

Greater Rockridge NCPC (12Y/13X) - Agenda
Thursday, October 9, 2014
Rockridge Library, College and Manila, Oakland
General Public: 7:00-8:30PM

NCPC:

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

Mike Ubell brought the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. OPD officers present were PSO San Andres (beat 12); Officer Davis (beat 12 patrol), PSO Trode (beat 13), PSO Pollard (beat 9). Patricia Rose, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, was also present. Fifteen residents attended the meeting.

OPD Status Report – beat 12Y

| <i>Crimes, Beat 12Y</i> | <i>Last 30 days</i> | <i>Last year this period</i> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Auto burglaries | 10 | 14 |
| Residential/ Commercial burglaries | 8 | 18 |
| Robberies | 3 | 16 |
| Stolen vehicles | 10 | 12 |

A homeless camp which was evicted from 51st St. by CalTrans has appeared in a new location; Officer San Andres called Public Works today (Oct. 9).

Q: What is the status of the priority on bicyclists riding on the sidewalk?

Officer San Andres: I'm usually around from 4 PM through the evening, I don't see much bicycle riding on the sidewalk. OPD did enforcement on this a few weeks ago, and are planning another one. The police don't get calls for that violation. Enforcement usually means the rider gets a citation for riding on the sidewalk.

Chris Jackson of the RDA (Rockridge District Association) agreed that the number of bicyclists on sidewalk has really subsided. The RDA is ordering *no-riding-on-the-sidewalk* signs.

A resident reported that the Masonic Hall on College Avenue has major issues with the bar next door, George and Walt's. The bar patrons use the doors of the hall as an open toilet; the Hall's security cameras show this, and also show them using drugs, selling drugs, and having sex in the doorways. They've also stolen ornamental brass off the doors. The complaining resident is the head of the local chapter. The Masons have tried to talk to the bar owners; they say it's not their fault. The misbehavior seems to be associated with days when broadcast football games are shown on the TVs in the bar. The Masons have young girls attending social functions on Tuesday nights when the games are broadcast, and they're concerned for the girls' safety.

Mike Ubell, who lives on Kales Ave., reported that Kales residents have also seen people hanging out, smoking and littering, both in cars on Kales and on the sidewalk, especially when football games are shown on TV in the bar.

Officer San Andres: Call that in to non-emergency and we'll follow it up.

The resident noted that in 2011 the Masons reported George & Walt's to the ABC, and they quieted down for about 6 months.

A second resident of Kales urged everyone on the street to call the police for these incidents. Everyone that sees it happen should call it in. The calls are evidence that it's going on.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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Officer San Andres: Yes, call the incident in, and get the incident number. [Ed. Note: to get an incident number you may have to ask the dispatcher for it. It isn't always given automatically.] We need a lot of calls to document the problem.

Another resident suggested that the Masonic members could monitor the video feed, by turns, and phone OPD when they see something going on. If "something going on" is a drug deal, it might even be a 911 call. The chapter head agreed this could be arranged.

A resident reported homeless camps at 51st/Pleasant Valley, and also at the Telegraph exit off Highway 24. CalTrans recently evicted a huge homeless camp from the freeway verge between Patton & Presley; the camp seems to have split and relocated. This is a multi-agency hot spot because it's partly on CalTrans property. A woman is also camping where Vicente dead-ends, near the Telegraph Ave. exit, on CalTrans property.

Karen Ivy mentioned a report from Nextdoor of a dangerous dog belonging to the house at 48 Ross Circle: the animal recently bit a small dog and caused expensive injuries. The dog and the house are a known issue for over 20 years, the owners do not respond to complaints. The person who originated the complaint was not at the meeting.

OPD Status Report - 13X

Officer Trode reported no significant criminal activity in beat 13, except for a trend for break-ins at distant mailboxes – that is, mailboxes that are not right next to the house. People break into these mailboxes to see if there's any mail left over night. If you have a distant mailbox, keep it locked, and retrieve mail every day.

Measure Z projects presentation

The scheduled speaker, Chantal Cotton from the City Administrator's office, was not present.

Two representatives from Oakland Unite were present, and they offered to speak on their programs, which the chair accepted. The speakers were Ann Marks, from YouthAlive, and Geoffrey Godfrey, from California Youth Outreach.

Ann Marks began by saying that both programs are funded by Oakland tax dollars. Current funding comes from Measure Y, and grants matching Measure Y funds. Their purpose is to get kids who are "on the bubble" (i.e., on the verge of turning to gang life) on the right path. These dollars will vanish unless Measure Z passes.

California Youth Outreach: CYO operates mainly in East Oakland, in communities collectively called "deep east." OPD calls that the hottest spot. Their operatives are street savvy young men who have left "the life," and who want to give back and help high risk people to get out of the life. They negotiate creative solutions to fix disputes without shooting. CYO provides case management services to specific parties *and* those in their inner circles. The purpose is to help reduce violent crime with wraparound services: jobs and school rather than guns.

They have a Juvenile Justice strategy: kids from the juvenile justice system are referred to a case manager, who gets them back in school, and helps them meet court mandates and get off probation. In 2013, Oakland had the lowest homicide rate in 10 years, and we're about to beat it in 2014. If Measure Z doesn't pass, the gains they've made will go away with the funding.

The group Healthy Oakland covers rest of Oakland, also funded by Measure Z.

YouthAlive: Measure Z funds the police, without the police we can't work. Oakland police identify situations that YouthAlive and CYO can solve. YouthAlive has been around for over 20 years, its sole purpose is to prevent violence. One volunteer, Sherman Spears, is paraplegic due to violence. Sherman wanted to change, and didn't want revenge, which was all his friends offered. He offered

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to visit people who have been shot, and talk them out of retaliation. In most cities, 44% of people who get shot, will get shot again within 5 years; in Oakland it's only 5%.

Kids get caught up in gangs, or caught in crossfire, and they get shot. Once they've been shot, they start to make bad decisions, they live in the battleground. Witnessing violence is traumatizing; it changes how you approach life. You make bad decisions, you may turn to crime. YouthAlive also responds to homicides and talks to the families. The *police* call them to work with the families. YouthAlive tells families, the police called us and asked us to help you.

YouthAlive turns shot kids over to CYO for violence interruption. They bring group leaders together to talk problems out, instead of shooting again. Mostly, they *can* talk it out. This can't be done to the needed scale without adequate funding, but it's improving. The impact of the program is citywide.

A resident noted that a lot of police resources from North Oakland went to East Oakland to reduce the crime there. That reduces the crime in North Oakland, too (it's often the same people), and allows police to patrol here more.

Measure Z is a parking and parcel tax which already exists; the speakers urged residents to vote to continue it. Measure Z will fund about 50 police officers (PSOs and special victims units), with some money for civilian oversight and auditing, plus the violence prevention programs.

Geoffrey Godfrey emphasized that we can't solve this just by arrests, nor just by services; it takes both. They have to do community building: do HIV testing, have music and food, bring the community together. We have to get the message out, crime isn't acceptable. If we lose this funding, we lose a lot of resources and relationships that we've built up over years.

Q: How can you deal with leaders, if they're only interested in controlling turf?

A: A lot of the violence isn't economically motivated. It's interpersonal disputes, too many guns, too much hopelessness. It isn't really about turf.

Our objective is to stop violent crime. We hire guys from certain regions of Oakland where they are recognized, they have "street cred." These guys have been there and have changed, they're now advising younger men. It's very hard to quantify this; you can only estimate. Qualitatively you can describe outcomes that support it.

A resident noted that Operation Ceasefire will also be seriously affected if Measure Z fails. Measure Z will help to provide the resources that we can offer Ceasefire participants to persuade them to leave the gangs. You have to have the stick (the police) as well as the carrots. California Youth Outlook collaborate with the Ceasefire project.

Mike Ubell said that Ceasefire takes the leaders and says, we know what you've done; the next time someone gets shot, we'll pick *you* up for all the stuff we know you've done.

Q: Why is it more successful lately?

Ann Marks: The economy's a little better. The recession hit tax revenues hard, and our other funders couldn't donate either. Independent evaluation shows we get really good results with the people we work with, but if we can only work with 20% of parolees, it limits the amount we can do.

Geoffrey Godfrey: Collaboration is better with everyone talking. Over the last 3 years, they've built good professional relationships with partners, and improved service delivery. They expect to hit a high point on service delivery and a low point on homicides. They've been working with the police for a long time, since everyone realized they all need each other. Service delivery is at all-time high.

A resident commented that geographic policing has helped; so has *more* officers.

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A resident commented that a group of people who were working in Measure Y and didn't like the funding allocations have turned on it; they don't trust the government, and don't trust the city council.

A resident supporting Measure Z said that the team is doing phone banking every night, downtown. Geoffrey Godfrey added that they are knocking on doors every Saturday morning.

Ann Marks: We think Measure Z is better written than Measure Y was, and will be a better tool. The Citizen Advisory Committee has more power to recommend where money should go than under Measure Y.

Mike Ubell noted that Measure Y specified lots of specific categories, some of which weren't very important or helpful. Measure Z is more fluid, there are fewer pockets that must be filled. Police have found that most victims, and most suspects, are not in the age range Measure Y specified (late teens). They are older (late 20's), but Measure Y specifies support work only with late teenagers.

NCPC Meeting Frequency and Timing

At the beginning of the meeting, when the PSOs and about 2 other people were there, they asked if we'd consider making the NCPC meeting every 2 months. The subject came up again at the end of the meeting, by which time 15 people had signed in, arriving in trickles. After some discussion the group agreed that we should continue to have monthly meetings.

A resident also asked if we could move the meeting to 7:30 PM, so people could eat dinner. RCPC meetings start at 7:30. The officers agreed that if we start at 7:30 we'd have the issue of keeping the meeting from running past 9 PM, since we sometimes go past 8:30 even starting at 7:00 PM. Karen Ivy agreed to poll the NCPC's online communities to see what the public reaction would be to NCPC meetings that begin at 7:30 PM, and report back to the officers.

NCPC Priorities for September 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.

The group agreed that disorder by George & Walt's patrons is the priority for October. The Masons will continue to document the situation on video and call OPD when they see incidents.

Chris Jackson of RDA also reported that, based on the broken glass he sees, we have weekly auto burglaries in the library parking lot, during dinner hour. He asked if the PSOs can patrol the area. He believes most of these break-ins are not being reported to OPD. The NCPC agreed to send an advisory to the PSO, asking him to roll by the library parking lot and check.

12Y:

1. *NCPC Priority:* Patrons of George & Walt's bar using nearby doorways as toilets, for drug deals and sex; bar management not cooperative. Bar patrons also hang out in cars on Kales Avenue, apparently doing drugs and leaving trash.
2. *Crime Project:* High visibility vehicle patrols on College Avenue between Broadway and Claremont
3. *Call Reduction Project:* to be announced

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13X:

- 1. NCPC Priority:** Traffic issues in the area around Broadway Terrace/Harbord/Clarewood, near the Village Market.
- 2. Crime Project:** none at present.
- 3. Call Reduction Project:** to be announced

NCPC meetings are normally the SECOND Thursday of the month.

*Next NCPC meeting is **Thursday, November 13, 2014** at 7:00 PM
Rockridge Library Community Room, College & Manila*

See you there and stay safe!

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