

Greater Rockridge NCPC (12Y/13X) - Minutes
Thursday, January 8, 2015
Buttner Auditorium, The College Preparatory School,
6100 Broadway, Oakland
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM

NCPC:

Michael Ubell – Chair
Barbara Minton – Vice Chair
Molly Singer - Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

The schedule is a guideline that may need to be adjusted based on how many or few issues are brought to the meeting.

1. 7:30 – 7:35 PM – Introductions
2. 7:35 – 7:45 PM - Reconsider priority status and add new priorities as needed
3. 7:45 – 8:15 PM – Captain Darren Allison will speak on crime and crime mitigation, followed by Q&A
4. 8:15 – 8:30 PM – OPD Status Reports, 12Y and 13X, and neighborhood issues discussion
 - a. Discuss possible Citizen Patrols

Mike Ubell opened the meeting at 7:33 PM, and introduced the officers present. Barbara Minton and Molly Singer were absent. OPD officers present introduced themselves: Captain Darren Allison, Sergeant Aaron Smith, PSO supervisor (replacing Sergeant Bassett), Officer Jonathon Muniz, PSO for beat 8 (down Telegraph), and Officer Joel Warford, PSO beat 14 (Lake Merritt), covering for the beat 13 PSO.

Review Priorities

The beat 12Y priority is the problems with George & Walt's bar patrons. Mike Ubell reported there have been no issues recently (he's a neighbor), and suggested we remove it, leaving no priority for 12Y.

The beat 13X priority is speeding on Lawton. Sgt. Smith reported that the PSOs have been conducting traffic enforcements on Broadway Terrace & Clarewood: they also shared the traffic issues with patrol. They haven't checked on Lawton but will do so. He noted that the PSOs need help identifying speeders – if you see a speeder, try to get the license plate and call it in.

Q: Can we get traffic enforcement on College? Traffic is terrible on College, drivers make illegal U-turns, run lights and stop signs, endanger pedestrians.

Sgt. Smith: they know about the traffic on College and have done enforcements there. Traffic enforcement is largely done with grant money these days.

A resident asked if there was any progress getting a cricket light at Lawton & Broadway. [Ed. Note: a *cricket light* is a line of lights across a crosswalk, which light up when a pedestrian is crossing the street.] Patricia Rose explained that you can request traffic control upgrades like cricket lights on the Public Works web site. The request has to be reviewed by Traffic Engineering, also by the Police and Fire Departments. It isn't a fast process.

Captain Darren Allison

Captain Allison was reassigned as District 2 area commander in September 2014. He's been with Oakland Police Department for 20 years, beginning as a patrol officer in East Oakland. He moved into the Community Policing Unit (CPU), when it was set up in the 1990s. At that time he worked with Patricia Rose, who is the District 2 Neighborhood Services Coordinator now. He stayed with

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community policing when the CPU transitioned to Problem Solving Officers (PSOs). He worked on the city-wide Crime Reduction Team (CRT); he also worked for Lawrence Green as Crime Reduction Team sergeant in North Oakland. He has now replaced Capt. Anthony Toribio as District 2 commander twice, in 2010 and 2014. He has a good sense of North Oakland crime trends.

North Oakland's biggest crime issue is burglaries, residential burglaries in beat 13, auto burglaries along College Avenue.

Area 2 isn't a single area, it includes beat 8 through beat 14. It covers the area south to 23rd Street, along Martin Luther King and Telegraph to 40th, and over to the Emeryville border. [Ed. Note: [Click on this link](#) to see a map of District 2.]

[Ed. Note: Answers, coded "A:", are all from Captain Allison unless otherwise identified.]

Q: what about home invasion robberies?

A: citywide priorities are street robberies and shootings. The Ceasefire program is used against violent offenders. The department is short of officers; we should have 1200-1500 police, we're hovering around 700.

Q: Do new academies merely cover attrition or help the department expand?

A: Both. When we got to 800 officers in 2010, we were running simultaneous academies. Expanding the department takes a lot of work. We're maintaining a plus over attrition, which has multiple causes – officers leaving for other jobs, injuries, and retirement.

OPD must be very smart with resources – crime went up in December because everybody was dealing with the protests. We don't have enough people to do "prevention by presence." The department meets to identify hot spots; Capt. Allison looks at hotspots daily, and shifts resources accordingly. He'll move patrol officers based on crime trends. When you have a lot of crime all over, you have to prioritize.

The PSOs link projects to crime trends *and* NCPC concerns. The Crime Reduction Team (CRT) goes after known violent offenders; they get information from what they do in the field. They target and enforce on known individuals, and watch area trends and hotspots. The goal is efficient use of resources. The amount of crime takes a toll on the 911 service – you may not get a response by an officer on a non-emergency crime, but you may get a non-sworn technician who will take the report.

Crime Trends: Year-End Statistics For 2014

Overall, city crime is down 9% over 2014.

For beat 13X – overall "part 1" crime (felonies) is down 10%, 169 in 2014 against 187 in 2013. Robberies are up 40% - from 5 in 13 to 7 in 14. There was one residential robbery in 2014. The most common crimes in beat 13X are burglaries. Residential burglaries are down, but auto burglaries are increasing, all over town.

A resident noted that he lives by Rockridge BART (in the area near Lawton and College), and unlocked cars in that area are rifled *every day*. There isn't always anything taken, but they're rifled.

Captain Allison said he reads all the burglary reports, and he hasn't seen many reports on theft from unlocked cars; are they not being reported? The department needs the statistics on these. You can [report this incident online](#) or by calling the non-emergency line (510-777-3333). The crime report may be taken by a non-sworn technician. The department really needs citizens to

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report that sort of crime, if you're sure about it; if you just think it's happening, bring it to NCPC. It only takes 30 seconds for a pro thief to break into a car and steal.

Jane Carney (of The College Preparatory School) reported that the school must continually educate the high school kids not to leave *anything* in car, even an empty gym bag. This has reduced auto burglaries, although they had 1 car theft.

Captain Allison explained that the city needs to cut property crime down so as to focus on violent crime. We need to stop violence to build the city up. North Oakland has less violence than some other areas, but it has some.

Q: How effective is a video camera as a deterrent?

A: There are no guarantees. A video camera isn't a panacea. But it helps. Alarms help. Motion lights help. Security monitoring signs help. Multiple security measures make it harder for the burglars.

For beat 12Y: beat 12Y saw a 20% reduction in part 1 crimes from 2013-2014. Major crime status: 250 burglaries (12% down), 144 auto burglaries (up 5%) 73 residential burglaries (down 32%). Robberies saw the most dramatic reduction, because in 2013 Temescal and Rockridge had a lot of gun robberies, and so got dedicated, focused resources. In 2013 there were 98; in 2014 there were 40, a 59% reduction.

Q: Do private patrols help?

A: Yes, they do, in the same way that video cameras and motion lights help. There's no single solution. Everyone needs to be personally awareness, and tell the neighbors. Don't shut yourselves off from the neighbors; share information.

Q: What do we do about door-to-door solicitors?

A: The Oakland Police web site has a link to safety tips, including dealing with [suspicious solicitors](#), and it also has a [page on fraud](#). Karen Ivy noted that the Greater Rockridge NCPC web site also has a page on [dealing with solicitors](#).

Q: What is the arrest rate?

A: In 2014 OPD made 2,200 arrests in north Oakland (District 2). This is all arrests, from robbery to drug possession and minor violations. Response time for cold calls can take a few minutes, to a few hours, to a few days. In-progress call response time is improving because he stations people where the next crime is likely to occur. In-progress call response time is currently 1-5 minutes.

Q: Does the District Attorney prosecute arrests?

A: Yes, we have a good relationship with the District Attorney. After proposition 47, people just don't do time for minor crimes any more. For violent crimes they get good sentences, especially for crimes against people. Robberies and burglaries are hard to deal with because there are so many, and so many of them are done by the same guy. They're now jailing people for multiple robberies.

Q: The area has a lot of exit points; can we get cameras up on the exit points??

A: It's a great idea but the cameras cannot be from the City. The City attempted to implement a Domain Awareness Center where we could network city-owned cameras and current information. There were a lot of questions. The Domain Awareness Center wasn't implemented. We're waiting for the city to develop a privacy policy facilitated by Joe DeVries, of the City Administrator's office. Once there's a privacy policy we should be able to look at the camera issue again. Patricia Rose will contact Joe DeVries to find out the status of the privacy policy. OPD can't put up city-owned

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cameras, and citizens can't put them up on city owned property. You have to put cameras on *private* property, or work with a merchant to put them up on the merchant's property. Video from private cameras is evidence, but it isn't enough.

Q: Does OPD actually respond to private video?

A: We now have technicians who can pull data out of private video cameras. When homeowner has video, they do push it out to the investigators. Often the challenge is identifying the suspect in the video. They have to know who the guy is before they can charge.

Q: what did Mayor Schaaf say to OPD?

A: Sgt. Smith reported that she came and talked; she did a ride-along with a sergeant.

Mike Ubell brought up the issues of homeless camps and loitering. A resident noted that any camps he's reported were cleared right up.

A: It isn't a crime to be homeless. OPD can cite a homeless person for trespassing, they do not normally go to jail for trespassing. Clearing up a camp can just move the concern around. He doesn't have a long-term solution to this. The police can try to get them help for mental health concerns and so on. Some people just don't want help.

PSO reports

Sgt. Smith reported that other than the outstanding priorities, College Ave. traffic issues are very familiar. OPD did an undercover operation a few months ago, with a brightly dressed officer, who nearly got hit every time he crossed the street. They focused on this because people had complained.

Captain Allison added that the traffic section was disbanded, but they still get grants to allow traffic enforcement. They'll be doing officer traffic safety enforcement in College Ave. On the complaint about speeding on Lawton, maybe the radar speed trailer could help.

Q: We'd like to do a citizen's patrol on Shafter, can OPD do any training.

A: They have citizen's police academy, for background on how the police work. They really are not geared to support community patrols. Work through neighborhood services coordinators for this sort of thing. Patricia Rose said she has some tips for walking patrols, dos and don'ts, and how to organize it. We can hand those out. The tips are not online now; Karen Ivy said that if Patricia can send her soft copy, she'll post them on the NCPC web site. Neighborhood Services has a lot of information on how to organize Neighborhood Watch groups.

A resident said they've tried to get everybody on NextDoor, and get phone numbers for text alerts. They want to do property identifications for places with poor lighting – will OPD work with them?

A: Yes, the PSOs can do CPTED inspection (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design): this will identify where people should trim trees and shrubs, etc. If someone refuses to trim, the police can cite them. The residents want to arrange with local dog walkers to go along with the walking patrols.

NCPC Priorities for December 2014

Under new OPD rules, each beat is allowed a single priority, instead of the previous 3; and new priorities must be *identifiable* and *measurable*. PSOs will also work on a *Crime project* and *from time to time* (?) a *Call reduction project* for the beat. Remember that 12Y and 13X are only part of beats 12 and 13.

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12Y:

1. *NCPC Priority:* No current priority.
2. *Crime Project:* High visibility vehicle patrols on College Avenue between Broadway and Claremont
3. *Call Reduction Project:* to be announced

13X:

1. *NCPC Priority:* Speeding auto traffic up and down Lawton above Broadway.
2. *Crime Project:* none at present.
3. *Call Reduction Project:* to be announced

NCPC meetings are normally the SECOND Thursday of the month.

*Due to an Oakland city holiday there will be **no February meeting** of the NCPC.*

*Next NCPC meeting is **Thursday, March 12, 2015** at 7:30 PM*

Location to be announced later

See you there and stay safe!

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