

**Greater Rockridge  
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X)  
Joint NCPC/RCPC Town Hall – Minutes  
Thursday, June 14, 2018  
Rockridge Library, College and Manila  
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

**Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC)**

Leonora Sea – Chair  
Alden Conner - Vice chair  
Stuart Flashman - Secretary (acting)  
Ronnie Spitzer - Treasurer

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

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

The Rockridge Community Planning Council meeting occupied the first part of the evening, beginning about 7:40 PM. The RCPC president and treasurer were unable to attend, as were the NCPC chair and vice chair. Twenty-eight people signed in.

Those present discussed the issues around bicycles riding on the subject, the threat to pedestrians, the lack of city notice that this is illegal in Oakland, and the Oakland Dept. of Transportation's refusal to post any signage in Rockridge prohibiting it. They argue first, that putting signage only on College would imply that it's OK to ride bicycles on the sidewalk in surrounding streets without the markings, and second that the problem will be solved when College is repaved and provided with bicycle lanes (in the wider areas) and sharrow stencils (in the narrower areas). Attendees suggested several options to request signage, including a possible petition to the city, or possible signage on BART property.

The RCPC videotapes its meetings; the videos of this meeting are available on their YouTube channel at this link, which is a YouTube playlist with all 3 segments available:

[June 2018 RCPC/NCPC Town Hall](#)

The Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council meeting began about 8:05 PM. The Oakland Police Department was represented by Area Captain Chris Bolton, Sergeant Nick Calonge, and Community Resource Officer David Mac, as well as Neighborhood Services Coordinator Patricia Rose. Captain Bolton was the scheduled speaker for the NCPC.

**Captain Bolton**

Captain Bolton introduced himself and said he was just promoted to Captain after 18-19 years with OPD. He's been in the Inspector General's office for the last 3 years, and is glad to be back in the community. He proposed to speak about his expectations for the area, and what he's been discussing with the resource officers.

**IMPORTANT RESOURCES:**

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

1

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There's value in doing the fundamentals very well, and he wants to return to that: community policing, community service, and the basics of public safety. Officers should take care of one another – which means good training, sound policies, and sound procedures. Officers take care of each other by taking care of the community: less violence and a minimum use of force should lead to fewer complaints. He plans to encourage beat pride, beat integrity, and best practices. Patrol officers are usually assigned to one beat (which may be served by multiple NCPCs). Patrol officers may get pulled away from the beat for emergencies, but when they aren't pulled, they are responsible for the beat. He would expect Community Resource Officers to know what the local priorities are and work on them, in collaboration with the patrol officers.

OPD has been reducing robberies year-to-year, but so far in 2018 we've had a series of robberies, especially thefts of laptops from outdoor restaurants. Most robbery suspects cruise in carjacked or stolen vehicles. OPD has made 12-15 arrests in the last few weeks, sadly including many juveniles (ages 14-17). The community can help by installing and registering security cameras (closed circuit video cameras). Video evidence is very helpful, and can often lead to an arrest within a day or two. The community can also help by celebrating police who do a good job, reflecting the value officers provide to the neighborhood.

Q: How many patrol officers do we have?

Captain Bolton: There are different classes of officers: Community Resource Officers, Patrol, Traffic, and Crime Reduction Teams. CROs are assigned to a beat. Patrol has 3 watches in each beat, every 24 hours. Beat 12 has 1 officer on each shift. Rockridge also has a walking officer on College Avenue. Traffic officers patrol multiple beats, as do Crime Reduction Teams.

Q: Do private patrols help?

Captain Bolton: They can help if the patrol company is professional and well organized. He hasn't been involved in the private patrols since starting this assignment, but worked with them a few years ago when he was assigned here before.

Q: I understand murders in Oakland are down – do you know the main reason?

Captain Bolton: We used to have over a hundred murders a year. We used to make more arrests but have more crime. Using new techniques like Ceasefire we've reduced crime. In any group of people, only a very small number really do violent crime. Ceasefire helps identify and isolate them. The CROs work to identify them, then we turn the information over to service providers. Ceasefire says, stop shooting and we'll help you, don't stop and we'll bust you. Some of the North Oakland beats have serious gang activity, but we get leverage by stopping, talking, and offering services. Today we average around 30,000 stops and 12,000 arrests – that's fewer stops and arrests, *and* less crime, than we had a few years ago.

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2

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Q: What's the level of staffing of OPD and dispatch?

Captain Bolton: Understaffed, but we're actively recruiting both dispatch and police officers. We know our answer speed is below national average. The current communications manager is actively trying to hire and retain dispatchers; it's a very stressful job, and dispatchers never get the back-end resolution, only the problem. On officer numbers, we're consistently understaffed compared to other cities with comparable population and levels of crime. We're used to doing more with less. We've refined our work effort and become more creative. It would be better to have more officers, probably around 1,000, but at the moment we have some 730-750.

Chris Jackson suggested that if you have a medical emergency, you should call the fire dept. dispatch number directly, **510-444-1616**. You will get a response almost immediately. It's picked up much faster than 911 and never goes to the CHP.

Q: What can you do about the piles of glass along Miles Ave?

Captain Bolton: We've had it for years, but we have less now than before. Many car burglaries don't get reported, but we hope the level of non-reporting is stable, and the lower number of reports means crime is really going down. We keep an eye on hot spots, and schedule officers accordingly.

Q: Is the Safeway parking lot still a hot spot?

Captain Bolton: Any parking lot on a major transportation artery is a hot spot; the College Ave. Safeway isn't the worst in the district.

Q: Is it true that a rash of burglaries etc. is done by a small group of people?

Captain Bolton: Yes, and this is why we sometimes have to pull the CROs off the beat to deal with a group of criminals who may be doing other crimes somewhere else in the area. Gangs and criminal groups go from beat to beat and from city to city. In dealing with most burglaries, we actively cooperate with other cities. Laptop and phone thefts and robberies are now a better way to make money fast than dealing drugs.

Q: What happens to the stolen stuff?

Captain Bolton: I'm not an expert but I think it's often fenced overseas.

Q: What's the going rate for a stolen laptop?

Captain Bolton: It's more than you think – a stolen phone can bring \$400-\$500. Overseas fences may pay more than market value.

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3

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Q: Did the phone kill measures help?

Captain Bolton: We thought it would, but it doesn't seem to have deterred phone thefts much.

Q: What happened to the big homeless camps on 27<sup>th</sup>?

Captain Bolton: Sgt. Calonge knows more about that.

Sgt. Calonge – The city is trying to provide support, housing, and shelter, to help people get back on their feet. The new center houses about 40 people at a time in the “Tuff sheds,” so they're disallowing sidewalk camping in the area. They're posting the area under the freeway about that. There were about 110 people in that camp, so the center only helps a few. Capt. Bolton added that he went to that Neighborhood Council meeting in that area, and found the residents are very involved in helping the campers get jobs, services, etc.

Stu Flashman asked if the RCPC should consider another meeting on homelessness. Capt. Bolton agreed that it might be a good idea and said he could work with them.

Q: What about the guy waving the knife?

Captain Bolton: He only heard about that incident indirectly. It doesn't seem to have been reported. He reminded the meeting that OPD can't see NextDoor directly. The people who were threatened should have called 911. Reminder: Don't call 911 on a cellphone, call 510-777-3211, which you should put on speed dial. Otherwise your call will go to the CHP first, and you'll have to explain everything twice and still wait for Oakland dispatch to pick up.

Meena Sandhu introduced herself. She's a new representative from Dan Kalb's office, and she offered to contact DOT about bicycle signage.

### **Oakland Police Dept. Status Reports, beats 12Y and 13X**

Officer Mac discussed crimes reported over the last 60 days in beat 12Y, comparing 2018 results with the same period in 2017.

*Strong-arm robberies:* 2018 and 2017 both had 3, but 2018 also had zero firearm related robberies where 2017 had 2.

*Burglaries:* 2018 saw 1 residential and 2 commercial burglaries. The same period in 2017 had 7 residential burglaries and no commercial.

*Auto thefts and burglaries* were about the same, 24 in 2018 and 23 in 2017.

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4

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Officer Mac also reported on crime during the same 60 day periods in beat 13X.

In 2018 beat 13X had 3 residential burglaries and 2 auto-related crimes, versus 5 residential burglaries and 1 auto-related crime in 2017.

*Beat 12Y priorities:* The obnoxious transient on North St. no longer parks there. Officer Mac reminded the meeting that if you park your car on the street, you have to move it at least a mile every 3 days (72 hours). A car left on the street for a week could be ticketed, although usually someone has to call the issue in to get a ticket issued.

**Other issues:**

A resident said he regularly sees people running red lights at various intersections. Specifically this happens at Keith and College, in the left turn from College onto Keith; also for the south-bound right turn lane from College onto Claremont. People think they can run the turn lights. The intersection of Claremont at Hudson is also a problem because people turning onto freeway are making both right and left turns. Chris Jackson also noted that, where new the street comes out of the new shopping center onto Broadway (facing Coronado at the new light), the crosswalk on the shopping center side is set back from the corner, making it hard for drivers to see pedestrians.

A resident reported that, although someone cleared out all the grocery carts under the freeway on Claremont Avenue, now it's all back. He doesn't think this is personal property.

Sam Dodge reported that the Paint the Town group has created a nice new mural at Ayala and Herman, and thanked the community for the support.

A resident who lives on Patton reported issues with people making u-turns in front of the school, because the street is narrow and usually parked on both sides. He asked the school principal if the school would object to a traffic circle at the foot of Roanoake. They created a proposal to the Dept. of Transportation which has been approved for late 2019.

Patricia Rose, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, reminded everyone that National Night Out is Tuesday August 7, and you need to register by July 20 if you want to hold a block party. She also displayed a magnet with the new numbers for Oakland Department of Public Works, which she was giving away.

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5

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**Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for June 2018**

**Beat 12Y:**

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority: Bicycles on sidewalk on College Ave.*

**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, August 9, 2018** at 7:30 PM  
Rockridge Library, College and Manila  
See you there and stay safe!*

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