

**Greater Rockridge NCPC Meeting Minutes (12Y/13X)**  
**Thursday, January 11, 2012**  
**Seneca Center for Education and Training, 6925 Chabot Road**  
**General Public: 7:00-8:30PM**

**NCPC:**

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

Frank Castro opened the meeting around 7:03 PM. Due to the size of the crowd, he skipped the usual attendee introductions and introduced the NCPC officers. Sixty-two people signed in on the attendance sheets, but informal counts of the room came to 75. Frank asked for a show of hands from people who live in beat 12Y, and then from people who live in 13X. Only a few hands came up; most people didn't know what beat they live in.

**Logitech presentation on security cameras (short Q & A period follows)**

Alex Zaliauskas, Senior Product Manager at Logitech, gave a presentation on their new security camera line, Logitech Alert. Logitech offers a DIY security system which, compared to most security products that require paid installation or complex setup, can be set up easily in minutes. Utilizing the HomePlug technology, Logitech Alert uses the existing outlets and electrical wiring to connect and transmit encrypted video without new wires or networking hassles. As a result, you can install and manage the Logitech Alert system yourself without paid outside support. Logitech offers two types of camera:

- **Indoor cameras:** High Definition, wide angle indoor cameras with motion-triggered video and alert. Once you install a master system, you can expand up to 6 cameras both indoor and outdoor.
- **Outdoor cameras:** Weatherproof, self-illuminated infrared, High Definition and wide angle cameras that take photos in either dark or light. The infrared camera has 2 IR illuminators built in, it self-illuminates the scene. These are the most powerful infrared illuminators on the market (“dragon” LEDs), the same technology used by BMW, with beams to 60 feet by 100 feet; many cameras illuminate to about 15 feet. The camera switches to daytime color mode when the sun comes up or security lights come on.

The installation software currently only runs on Windows PCs, a Mac version is very close to production. Because both cameras are high-definition, they can capture high resolution video at 960x720 resolution which helps recognize faces and objects at greater ranges than usual. High definition cameras are rare in home security; most security cameras from big box stores are lower resolution.

The cameras detect and record *motion events* –and can be set to send alerts that include a snapshot to your email address or cellphone immediately to alert you of the incidents.

To avoid recording everyone passing on the street, you can set up *motion zones*: choose the area(s) you want it to watch (doors, gates, etc.) and the camera will only record motion events in those areas. You can also control

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the alerts the camera sends, for example, you might set up an alert when someone comes through the garage door. You can log in from any smartphone (apps are available for iPhone, Android, and BlackBerry) to see the live video or view live from any web connected computer using your internet browser.

The free Logitech Commander software allows you to access video clips, which are archived on a timeline. To go back in time, page back in the logs and choose the clip you want. Clips show as green areas on the log. You can also share the videos easily with friends, family, or the law enforcement officers.

The cameras come with a 2 GB MicroSD card. That will probably hold 1-2 weeks of motion events depending on the traffic and how the motion zones are set up. You can upgrade the MicroSD card as high as 32GB. It also backs up the video it takes onto the PC hard drive when the PC running and the software is turned on.

Q: How long would a 32GB card hold of very busy action or continuous motion? A: Assuming you're recording normal pedestrian traffic on a sidewalk, about 1 full day at 15 frames/second, which is the recording rate.

Q. How about backing up to the cloud? A: The camera records to the MicroSD, backs it up to PC when it's running, and can then push the video to the cloud. Logitech has an arrangement with DropBox.

Q. What make Logitech Alert reliable and easy to set up?

Logitech Alert uses HomePlug, house power line networking, using the electrical outlets in the house. The camera is not hard wired so it saves you significant setup time and gives you more flexibility. You only need to plug the camera power supply and network adapter into electrical outlets (it is compatible with older knob-tube wiring), and plug the network adapter cable into your router. You must have a network with 1 open router port. Video is transmitted through the home wiring – *it must be on same meter, and preferably on the same circuit, as the router*. It uses a highly secure 256bit AES encryption. Power line adapters can transmit at 200MBPS. The outside cameras plug into an outdoor outlet, and indoor cameras plug into an indoor outlet. The adapters must be plugged into the wall outlet and not a home UPS.

Q. What if I have no computers at all? A. It still works on your home wiring. [Ed. Note: Clarified this issue in post-meeting discussion. Without a PC, the camera will run on house power and record to the MicroSD card; to view incidents you have to remove the card from the camera and plug it into a viewing device that takes SD card (Micro SD to SD card adapter included), such as a PC or Mac. Also, without a computer, you can't set up motion zones or alerts, or view remotely. People who have no computer equipment at all probably won't be able to get maximum value out of the system unless they're prepared to invest in a computer also.]

Q: is this just in my house or for community use? A: They are made for home management but can certainly be shared; you could arrange to email motion alerts to a community list.

Q: Does this really work only on Windows PCs and not Macs? A: We have no date yet on the Mac software but it's a #1 priority. At this point you have to have a Windows PC to set it up, however, once it's configured you can manage it from a web interface on a Mac. The camera system works even when the master PC is turned off.

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The cameras produce alerts directly. The backup to DropBox requires a Windows PC and currently you can't archive Dropbox to the hard drive with Mac.

Q: What civil liberty issues would these raise? A: The system records audio but audio recording is off by default. In California you can't record *audio* without permission and consent of the people recorded. Turn the audio off and you can legally video record of any public activity. The lens has a 130-degree view field.

**Cost:** The outdoor master system costs \$349, the indoor master system costs \$299. You start with either one of those. You can add more cameras, up to 6 for a single PC. Outdoor add-on cameras cost \$279, indoor add-on cameras cost \$229. You only need one master camera per system. The master system comes with a camera, power supply, network adapter, Alert Commander software, cables, and the 2GB cards. The add-on system is similar but requires no network adapter. Logitech offers **a community discount of approximately 30% (The more you buy, the higher the discount)** – their web site configurator walks you through the process. The configuration tool is designed for communities.

Each community they work with gets a free community *premium service*, which lets you view your recordings, along with changing settings of your system from another PC using a web browser or mobile device – this normally costs \$79 a year. Live viewing is always free - at home or away, viewing recorded incidents is free granted that you are at home and reviewing the video on the PC running the commander software. Data charges may apply on remote viewing depending on your cellular and internet service providers.

Q: How animal-proof is the outdoor camera? A: You'd better protect the cables but the camera itself is made from cast zinc and is designed for use in harsh elements

Q: How do we organize this to get the discount? Frank Castro said, let the NCPC know you're interested and we can be the liaison, and help pull together a larger group for the discount.

Q: Do you have any data on how far away it can produce a readable photo of a license plate? A: No. The ability to record license plate information varies depends on the speed of the vehicle and because of the reflective surface of the plate, it can be challenging to get a quality image and video capture.

[logitechforcommunities@gmail.com](mailto:logitechforcommunities@gmail.com) is the contact email address for Alex. For more information including demo video, go to: <http://buy.logitech.com/store/logib2c/Content/pbPage.AlertSystem>. To purchase cameras using the configurator tool, please visit <http://www.logitech.com/en-us/video-security-systems/bundle-builder#page0>

### **Crime Statistics, Frank Castro**

Frank Castro briefly explained how we present the crime stats, from date of last meeting. We haven't got any information for January yet, so tonight's report is just through 12/31/11. Crimes against persons are rose shaded – there 4 in 12Y, including 2 with weapons; this is down from 7 robberies in 12Y/13X the previous month. Light green records are crimes against property (non-auto). There were a number of non-auto burglaries in December. Beat 12Y had 40 crimes in 3 weeks. Beat 13X only had 15 crimes in 3 weeks – but 6 were residential burglaries. Officer Vergara noted that most of the burglaries are at the top of 13X (near

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Highway 13), and are more like what beat 13Z usually gets; most of beat 13X was crime free. Frank promised that by February we'll do an unscientific analysis of all the crimes in 2011 in our beats – at least, crimes *that were reported*. Please always call in or go online to report crimes, even if you don't think the police will come. Crimes not reported are crimes that never happened.

#### **Joint OPD Report for Beats 12Y and 13X**

Officer Vergara presented on this, with support from Officer Thompson. She commented that her numbers are slightly different from Frank Castro's because she has a different data source. She began by passing around a printed map of burglaries in beat 12Y. Problem Solving Officers (PSOs) try to work on burglaries; the investigative unit which should do them is overwhelmed.

PSOs have also been handling the Occupy movement, and the anarchists that hang out with them; this is a heavy load. Most of the ordinary people involved in Occupy have gone home, leaving a core of anarchists who confront OPD almost every day. This takes time they would usually use to work on their projects (blighted properties, serial crimes, etc.).

Officer Vergara, as PSO for beat 12, is working on a joint project with the PSO for beat 11, analyzing crime trends coming from Telegraph Ave. up 62<sup>nd</sup> and 63<sup>rd</sup> Streets – trying to figure out what's happening. PSOs work with the City Attorney to reword civic codes to make it easier to enforce the law.

Beat 12Y had 6 residential forced entry burglaries in December and 4 auto burglaries. In 30 days beat 12Y had only one robbery (section 211, street robbery with weapon), on Lawton. It sounded similar to previous robberies on Ocean View in November. Beat 12Y contains 2 BART stations, Rockridge and MacArthur – people leaving BART stations are often attacked, especially if they are talking or checking email on the phone as they walk.

There were relatively few incidental crimes, such as bicycle theft without forced entry.

#### **City-Wide Crime Numbers**

Officer Vergara passed around a printed map of all the murders in Oakland in 2011; we had 110, San Francisco had 51, San Jose had 40. Murders are the #1 OPD priority.

In the last 30 days Oakland city-wide had 288 robberies. These are holdups on the street. They get investigated in this order: first, if there's a suspect in custody; second, if there's a named suspect; third, if there's a clear identifiable lead (like a license plate). The suspects come up behind victims. If someone comes up behind you, don't step aside off the street; step into the street where you're more visible.

In the last month there were 964 burglaries (all forced entry). It's very hard to follow leads on burglaries. The Logitech cameras can give them working information, with good photos they caught a serial burglar responsible for around 35 burglaries. The city has *one* burglary investigator. Lock stuff up. Get good front doors, and install alarm systems.

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There were 4,304 robberies in Oakland for the year 2011 (including some home invasion robberies). OPD doesn't have the manpower to investigate them all. Officer Vergara couldn't print a map of all burglaries, there were over 10,000 burglaries in 2011 in Oakland, and the print program refused to handle it.

She tried to run comparative statistics for Berkeley and SF, but could only compare murders. She will try to get comparative statistics for Piedmont, Berkeley, and Emeryville. Officer Thompson commented that it looks bad here, but Rockridge crime is quite sporadic compared to rest of the city.

Q: So it's just a matter of time before our house is hit? Officer Vergara: Yes, and we just got bad news, the city will lay off a bunch of civilian support personnel, there will be no academies and no officer hiring. There may be fewer than 500 OPD officers a year from now. [Ed. Note: Officer Vergara didn't say so, but this is because of the recent California Supreme Court Decisions on Redevelopment Agencies; see recent articles in the newspapers.]

Q: How many patrol cars are out at one time? Officer Vergara: there are 35 beats; half to three-quarters of them are staffed at any one time. There are maybe 50 officers out on the street at once. Patrol coverage changes, it's very light in early morning, heavier in late afternoon and evening.

Q: Do we have statistics on how crime was when we had full police staff? Officer Vergara: Statistics are not her field but crime has definitely gone up. She has lived in Oakland since 1985, she used to be able to count on seeing a beat officer every day, now you may never see a beat officer. We like to show what's happening in the city; 2 robberies on beat 12 compares to many more robberies on other beats.

Q: if 10,000 burglaries isn't acceptable, how does city get help?

Q: Can we put cameras on phone poles at escape routes? Officer Vergara: That's a great idea, but very hard to do. Officer Thompson: Montclair is starting to do this, they're already giving us leads.

Q: what can we do to help? The PTA raises money. Officer Vergara: Hiring police is a little beyond private fundraising.

Karen Ivy said, we the NCPC are the connection between OPD and you. We are it, the four of us, and we need your help. Contact us. If we're going to get these cameras organized, we need your help. Frank Castro added, talk to us, if four of you volunteer, it'll double our resources. We can use your help. The City of Oakland just announced a hiring freeze and they're going to lay off a couple hundred people.

### **8:35 - 8:50 PM Setting of Priorities**

The combination of the Logitech presentation and the OPD presentation took long enough that there was no time to discuss neighborhood issues. We will keep the priorities we used in December until the next meeting.

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**Priorities for January:**

**12Y:**

1. Rash of car burglaries along Colby between 60th and Alcatraz, and generally from Claremont toward Berkeley.
2. Patrol Shafter & Cavour area, teenage burglary suspects active during the day, casing houses, ringing doorbells to ask for non-existent neighbors.

**13X:**

1. Catalytic converter thefts on Carlton.

*Meetings are the SECOND Thursday of the month.*

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 9, 2012** at 7:00 PM

**LOCATION for this meeting only:**

*The College Preparatory School, Room P1, 6100 Broadway.*

*See you there and stay safe!*

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