

Greater Rockridge NCPC Meeting Minutes (12Y/13X)
Thursday, April 12, 2012
Community Room, Rockridge Library, College & Manila
General Public: 7:00-8:30PM

NCPC:

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

Barbara Minton chaired the meeting, as Frank Castro was unable to attend. Twenty-one people attended.

Announcement from BART Independent Police Auditor

Mark Smith, BART Police Department's new independent civilian police auditor, introduced himself and announced a community forum later this month held by the BART Independent Police Auditor. The IPA is an external observer, a place where people can go to talk about the BART PD. This is a new function for BART, Mr. Smith has been there for 9 months and is still learning. BART PD has welcomed the auditor's role. His purpose at the NCPC was to tell people about the BART IPA and invite them to attend the upcoming [community forum on April 24 at Allen Temple Baptist Church](#) (6:30 – 8:00 PM). They plan other forums all over the Bay Area. He passed out informational flyers, and brochures about the office with contact information.

Q: What is this office's jurisdiction? BART is Bay Area Rapid Transit, it has trains. How does it have oversight over OPD? *Mark Smith:* BART has its own police department that patrols BART property including trains. The BART IPA *only* has jurisdiction over BART Police Department.

Q: Is BART reorganizing PD to keep officers in same area more? The resident thinks she read about that. *Mark Smith:* He can't speak on behalf of BART PD but yes, he knows that they have reorganized from 4 patrol areas to 5, hoping to get better contact with people. There is more information at <http://bart.gov>, including new patrol maps and information on community oriented policing.

Due to Frank Castro's absence, he didn't present his usual crime statistics.

Joint OPD Report, beats 12Y and 13X

Officer Vergara is on vacation, and Officer Balaoro made the OPD presentation. He apologized that he hadn't known Officer Vergara would be on vacation and was not briefed on beat 12Y status; he had no information on beat 12Y except statistics.

Over the past 30 days (to 3pm on the meeting date) beat 12Y had:

- ▲ 5 residential and 11 auto burglaries
- ▲ 7 robberies
- ▲ 6 stolen vehicles

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

Greater Rockridge NCPC Meeting Minutes (12Y/13X)
Thursday, April 12, 2012
Community Room, Rockridge Library, College & Manila
General Public: 7:00-8:30PM

Denise Boisvert commented that as a citizen, she was very disappointed that neither Officer Balaoro nor the NCPC knew that Officer Vergara was on vacation. This represents poor communication between shifts. Someone should have communicated that fact and gotten some update on our priorities.

Over the past 30 days (to 3pm on the meeting date) beat 13X had:

- ⤴ 2 auto burglaries
- ⤴ no reported residential burglaries
- ⤴ 8 stolen vehicles

Q: Is that up by the country club? A. One or two, yes.

Beats 12Y and 13X statistics versus citywide statistics:

- ⤴ no homicides in either beat versus 6 citywide
- ⤴ 7 assaults versus 644 citywide
- ⤴ 18 burglaries versus 685 citywide
- ⤴ 7 robberies versus 280 citywide
- ⤴ 14 stolen vehicles versus 529 citywide

Officer Balaoro complained that people aren't hardening the target against residential burglaries. OPD gives out handouts, then returns to burglarized houses and finds that nothing has changed. There are no window coverings, there are unlocked windows; all this is on the checklist.

Serial numbers are an issue – especially on Apple products. Spread this around: if your iPad or iPhone is stolen, you'd better have written down the serial number somewhere. Anything with a serial number, write it down. Otherwise when the police recover stolen goods, they can't identify that it's yours.

When an officer stops a car for speeding, he runs the driver's id; if the driver is on parole, they may be able to do a full search of the car and/or the driver's residence, because of the parole conditions. If the driver is a known burglar, the officer may search the car and find, say, 3 laptops, an unusually high number. The officer can then run the laptop serial numbers – if any serial number comes back as stolen property, that's evidence. You **HAVE TO PUT THE SERIAL NUMBER** in the police report for stolen property. Without the serial numbers you'll never get the stolen items back. Plus the serial number helps OPD in investigations. Officer Balaoro said never wrote down serial numbers before he became a police officer.

Barbara Minton recommended you write down serial numbers - and don't just keep them on the computers!

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

Greater Rockridge NCPC Meeting Minutes (12Y/13X)
Thursday, April 12, 2012
Community Room, Rockridge Library, College & Manila
General Public: 7:00-8:30PM

Officer Balaoro presented this **home hardening checklist**:

- ⤴ Have window coverings – close them when you aren't home.
- ⤴ Lock all doors & windows when not home. Make sure all the locks work.
- ⤴ Record all serial numbers and store the list in a safe place.
- ⤴ Have an alarm system, and turn it on!
- ⤴ If you have firearms, lock them up. Get a gun safe. Stolen firearms are more trouble for Oakland and OPD. A gun safe stores more than guns: you can lock valuables up before you leave home.
- ⤴ Don't leave *anything* in plain view in your car. Criminals will break the car window to see what's in that backpack.

He has no leads on the Ocean View muggings; he's still working on it. He's watching to see if something similar is reported, including some personal tic that may identify the mugger.

Q: In beat 12Y last month there were 7 robberies, including one last week right in front of his house in the 5100 block of Shafter), are there any updates? A: Not at the moment.

There was a shooting on Elverton – a resident was walking his dog, around 10:30 PM. He heard someone call out, “hey” - he turned and saw 2 men. He ran toward his house, they shot at him and hit his arm. There are lots of surveillance cameras on that street, Officer Balaoro is trying to reach residents to get video of the incident.

Q: Do auto burglaries numbers include incidents in BART lots? A: No, that's BART's. Those would be in BART statistics.

Q: How accurate are these statistics? You said there 6 homicides in Oakland citywide, but we know there were 7 at the school shooting alone, and she knows of 3 others in West Oakland. A: He pulled the numbers from the database he usually uses, there are multiple databases. It is an issue.

A representative of FROG reported that FROG Park at Claremont & Hudson has recurring problems with homeless people hanging out in the park. They may be doing drugs. Other people have called this in, what can they do? The FROG meetings are same date and time as the NCPC so they've never told the NCPC.

Officer Balaoro commented that if you push them out, they'll just go somewhere else. They always leave when he tells them but they just go elsewhere. He's made arrests for drugs, but there's no way to end it. Officers can respond and tell them to leave but it isn't a permanent solution.

The FROG representative asked, how often should we call?

Officer Balaoro: Call it in, every time. Leave a paper trail, it's a chronic problem.

A resident reported extremely loud parties on 60th between Canning and Howell. He's sent the landlord letters with no response. He didn't call it in because he knows they're too busy to come cover loud parties on Saturday night, but he needs to escalate. He can hear blaring rap music laced with obscenities in his house, and his children can hear it.

Officer Balaoro: You can file a formal complaint against the location. Call the non-emergency number, leave a record.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

Greater Rockridge NCPC Meeting Minutes (12Y/13X)
Thursday, April 12, 2012
Community Room, Rockridge Library, College & Manila
General Public: 7:00-8:30PM

The Kales Avenue block captain reported that, at the last NCPC meeting, Kales Ave. residents came and asked about the recent muggings. Officer Vergara and Ms. Rose made an appointment, came on time, walked the block with about 15 neighbors looking at shrubbery, houses, patiently telling them how not to be victims, and she wanted to say thank you on behalf of their neighborhood watch group. The “hardening” service is available to more people. The officer will come and walk through the block, to tell you what you can do. She was *very* familiar with their two problem houses. The neighbors were very impressed and pleased by the effort; Oakland actually worked.

Officer Balaoro: She's been a PSO for quite a while, she's very experienced, he's still learning.

The resident who complained about the Hut reported that it's still the same. He can hear the music at 1 AM through his bathroom window. Complaining to the barkeeper doesn't help, he cares, but it's just loud. The resident goes down and talks to them, he almost got in a fight on St. Patrick's Day. He has to get up at 5:30 to go to work, and he lives right on College, next door to the Hut. He said the recent rain kept the noise down!

The owner of the Hut was present at the meeting. He wasn't aware how chronic it was in the neighborhood; he's been talking to Officer Vergara, hoped to get some handouts from her. The resident offered to email the owner when he emails Officer Vergara; the owner said yes, please do that, and offered to exchange emails.

Officer Balaoro: If a robbery occurs, and a smartphone or laptop with GPS is stolen, TELL THE OFFICER IMMEDIATELY. Officers can track the phone on GPS. iPhone owners can use a site called *findmyiphone.com*, your phone is still giving a signal. You can log into the site with your iPhone ID and password, ping your phone, and find where it is. They've solved a LOT of thefts with that. Karen Ivy asked, what about Android phones? Officer Balaoro said he doesn't know, but he wants to learn. A resident offered to research the issue. If your phone is stolen, write down the time and tell the phone company the time the phone was stolen, but don't turn the phone off immediately, the police can track it.

A resident announced a forum at her church about stopping the violence in Oakland, specifically homicides. She invited everyone to attend and help if they can. Four different organizations are involved, including Project Ceasefire, True Vine Church, OCO, and the city's 100 blocks effort. The meeting is April 26, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito (near Grand & 27th), 7-9PM.

No merchant issues were reported.

No BART police officer was in attendance.

We had no update on the Logitech camera program; the coordinator is on vacation.

Setting of Priorities, new issues

A resident complained that he *saw* one of the car thefts on Colby; they stole *his* car! How do you *prevent* people from walking down the street and breaking car windows? Another resident noted that it's like that in San Francisco, too. A resident commented that she lives tells her guests, don't leave anything in the car.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

Greater Rockridge NCPC Meeting Minutes (12Y/13X)
Thursday, April 12, 2012
Community Room, Rockridge Library, College & Manila
General Public: 7:00-8:30PM

The first resident said that he knows who these guys are, they're casing the joint all day. Why does Oakland put up with this stuff?? What's it like in Berkeley?? A resident noted that in Berkeley it's very different, in Berkeley the cops come.

A resident said that they *knew* who their burglar was but couldn't prove it. That's why the cameras are so valuable.

There was a brief discussion of the NSA – a new resident didn't know what it was. A resident referred the new person to Paula Hawthorn's articles in the Rockridge Neighborhood Watch Network, and Karen Ivy mentioned the similar summaries on makeoaklandbetternow.org. Part of the agreement deals with the *basis for stops*: the Riders were doing lots of unwarranted stops of minorities. Many people think things are better now, but the supervising judge doesn't think so. Every stop has to be documented as to why they made it.

We agreed to add the 7 reported robberies in beat 12Y to the priorities. A resident reported a phone snatch that happened in front of his house. The residents of beat 13X who attended had left by the time we reached priorities, so Beat 13X priority will not change.

Priorities for April 2012:

12Y:

1. Rash of car burglaries along Colby between 60th and Alcatraz, and generally from Claremont toward Berkeley.
2. Noise reported late at night by patrons of The Hut.
3. Rash of robberies all over beat 12Y.

13X:

1. Muggings in Ocean View.

Meetings are the SECOND Thursday of the month.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, May 10, 2012** at 7:00 PM
Rockridge Library Community Room, College & Manila.

See you there and stay safe!

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>