

**Greater Rockridge NCPC Meeting Minutes (12Y/13X)**  
**Saturday, January 22, 2010**  
**Rockridge Library Community Room, College & Manila, Oakland**  
**General Public: 3:00-4:30PM**

**NCPC:**

Frank Castro – Chair  
Vice Chair – Barbara Minton  
Denise Jorgensen – Treasurer  
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

3:00 PM Introductions

3:02 PM Frank Castro opened the meeting. Eleven people attended, including Lauren LaPlante, BART PD, and Brad Young, 12Y beat officer, OPD.

3:10 PM If OPD officers are present, they will give a report on beat conditions.

Officer LaPlante reported that she wasn't able to get full crime stats for 2010 yet. Crime on BART in December was generally down, there was one car theft and no auto burglaries. BART Police Department attends monthly meetings of area government agencies, and can transmit pressing issues up to area organizations. For example, there were a lot of street lights out in one Fruitvale area, which led to criminal behavior; the issue was taken to the monthly meeting. Transient encampments have also been discussed. The December safety event went very well, somebody asked BART area director Bob Franklin about having more of them. Denise Jorgensen commented that transient encampments are an ongoing problem in this area because of the way the BART pillars are built, she's written letters to Council President Jane Brunner but nothing has happened. Officer LaPlante asked Denise to forward those letters to her and she will take them to the monthly meeting.

OPD Report

The general status of beat 12Y: there are transients on College Ave., there have been gunpoint robberies (usually in the evening) on Telegraph Avenue (the 4200 and 4500 blocks). Otherwise, not much is going on in 12Y except a lot of quality of life issues, which the beat officer can't act on unless people call it in.

Denise Jorgensen asked about the odd burglary in an apartment house on Broadway near her home. Officer Young said that was his case, he thinks it was a transient who's in the area but he isn't sure. He's hoping to get a fingerprint. It was an odd case, you really had to understand how the windows work to get in. He thinks it was probably a one-shot, not really a pattern. A resident commented that all those building tenants are new and nobody has warned them about securing the windows. OPD technicians have been there, so prints may be forthcoming.

The major issue is more Craigslist robberies, ads for a truck for sale, cash only; when the buyer shows up with cash, he's held up at gunpoint. There's been one meet-up in the Safeway lot and one in the Rockridge BART lot. Officer LaPlante said that BART PD accepts calls to accompany people to Craigslist purchases in the BART parking lot. Once the seller knows there's an officer present, there's no deal (but also no holdup). Officer Young commented that OPD can't do that.

3:30 PM Status of PSOs and NSCs in NCPC

Last summer, officer layoffs led to the loss of PSOs. Then measure BB passed, allowing the Measure Y parcel tax to be collected so PSOs can be reinstated; but the additional funding didn't pass. We still have 57 beats and 57 NCPCs, but there are 35 PSOs for 35 "patrol beats." PSOs are deployed "as needed," areas with greater need get 2 officers. Beat 13 has 3 sub-beats (X, Y, and Z), it now has one PSO, Trent Thompson, for 13X, 13Y, and 13Z. Officer Thompson may or may not be able to attend our meetings. Randall Chew is now the PSO for beat 12Y. Frank Castro will schedule a meeting with Lt. Hamilton and the PSOs this week to discuss NCPC attendance. Frank Castro thinks PSO assignments will change due to facts on the ground.

**IMPORTANT RESOURCES:**

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The Neighborhood Services Dept. has gone from 16-17 people to 10, possibly soon to 8. The NSCs are liaisons to city bureaucracy, they can help residents talk to the right people. Patricia Rose is our new NSC for both 12 beats, very knowledgeable and engaged, willing to work with us via email. She'll attend every other NCPC meeting for 12Y starting in February.

Karen Ivy announced that she'll be out for about 3 months starting 3/8 due to knee replacement surgery, we need someone to act as secretary for that period.

3:30 PM Crime Stats report by Frank Castro, Suzanne Sargentini

Data sources are the Oakland Crimespotting maps for beats 12Y/13X, plus Marie Mason's weekly OPD spreadsheet. Marie Mason's spreadsheet always has some entries where the beat is "UNK", we don't try to figure out if these are in our beats, so we may miss some.

We track 4 categories of crime:

1. Crimes against persons
2. Crimes against property (not automotive)
3. Automotive crimes (break-ins, burglary, auto theft)
4. Quality of life crimes (graffiti, narcotics)

12Y - December crimes against the person were quite light. There was a lot of property crime in December - there's a cluster of property crimes around the drug house on Manila. There's another cluster of property crime around DMV and scattered across the area west of Claremont Ave. Auto-related crimes happen all over beat 12Y, especially to unlocked cars or cars with open windows. There was one quality of life crime.

13X - December saw only one crime against a person, a simple assault on Broadway Terrace. There were residential burglaries around the Country Club. The map shows clearly that burglaries cluster around major traffic routes (Broadway Terrace and Broadway). Beat 13 had no quality of life crimes in December.

We can now provide crime totals for longer periods. Total crimes reported in beat 12Y for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter:

- October - 37
- November - 49
- December - 38

We expect to provide back statistics for beat 13X in February.

We have no way to estimate the number of unreported crimes. After the layoffs there was much confusion on how to report crimes, and some people may have simply stopped calling them in.

Neighborhood Issues (new matters to be considered for priorities)

A resident reported a young man going door to door near Boyd and Forrest, claiming to be selling books to be donated to Children's Hospital. Karen Ivy commented that this was clearly illegal since Oakland never permits charitable solicitation door to door, only for a specific date, time, and street corner. Incidents like this should be called in to the OPD non-emergency, 777-3333, and described as a suspicious character, since the young man could have been casing houses for burglary.

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Officer LaPlante noted that people soliciting funds on BART are always in violation, BART never allows that. Passengers should call BART Police (1-877-679-7000) to report the incident, if they have a cell-phone signal.

The Kales block captain reported on the situation at George & Walt's bar. The hearing for the pool hall license was January 6, 2011. The residents of Kales learned of the hearing on December 20, 2010, which they considered very short notice. Some residents attended the hearing. It was very well run, and Arturo Sanchez was very helpful. No decision has been made as yet. The license will *probably* be approved *with conditions*. The owners claimed under oath that they had no idea "this stuff" was going on at 2 AM. The bar owner *might* have to meet regularly with the residents as condition of license. George & Walt's faces a street full of houses, the closest houses have resident babies. George & Walt's has recently been keeping the door shut since and has discouraged patrons from hanging around outside the door.

The street light which was out at Miles and Cavour over the holidays has finally been replaced. While it was out, cars were reportedly parked for short periods of time in on the very dark street; it is believed that prostitutes were in them with clients. The residents are not sure where the prostitutes were picked up but assume it is nearby because such activity often takes place in the closest dark spot from the pick-up. Public Works doesn't know about dead street lights unless citizens call the problem in. If you see a street light out, call it in, or fill in the reporting form on their web site, which is supposed to be the best way to report problems to Public Works.

Denise Jorgensen reported that the NCPC had been able to arrange a special meeting about the drug house on Manila, with all the affected neighbors, and Arturo Sanchez, the city's administrator for nuisance abatement; it is scheduled for Wednesday January 26<sup>th</sup>.

No one reported any new issues from beat 13X, but the crime statistics maps showed that the burglaries are still going on in the area around Sheridan and Cochrane.

The NCPC officers included a new issue which was reported by email just before the meeting. There is a problem resident in the 400 block of 63<sup>rd</sup> Street (at Telegraph). This man is a known drug dealer (busted at least once), who also runs an unlicensed auto repair shop in his garage. He and his friends ride very noisy motorcycles at all hours and have big mean-looking dogs that are never leashed. The neighbors fear retaliation if they complain about the noise.

Merchants' Issues (*new matters and follow-up on any previous issues*)

No merchants' issues were reported.

**Priorities**

**12Y Priority**

- Muggers lurking on Coronado to catch people taking the alley shortcut from Broadway to Coronado, using bags of Wendy's food as an excuse to sit there.
- Problem neighbor in the 400 block of 63<sup>rd</sup> Street (at Telegraph) – noisy motorcycles, unlicensed auto repair, threatening dogs, possible drug dealing.

**13X Priority**

- Recent rash of auto and home burglaries on Sheridan and Cochrane.

*In 2011 all meetings except January will be the SECOND Thursday of the month.*

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*Next meeting will be **Thursday, February 10, 2010** at 7:00 PM at Rockridge Library Community Room. See you there and stay safe!*

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