is sort of a navigation center; its purpose is to transition people within a year to permanent housing. As for long-term permanent housing, we're spending real money to increase housing. New low-income housing is being built at MLK and MacArthur, also at MLK and 38<sup>th</sup> Street. The need is much greater than we can afford

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right now. We're emphasizing very low-income housing but can't do it as fast as we'd like. Anyone who is doing actual crimes is a criminal, and shouldn't be in homeless camps. We're not doing enough about that.

Mike Ubell pointed out that it's not illegal to be homeless.

**Q:** Trespassing is a crime, so is defecating in public. Mega camps begin with one tent. I see zero presence of any authority around these camps. Police officers used to know these people.

Chris Jackson commented that there's no law against using drugs in public. The law has changed.

**DK:** We're trying to do as much as we can, our resources are limited. We chose to focus on larger encampments; Rockridge has much smaller camps, but they're still problems. It's a priority issue, where do we focus the resources. I push to get attention for Rockridge, and sometimes get results.

**Q:** Can I get a tour of the jail? It was considered for homeless housing but told it was not acceptable to homeless advocates. **DK:** The County doesn't want that to happen. Dan thinks that if the bars are off the doors it would be good, but county is blocking it. No, they did not offer to sell the jail to the city for a dollar.

**Q:** Why can't we do a huge crackdown on crime like they did in NY? Is it just not enough officers? **DK:** Because we don't have the money. We hope for more tax revenue from more business activity, and an increased real estate transfer tax. We're looking at a progressive tax structure for business; San Francisco and San Jose have done this. Having more officers doesn't necessarily help, Baltimore has many more officers than Oakland, and it has awful crime. We have a basically good police force (with some bad actors) and we need more officers.

Mike Ubell reminded the room that we have a parcel tax that supports 66 officers; we can try and raise the parcel tax but it's really hard. Surveys showed that people aren't willing to pay a higher parcel tax.

Mike asked the group about whether they would prefer to have the NCPC meeting at 7:00 PM or at 7:30 PM. A show of hands clearly preferred 7:00 PM; some people didn't vote either way. We didn't have time to count the hands either way.

Mike Ubell closed the meeting at 9:20 PM.

## **Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for December 2018**

### **Beat 12Y:**

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

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**Beat 13X:**

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Children going to school, crossing Broadway Terrace at Hermosa, are in danger from traffic between 8:00 and 8:20 AM.

*Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council meetings  
are normally the SECOND Thursday of even-numbered months.  
Next meeting **Thursday, February 13, 2020** at 7:00 PM  
Rockridge Library, College and Manila –  
See you there and stay safe!*

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