Greater Rockridge
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes
Thursday, June 13, 2024
Rockridge Library and Virtual Meeting via Zoom
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):
Michael Ubell – Chair
Lisa Hingley - Vice Chair
Eric Neville - Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer
Officer Meeran Gichki – Community Resource Officer, beat 12Y
Officer Sylvestre Triana - Community Resource Officer, beat 13X

7:00 – 7:05 PM – Introductions

7:07 Mike Ubell turned on Zoom recording and introduced the meeting. There were no Community Resource Officers (CROs) in attendance. There were about 4 people in the room and another 4 on Zoom. Mike asked for introductions. Lisa Hingly introduced herself. An attendee introduced himself as a neighbor. Brian Guenther introduced himself as the Rockridge Library manager. Maggie Roth, a Zoom attendee, introduced herself as a Rockridge resident, and reported going to the Coffee with a Cop, at McDonald's on Telegraph. She said they had a really good turnout despite being in the middle of the day and suggested that the NCPC needs to do something other than these bimonthly meetings. Mike said the floor is open for better suggestions. The police department advertised Coffee with a Cop heavily.

Lisa Hingley: Can you summarize the topics you discussed there?

Maggie Roth: I asked for the patrol officer in charge of College Ave. Several people gathered around. Creative Reuse on Telegraph Ave. has been robbed several times. The Temescal library has been robbed 3 times – I kept trying to borrow tools but the shelves were empty. There's a lot of frustration. The police are just spread too thin.

Mike Ubell: Karen, you didn't introduce yourself.

Karen Ivy: I'm Karen Ivy, the NCPC secretary and information officer.

Mike Ubell: Eric, do you want to introduce yourself? [Ed. Note: No audible answer; Eric Neville noted in chat that he was on Zoom with a non-working mic.] Mike explained that Eric Neville is the NCPC treasurer.

Julia Gonsman, on Zoom, said she works for Alameda County district 5 and does community outreach in her district to various groups. Tom Donovan on Zoom said he's from 22X, just checking out the NCPC. He visits NCPCs around town; he lives in the Dimond district.

A couple entered the room. Mike Ubell asked them to introduce themselves. The man said he was Charlie Wilson, with the Rockridge Market Hall.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/

Mike Ubell: Oh, I'm glad you're here. Normally we have at least one police officer here; they were notified but are apparently out doing crime fighting. We have a speaker who will be here about 7:20 PM, but until then we can discuss your concerns and issues.

7:05 – 7:20 PM – Oakland Police Dept. (OPD) Status Reports, beats 12Y and 13X

Since there were no CROs in attendance, there was no status report.

7:20 – 7:30 PM – Discuss neighborhood issues and problems

Charlie Wilson: I want to recognize Chris Jackson. I work with him. Smash and grab was really bad about 4 months ago, that seems a little less now, but we're seeing more business break-ins, where the value of the damage to the store is worse than the stuff stolen. They cut a wall, and a steel door, it'll cost 20 grand to fix that. There's also an uptick in mentally ill people on College Ave., no one is dealing with them. We can't get them to move along.

Maggie Roth: have you reached out to MACRO? What's their response?

Charlie Wilson: MACRO may or may not show if called. Unless the person is totally wild, MACRO gives them a bottle of water and leaves. If they don't want treatment and seem OK, they have a right to refuse treatment. Our employees have to deal with this and it's nasty. They throw excrement on people and shit in the street. I wish there was something we could do, but they have all these rights and we can't make them get help.

Mike Ubell: I know, it's hard. I went to the city council meeting yesterday (started at 3 PM, I left at 10 PM and went home and dialed in on Zoom). A lot of the council members were pushing for more community ambassadors. I know in Temescal, the business district had community ambassadors who worked with the homeless and seemed to be useful.

Chris Jackson: The problem is, the people can't be forced to go for help, and there's no place to take them and keep them and treat them. We've tried ambassadors, they just walk up and down and do nothing; I've talked to a woman who says it's the same in Berkeley.

Mike Ubell: In some districts they seem to be useful, I can't remember which. It depends on who you have.

Chris Jackson: The cost is awful. For the holiday season we had 2 ambassadors that cost $20K for the 2.

Resident: This sounds like a dysfunctional system.

Chris Jackson: The merchants are spending huge amounts of money on this, and not getting much for it.

Resident: What's the relationship between the NCPC, the business community, and the merchants? How do things get done? Have you had a city council member here?

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

Mike Ubell: Yes, we had Dan Kalb here; he answered questions. Dan Kalb can allocate money, but he can't tell a police captain to put 5 more officers on College Avenue. It goes down from the city administrator to the chief of police to the police captain.

Resident: Can we invite the city administrator?

Mike Ubell: We've had the police captain here before; we could ask her again. The police know what crime is going on.

Chris Jackson: We don't have heinous crimes in this district; we have property crime. We get 6 officers for the whole area, which is huge. The city is broke, they're banking on OPD overtime and cops are saying I can't do this anymore. I've been told MACRO costs $5K per encounter.

Resident: What's MACRO?

Mike Ubell: Mobile Assistance Community Responders of Oakland. The idea was, you call 911 and say someone needs assistance, and they diverted it to MACRO; but very few calls get diverted to MACRO. I've heard that it's a training problem, they haven't trained the 911 operators to get that done.

Maggie Roth: Good luck if you can get the call picked up.

Chris Jackson: MACRO now has a dedicated NUMBER at fire dispatch, you can call them directly. Fire dispatchers take the call, they're pretty good.

Charlie Wilson: There's a very bad guy on College right now. He's dangerous. He defecates on the corner of College and Claremont, he threatens women on the street. He's been there about 3 weeks. I didn't see him this afternoon. I hope he's gone. You look into his eyes and he's not present. We've had several encounters with MACRO and with OPD about him. I'd just like to have a council person here to talk about this.

Lisa Higley: We've had this conversation but we don't have an action item. Maybe there isn't one, but if we want, we could have Dan Kalb come in and answer questions. I put that to this group.

Maggie Roth: Dan is a lame duck; I don't see much point in bringing him in.

Resident: The homeless camps are not supposed to be around children. We've had trouble with Frog Park.

Mike Ubell: I'm down there every morning with my dog, there's one guy living under the overpass.

Chris Jackson: That camp is scheduled to be closed, they're working on it right now. The guy you refer to has abandoned that camp.

Lisa Higley: Thanks for the info, we'll brainstorm and see if we can think of someone to bring in.

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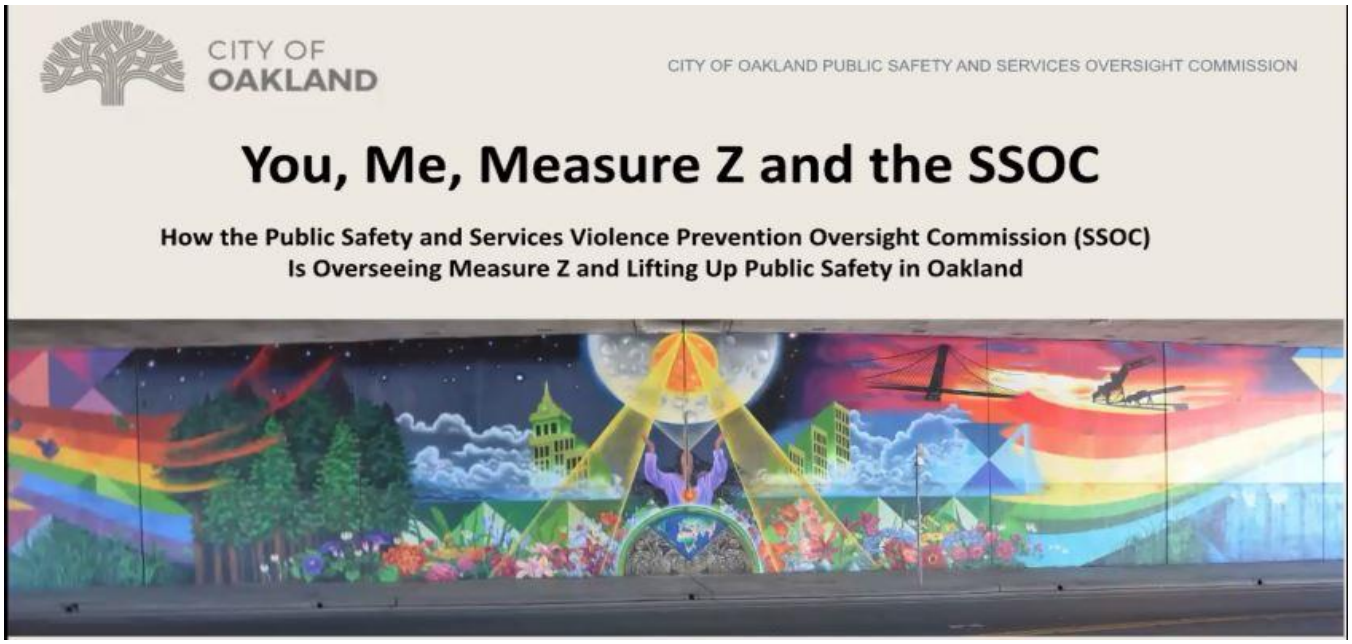
Mike Ubell: If there's someone you'd like to hear from, let us know at *chair@rockridgencpc.com* and we'll see what we can do. Our speaker has arrived.

7:30 – 8:00 PM – Commissioner Yoana Tchoukleva, Presentation on Safety and Services Oversight Commission

Mike Ubell: We have a speaker, Yoana – how do you pronounce that?

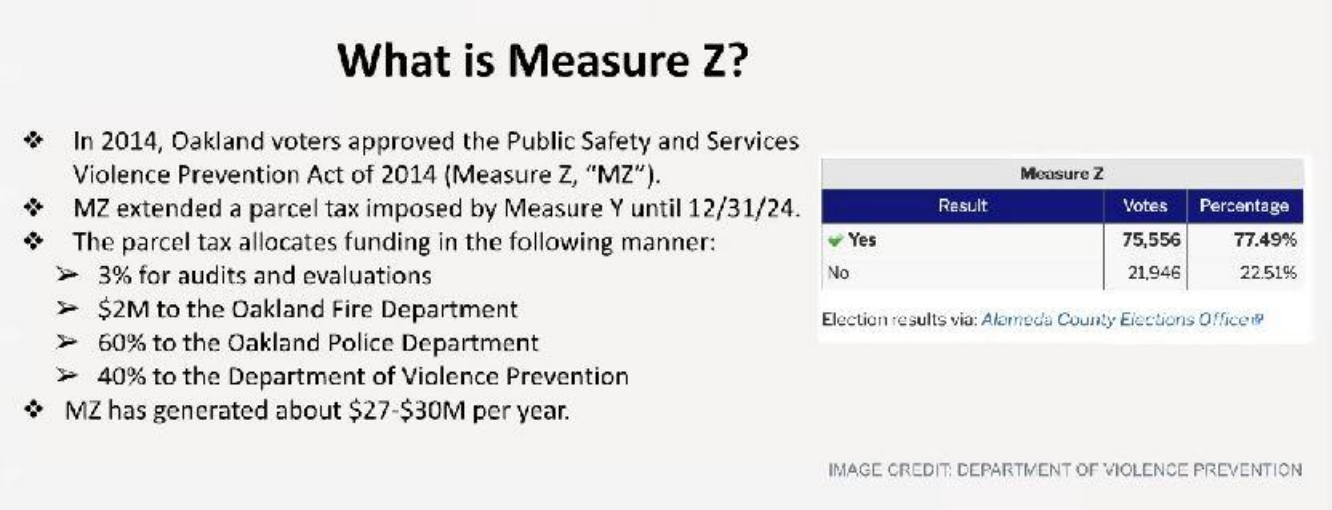
Yoana Tchoukleva: "CHOOK-le-va."

Mike Ubell: Right! She's a commissioner on the Safety and Services Oversight Commission (SSOC). The Safety and Services Oversight Commission oversees the administration of revenue and the implementation of programs funded through the Measure Z property and parking taxes. Measure Z programs are implemented by the Police, Fire, and Violence Prevention Departments.



Yoana Tchoukleva: Thank you so much for having me. I'm the vice chair of the SSOC. Let me tell you a little bit about Measure Z, and also about a new thing we're working on. We have some data that show that the policies and practices we support are working. I have a presentation (Mike Ubell put up the first slide on Zoom). Measure Z replaced Measure Y, and it's a parcel tax [Ed. Note: Measure Y was also a parcel tax.].

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:



Yoana Tchoukleva: Next slide, please.

Yoana Tchoukleva: We've got a lot of violence now but I think it's a little better than it was. I've been on the Commission about a year and a half, and we've mentioned the phone response issues a number of times.

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Chris Jackson: I've been raving about the 911 system response for over 20 years and it hasn't gotten better.

Yoana Tchoukleva: Yes, we know. I looked at the fire department systems and it's very bad. And the 911 system is not fully staffed. Neither the old mayor nor the new mayor has done much about staffing for 911.

Resident: She's been in office how long? We vote for these things, it's our money, and it doesn't seem to work. Who decides these things?

Chris Jackson: The fire department CAD system (Computer Aided Dispatch) doesn't' recognize the intersection of College and Claremont! If you report a medical emergency at that intersection, the fire department says the streets don't intersect. I talked to them about this and it's cleared up, but it's the oldest CAD system in existence, and there's no funding allocated for an upgrade.

Yoana Tchoukleva: This is why I got involved, trying to make things better. Come join the commission, help make it better. The SSOC oversees revenue spending under Measure Z. We have 9 districts, 8 of which have representatives; we need a representative for district 5.

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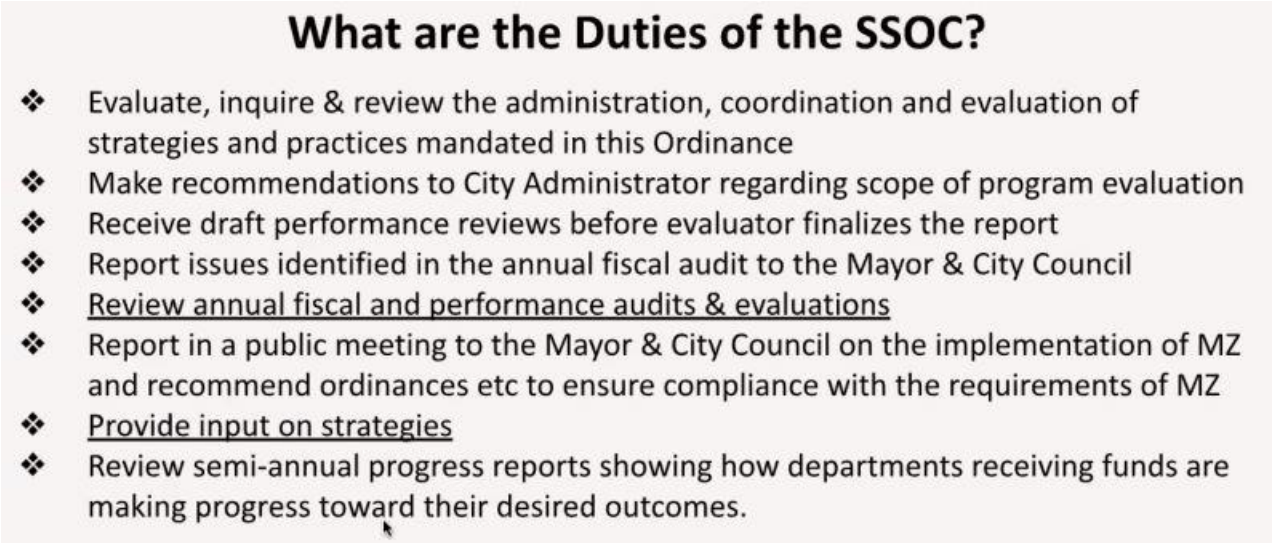
Mike Ubell: You don't have to live in a district to represent it on SSOC. My wife represents district 3 on SSOC, but we don't live there. Council members nominate people to a commission, and the commission approves them. The city has many commissions, it's always a problem keeping them staffed with commissioners.



Yoana Tchoukleva: This commission is structured only to do work on Measure Z, which sunsets in December 2024. The new measure will have a new commission. Join us for 6 months, see what you can do. We evaluate administration reports. We look at what people do, evaluate programs, and report issues. We ask questions. The most important part is that we review the annual fiscal and performance audits and evaluations. We review the semi-annual progress reports. We probably won't have much information until the end of the year.

Zoom User: Why? Why won't we know anything until the end of the year?

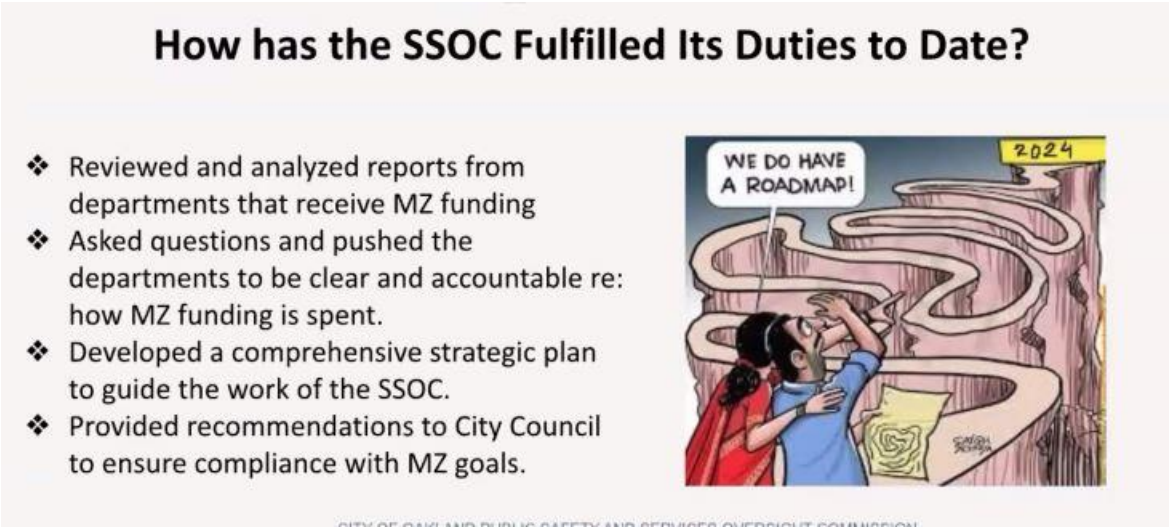
IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

Yoana Tchoukleva: It's the way the contract was written between the agencies and the city council. I had no input on that. We've been meeting with agencies and trying to get some preliminary results in August. Some of the agencies aren't done yet. We think the DVP (Department of Violence Prevention) policies and practices results (40% of the funding) will be out first, in August. We're creating a couple of dashboards where people can see all the program progress, like where people are in DVP's 4 different programs, and how many people are served by each strategy. That's just the *process* metrics, which covers DVP's four programs and how many people they're serving. Now we need the *evaluation* metrics, was that program successful? Once we get that report, we'll add the evaluation piece to the dashboard when we get the report.

Zoom User: So this is not semi-annual, this is annual? I'm confused about the performance.

Yoana Tchoukleva: Evaluation was supposed to be an annual report, but it hasn't happened in the last 4 years. [Ed. Note: Evaluations are done by contractors hired by the city. SSOC helps direct the evaluations.]

Zoom User: And they want us to rubber stamp and keep funding this. I'm not getting at you, but that just speaks volumes about where we're at.



Yoana Tchoukleva: Here's one little snippet of our strategic plan. Anything that's *not* in green hasn't happened yet. Even the green items have been affected by understaffing in the departments. All we can do is ask again.

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What is the SSOC Strategic Plan?

1.1 Receive a report on issues identified in annual fiscal and performance audits that affect MZ resources	**2.1** Receive an annual Ceasefire MZ report	**2.5** Receive an annual update concerning diversity, recruitment, and retention for MZ funded positions
1.2 Receive an annual report from DVP on GBV expenditures	**2.2** Receive an annual CRO MZ report	**2.6** Receive a report on success markers for OFD + analysis of 911 times
1.3 Receive a report from OPD on their ability to maintain sufficient resources to accomplish geo-policing goals	**2.3** Receive an annual OPS 1-3 (aka CRTs) MZ report	**3.1** Create a community engagement plan **3.2** Create an annual SSOC report for joint mtg
1.4 Receive an annual report from the SVS on geo-policing	**2.4** Create a document that tracks all recommendations from evals	**4.1** Consider recommending ordinances, resolutions, and regulations

Lisa Hingley: Do they not get the funding they need unless they give you the reports? Logically it would work that way.

Yoana Tchoukleva: The commission has no funding power, funding all comes from the city council, in every year's budget. This is part of what the new measure is supposed to handle. These issues are part of what the new measure is supposed to take care of. This slide is just a summary of how the money is being spent, with a breakdown of where the money goes. They get money for 7 CROs but because of short staffing they assign CROs to other areas.

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Mike Ubell: Why are there all these organizations? Do they think people from East Oakland will respond better to folks from East Oakland providing services rather than having it city-wide? Are you evaluating that?

Resident: There's a lot of nepotism and graft in the city council in SF, do we have it here? Who decides who gets a contract?

Yoana Tchoukleva: No report has ever shown malfeasance on any program. Measure Z supports about 54 cops. So – is the money being spent effectively? Based on the last performance evaluations (from 2020!), we have some information on DVP programs. They've seen some effective response from the life coaching and employment programs, including slightly fewer arrests. School dropouts and short-term arrests have been improved both by youth employment and life coaching. More details are in the slide. We'd like to know that people in the programs are getting the support they need and not committing any crimes. We expect to get evaluations from the Urban Strategies Council and the Urban Institute by the end of 2024.

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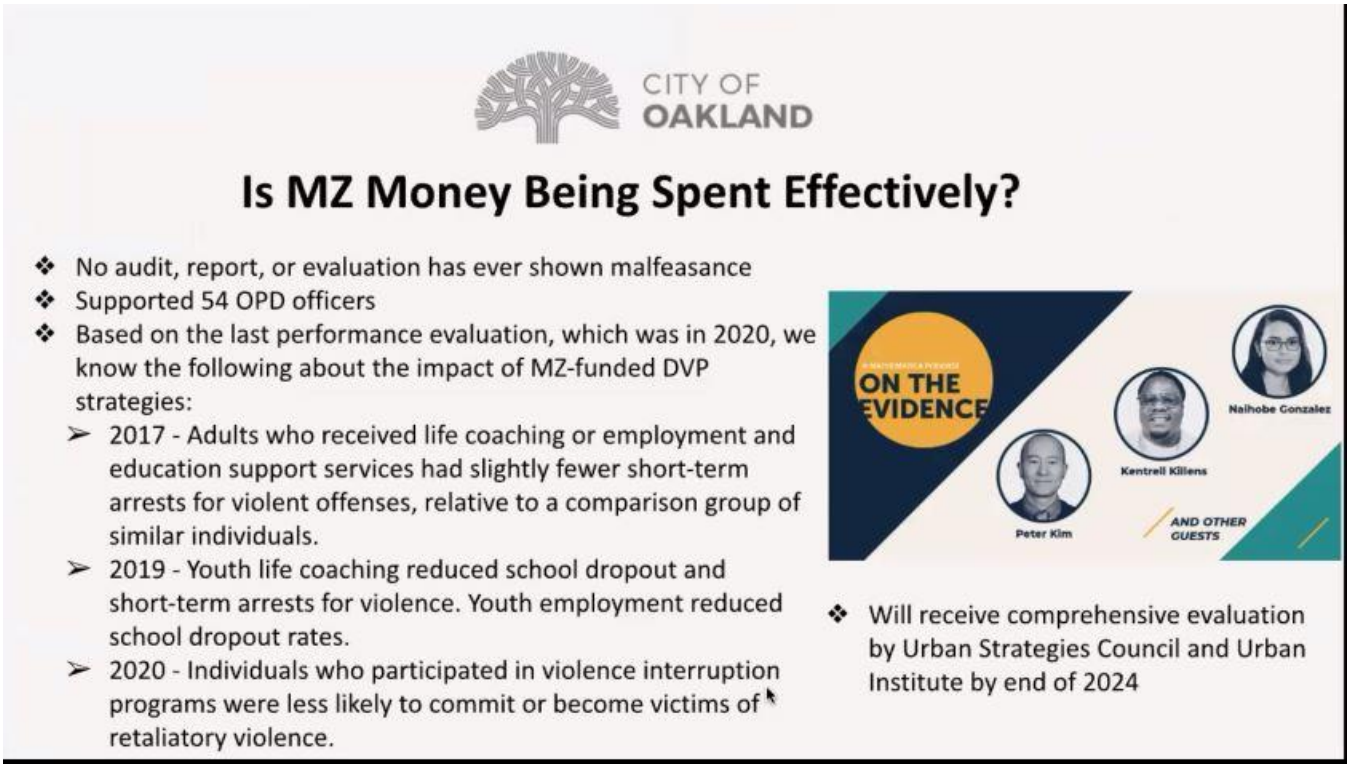

Yoana Tchoukleva: Here's a list of the recommendations we've made to the city council. In Verified Response, we asked for some way to tell if a 911 call is a real burglar alarm. 98% of burglar alarm calls are not real burglaries, wasting OPD time. The city adopted an ordinance requiring this in 2024. Another item is ASAP to PSAP – where AI software in the alarm can detect sounds etc. of a real burglary and speed up the response.

Mike Ubell: I think also when an alarm company calls the police, this is to connect their system directly to the police system when they call 911. This is mostly about alarms from houses. There are cases where people are supposed to look at a camera before calling the police, but mostly they just call.

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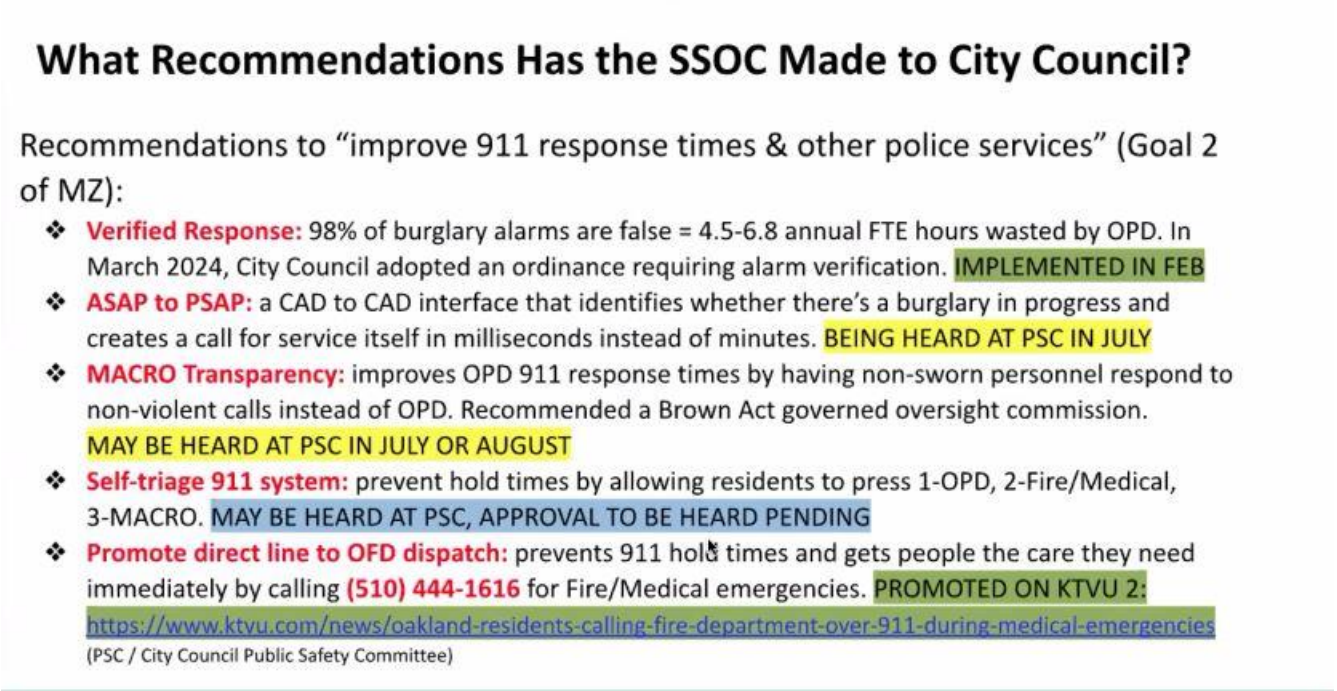

{Ed. Note: I believe PSC is the City Council Public Safety Committee.]

Yoana Tchoukleva: We considered that if non-sworn people responded to non-violent calls it would improve 911 response time for MACRO. The main recommendation is that MACRO should have a formal Brown Act governed oversight commission, instead of the volunteers doing it now. We need to try some new projects.

Resident: Does Measure Z fund MACRO? Who pays for MACRO?

Yoana Tchoukleva: MACRO is paid for by the Fire Department. Some of the money may come from Measure Z but some may come from Fire Dept. funds.

Mike Ubell: The City Council allocated some general fund money for MACRO.

Yoana Tchoukleva: We also think the self-triage 911 system would help, or maybe promoting the direct line to OFD dispatch, 510-444-1616. The line responds faster but it's a longer number.

Karen Ivy: We have had a statement on the front page of our web site for *years* that says, If you have a fire or medical emergency, DON'T call 911, call the Fire Department at 510-444-1616!

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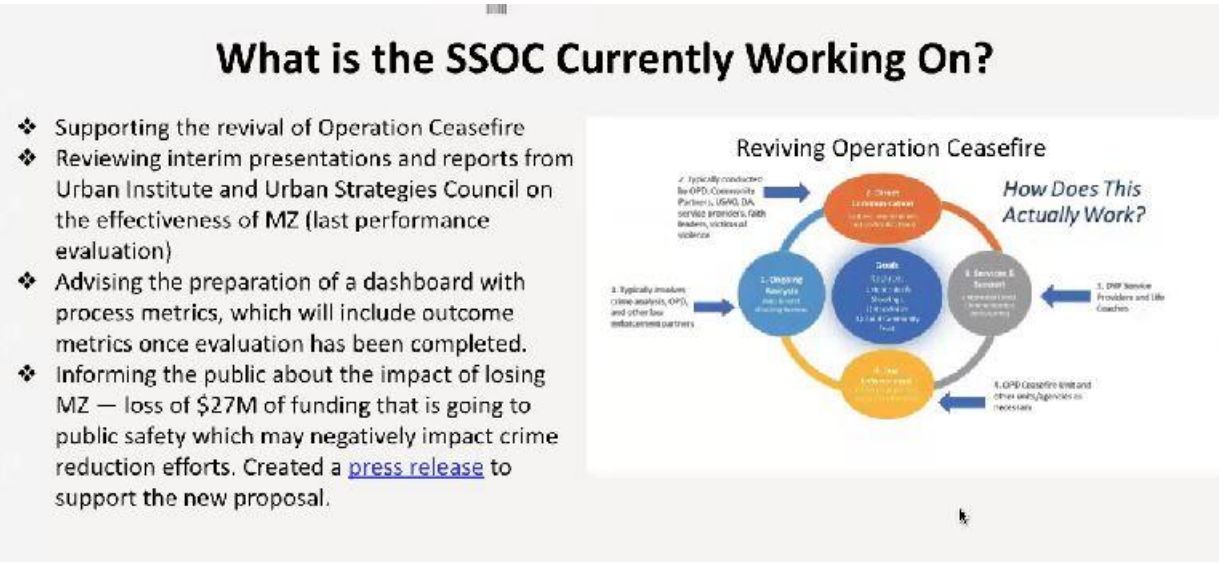
Resident: I've had 2 cases of people asking about this and have told them about the OFD number. 911 is just backed up. I give this number out regularly.



Yoana Tchoukleva: We're working on reviving Operation Ceasefire, and making the public aware of the new ballot measure and the impact of losing Measure Z. If we don't pass the new measure, all this money, $27 million, goes away. It's not in the budget, except in some staff budgets. Whether it's 100% effective or not effective at all, when the money goes away we'll find out.

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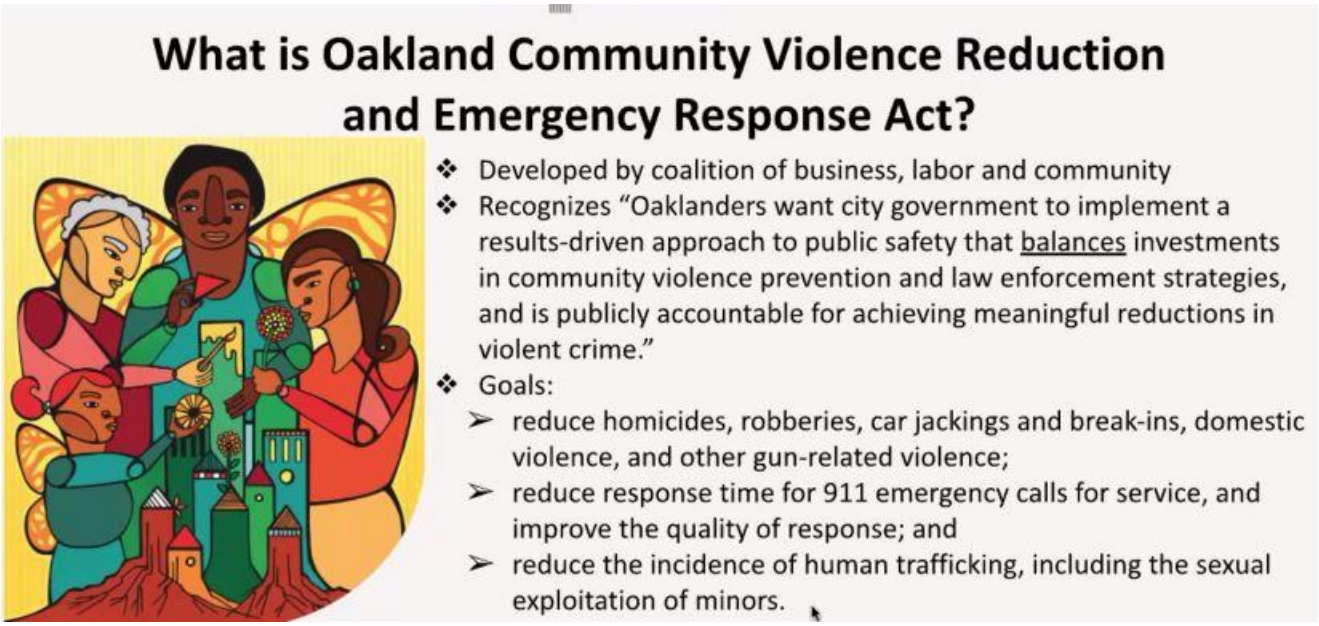
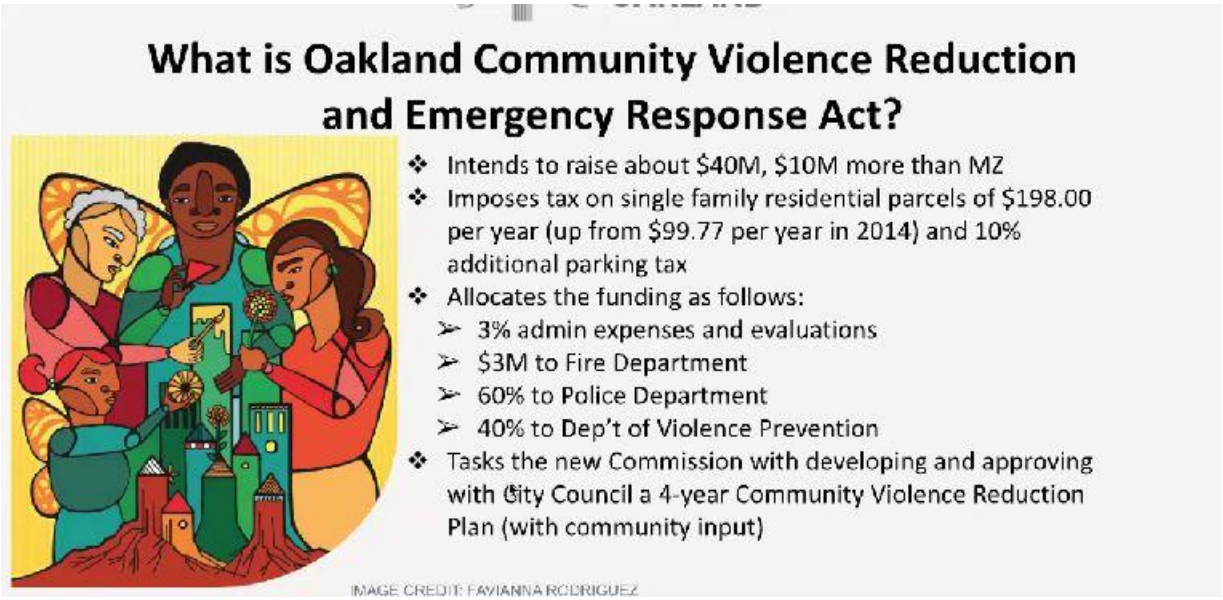


Resident: This is just recycled! We've been through this before!



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Yoana Tchoukleva: A coalition of people got together last year and put together a survey, to find out what investments Oaklanders want. So, this measure imposes a property tax of $198 per year, plus a 10% additional parking tax. It should raise about $40 million per year. There are exceptions for low-income and elderly homeowners. The new Commission is tasked with developing a 4-year Community Violence Reduction Plan.

Mike Ubell: The current tax rate is more than $99.66 per year, due to recent inflation.

Yoana Tchoukleva: This is the end of the presentation. We started the CARE (Community Activation, Research, and Elevation) committee about a year ago. We want to talk to you – what do you think we should be doing? And would you like to work with us? We have vacancies.

Mike Ubell: The new ballot measure is not coming from the city council – that's the measure that people were collecting signatures for. And they got enough signatures to get the measure on the ballot.

Zoom User: why are you using HotMail and Gmail and not government email?

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Yoana Tchoukleva: We don't work for the city, we aren't paid by them. We're supposed to be independent.

Mike Ubell: Citizen oversight is the goal, to keep an eye on those politicians. It's like the NCPC!

Chris Jackson: We need to get the CROS back on their beats. That money should be funding them, and it was taken away.

Resident: We need a mechanism to shine light on what's going on.

Yoana Tchoukleva: That's what we'd like to become. That's why I'm here. Our meetings are public meetings, you can come and talk to us.

Mike Ubell: Well, that's it. Our next meeting is in 2 months. We haven't identified a speaker yet; we'd like to get someone from the CPAB, but it's hard because the Police Commission meets the same nights we do. If there's someone you'd like to hear speak, let us know and we'll try to get them.

Mike Ubell closed the meeting at 8:14 PM.

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for April 2024

Beat 12Y:

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, August 8, 2024** at 7:00 PM at Rockridge Library; virtual meeting Zoom link is available at https://rockridgencpc.com*

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