

Greater Rockridge NCPC (12Y/13X) - Minutes
Thursday, October 8, 2015
Rockridge Library, College & Manila
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM

NCPC:

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

At 7:30 PM Mike Ubell opened the meeting and introduced the NCPC officers and the Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Patricia Rose. One of the 3 scheduled speakers, Cathy Leonard, has announced that she's not well and won't attend. Sixteen people attended the meeting.

Amy Lentricchia, Bay Alarm

Amy Lentricchia introduced herself as a new representative for Bay Alarm, and handed over to her manager, Limor Margalit. Mr. Margalit reminded listeners of Bay Alarm's long history in Rockridge, having started 68 years ago in this area. He asked to describe some services being offered in Oakland. He's aware of the Safer Rockridge patrol and bid on the contract but didn't get it. Bay Alarm offers small group contracts; people can also sign up individually for residential security services. Bay Alarm has more than 1,600 users of their patrol/response service. They offer the following 5 services, in partnership with OPD.

1. Suspicious person response, late at night – OPD is usually tied up, Bay Alarm will come to check out suspicious persons
2. Vacation watch, agents will come every day, and take in the mail
3. Respond to burglar alarm calls, the agent must arrive within 30 minutes
4. Escort into the house on late arrival from travel etc. This service needs a half hour advance call.
5. Random patrols of the area (only if a group signs up)

Individuals can subscribe to the first 4 services for \$30-35 per month. Rates can be cheaper with a group contract. There are group contracts currently in upper Rockridge, but not in lower Rockridge right now. Random patrols require a group or area signup.

Bay Alarm currently patrols about 40% of Piedmont Pines, and the covered neighborhoods have seen large reductions in crime. Numbers for the reduction weren't given. Bay Alarm prefers to patrol only over small areas.

Q: What about foot patrols? Aren't they more effective? They're happening in Glenview, she thinks.

A: Bay Alarm doesn't do foot patrols, some other firms do. His agents can't, for example, go into a yard if he has no contract with that family. He only covers a few hours a week.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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Priorities

Nothing particular was reported. A resident reported an attempted garage break-in, but the alarm went off and the suspects didn't get anything. No new priorities were set.

OPD Report 12Y – Officer Hutzol

Officer Hutzol (Community Resource Officer, beat 12) arrived late to the meeting. He noted that people ask him about things on NextDoor, and reminded the meeting that he can't see anything on Nextdoor except his own posts. He also said there was apparently a list of posts on NextDoor, about car burglaries on Oak Grove, *none* of which was reported to OPD. They never showed up in the statistics he gets. He pointed out that if he knows there's a problem, he can redirect resources to cover it. Please remember that the police *don't read* NextDoor, and posting an incident on NextDoor is not the same as reporting it to the police.

Temescal wanted to see bigger trends in crime, so he put together some numbers showing beat 12Y, and the city of Oakland, year to date. The following numbers show year-to-date figures, first for beat 12Y, then for all of Oakland.

Residential burglaries: beat 12Y had 72; Oakland had 1,554; beat 12Y had 4.6% of the city total.

Auto burglaries: beat 12Y had 142; Oakland had 1,046; beat 12Y had 3.5% of the city total.

Violent crime: beat 12Y had 28 robberies; Oakland citywide had more than 5,000 (his database won't return more than 5,000 entries!). Beat 12Y had .055% of the city's violent crime.

Comparing 2015 with 2014 in beat 12Y, residential burglaries in 12Y are up 60%, and robberies are down.

Officer Hutzol says the burglaries in 2015 were mainly "the Locksley business," a series of burglaries from last month, and the Locksley suspect is now behind bars. OPD often catches the guys who do residential burglaries when they also do violent crimes.

He feels they've done a good job keeping officers in this area, and a good job keeping after "the guys from Ghost Town."

Karen Ivy said she had gotten curious and looked up the 2010 census numbers for beats 12Y and 13X: in 2010, beat 12Y had 7,542 residents, and beat 13X had 6,701; the 2010 population of both beats was 14,243. It is probably now higher. Consider the number of reported crimes against the population.

Officer Hutzol reported on his talks with European police agencies on his recent vacations; he was amazed that Munich had had only one homicide. The normal crime they see there is petty theft. He noted that Germany has very strict sentencing laws, even minor infractions will send someone to jail.

Oakland Police Department staffing hasn't fully recovered from the 2007-08 recession - they lost mental health and crisis support in the recession, and it's still not back. They expect all officers will have crisis intervention

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training by next year. Officer Hutzol noted that the department is still about 100 officers short. They're building the new force, but the "old guard", guys with 28-30 years, are retiring, and now they need to be replaced. Oakland is hiring police for customer service – they want officers to get out of the car and talk to people. Officer Hutzol was in the first academy after the break. One of the officers who retired is now a security consultant for Google. It's a police hiring priority to get people who live in Oakland.

Officer Hutzol repeated that it is now unconstitutional to prevent people from sleeping in their cars.

Q: There's a new street sign, near 51st and Clark – *No vehicles over 6 feet high parked overnight*. There was a major problem with RVs parking on 51st in that area.

A: I'll go look at it. It may not be enforceable.

Q: Do you know about the new mentally challenged people on College & Claremont, near Yasai Market?

A: I know those guys, one can't be moved because he doesn't blockade the sidewalk, there's no law against standing on the sidewalk unless you block it.

Q: Did you read the article about the building in San Francisco where thieves store their loot?

A: Yes, that's called a stash house, here they're mainly in east Oakland.

Q: How's morale?

A: Good except when we get multiple protests in a row and people throw stuff at us.

No one was present from beat 13, so there was no crime report for the beat.

A resident mentioned speeding on Claremont – Officer Hutzol said Captain Allison also mentioned that. Traffic officers will be assigned to write some tickets along Claremont.

The new College to Claremont right turn lane is very badly timed, you can't get through the light. OPD has asked the traffic engineers to retime the light (by only 3/10 or 4/10 of a second!) and that has helped. They'll also put up a neon sign saying no right turn on light.

Paula Hawthorn, Coalition for Police Accountability

Paula Hawthorn announced herself as a gun violence activist. In full disclosure, she explained that she is married to Mike Ubell.

Oakland is the third most violent city in the country. Research on how to reduce homicides shows that when people lose confidence in the police, or never develop it, a sort of tribal culture develops, leading to vigilantism. Under-policed communities, communities where the police aren't trusted, and communities where the police harass the residents, may develop this culture.

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The Coalition for Police Accountability's goal is a citizen council, with very transparent authority over the police, to increase citizen confidence in police.

We currently have the Citizens Police Review Board (CPRB), the NSA, and OPD Internal Affairs. In East and West Oakland we still have no trust in the police. Residents complain about police harassment but they won't report it because "nothing will happen." In all of last year (2014), the CPRB got 15 complaints.

The CPRB has an attorney on staff, it can investigate incidents and find facts, but it has no teeth. It can only *recommend*. The city administrator can and has overruled recommendations which the police chief supported.

The Negotiated Settlement Agreement (NSA): Oakland has been under federal control for 13 years. Paula has read every single monitor's report; the monitor keeps changing the rules. She believes they change the rules because there's no strong mechanism to hold the police accountable, and the monitor and the police think it has to be them.

Police Internal Affairs – The Inspector General is now Lieutenant Chris Bolton, formerly of the North Oakland command. The federal monitor told the city they had to hire 2 new auditors for Internal Affairs, and the city removed 2 civilian investigators from the budget to pay for these.

With all this, who's accountable? How do we build trust in the police? The Coalition for Police Accountability has been around a long time. It does include people who don't like the police. It also contains people like Paula who do like the police, but who think we need a transparent civilian structure that has power – which will then let us build trust in police and reduce the homicide rate.

A new commission would subsume the CPRB; it would take authority from city administrator; it would be the final authority; it would be transparent about policy reviews. Ideally, we could quit paying the monitor \$2 million a year. OPD is now officially in compliance with the NSA. The new commission should be able to identify problem officers early on, and keep police behavior from getting to the point of lawsuits. Establishing this commission would require passing a charter amendment.

Q: Have you met with Dan Kalb?

A: Yes, he & Noel Gallo have said they will probably sponsor this through the city council, but what they put up may not be exactly what Paula expects.

Q: What does membership mean? Donations, time, literature?

A: All of that.

Q: How do we bring the angry, untrusting, and disenfranchised into this process so they will own it?

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A: On Sunday (October 11) at 2 PM there is a coalition meeting at Allen Temple. Paula isn't sure we have the skill to do what you describe, but we're having a moderated panel discussion. We want something that really works.

Q: Are the members of Allen Temple the disenfranchised people you mention? I thought Allen Temple was pretty upscale.

A: Paula doesn't know.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

NCPC Priorities for September 2015

Under new OPD rules, each beat is allowed a single priority, instead of the previous 3; and new priorities must be *identifiable* and *measurable*. CROs 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.

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:* No current priority.
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 12, 2015** at 7:30 PM
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See you there and stay safe!

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