

Greater Rockridge NCPC (12Y/13X) Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 11, 2013
Rockridge Library, College and Manila, Oakland
General Public: 7:00-8:30PM

NCPC:

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

Introductions

Frank Castro opened the meeting at 7:05PM, and introduced the NCPC officers, Patricia Rose, the Neighborhood Services Coordinator, and the two PSOs, Officer Trode and Officer Lane. Twenty people attended the meeting.

Crime Statistics

Frank distributed a handout of crimes reported since the last meeting; he has changed the colors to match the Google maps he created, tracking all reported crimes in the 2 beats. The current online maps cover the period from 1/1/13 to the 2nd week of March, he has some data to add yet. The maps are very popular; they show type and time for incidents. He noted that the statistics on the chart won't match the PSO data exactly. Beat 12Y normally gets about 1.63 crimes per day; last month it got 1.68 per day. Crime seems to be holding steady in 12Y. The 3 quality of life crimes are new, we haven't had much of that.

He asked the PSOs about the Nixle report the morning of the 11th, describing a sting operation on sales of alcohol to minors. Officer Trode responded that OPD and the BATF team will do stings like this throughout the year.

Beat 13X had 9 crimes in the reporting period including 2 quality of life offenses. That's one crime every 3 days; last month 13X had 1 every 6 days, so crime there has doubled.

Q: What's "AUTO CLOUT"?

A: Stealing items from cars, auto burglary.

Q: Can we ask about specific crimes, like the robbery on Proctor in 13X?

A: (Officer Trode) Beat 13X has very few crimes, the robbery was unusual. The female victim, driving along the freeway, thought an erratic driver was following her. She left freeway at Broadway Terrace, the erratic driver followed her off the freeway and rear-ended her. She saw the driver exit his car in her rear-view mirror and got her purse to exchange insurance information. The driver came to the window, grabbed her purse and ran. This technique was more common in the '90s with carjackers, who would ram the car and steal it. This is an isolated incident these days, it doesn't seem to be a trend.

You can't leave the scene of an accident - but you *don't* have to leave your car or talk to the other guy if you feel threatened. Tell the other driver, through the window, you're calling the police and you won't talk to them. The investigation for this is ongoing, a neighbor followed the other car and actually got a license plate, but they haven't found anything yet. Be aware of your surroundings; go to a safe place if you feel threatened.

Joint OPD Report

Beat 13X – Residents reported suspicious people on Thomas Ave., one was a door-to-door solicitor for a semi-legitimate cause. There doesn't seem to be a criminal threat. Door-to-door solicitation is illegal without a city permit, there's no need to answer the door to a solicitor.

Beat 12Y – Crime was about same month-to-month. There were 18 auto burglaries this month versus 15 last month, pretty much the same for residential burglaries. Against last year's 7 residential burglaries, this year's 18 residential burglaries are a major increase. There have been

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many more forced entries, through windows. Burglars don't seem to be kicking doors in this year. Burglaries usually happen during work hours. Auto burglaries are opportunity-driven.

Crimes	Beat 12Y	Rest of Oakland
<i>Burglaries</i>	33	779
<i>Robberies</i>	4	384
<i>Stolen cars</i>	14	540
<i>Homicides</i>	0	7

Q: Does the big bust last month, the Case Gang, seem to have helped the situation?

A: We don't really have statistics for the east side, but we know they were into burglaries. Homicides *were* down for a while, they're coming back up, different players filling the void. We need more officers.

Q: Are we getting any of the new officers here?

A: They're in field training now, we'll eventually have 1 new PSO in this district. Karen Ivy commented that she went to the academy graduation ceremony, and 2-3 graduates said they'd be in district 2 (north Oakland).

Q: Is the district reorganization happening?

A: It's happening in east Oakland. The sooner it happens the better, it will create local accountability and better focus on the district. District 2 has very different problems than the districts in the east (dist. 1). They estimate it'll take 4-6 months for the reorganization to roll out. Right now there's 1 lieutenant responsible for all of west Oakland, and his focus is on the hot areas, pulling resources from our area. After the reorganization, the PSOs in our area can focus on local burglaries. Right now crimes against property don't get serious attention.

Q: As the days get longer, is there an issue around personal safety?

A: Robberies usually happen around dark, maybe 9 PM. Property crimes do go up in summer, when kids are out of school.

Q: What are you doing in Ceasefire?

A: We did the takedown of Case Gang and Money Team. The project took us off the beat for 2 days. Eighteen different agencies served 27 warrants. They planned focusing next on Norteño gangs in west Oakland, but they're not very active right now. They'll probably focus on the Fruitvale area next. PSOs will always be pulled away for major events (like a city council meeting out of control); we don't charge Measure Y for that time, but it does take us off the beats.

Q: Are you involved in First Fridays?

A: Yes. There will be less of this after the reorganization unless they request help. They'll still have to respond to requests, but there will be better focus on Dist. 2.

Q: What if a PSO were assigned to beats in >1 district? The new districts will divide things differently.

A: PSO's aren't assigned to 2 beats. Beat 13 is *one beat*, 1 officer. Frank Castro said he can't imagine they'd draw a district that would divide things like that.

Q: A resident said she came by during the arrest at the Safeway on Sunday – the person said he had robbed the store twice previously. I never heard about those robberies. Who gets called for an incident like that? There were several cars there.

A: The beat officers respond first, then other units in the district, then from other districts, depending on availability. It always shifts around, the closest person responds. For a major shooting, or an officer-involved shooting, everybody could be there. The guy robbed the store, and

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the store patrons tackled him and took him down. He dropped a replica gun, they arrested him. He confessed to 3 robberies plus arson at the store.

Q: If I'm not walking with my phone to my ear, is that better? Do they steal phones if they can't see them?

A: Yes, it is better. Walking with the phone to your ear at night is an invitation to be robbed.

Priorities – 12Y

Is anything happening with the situation at the Hut? The resident responded that yes, Jennifer Sena of ABAT is working on the situation ongoing. The noise got better, but it's warm now, and they're outside again and getting louder. Ms. Sena has worked on it before, she's also working on George & Walt's, and Ben & Nick's. Since she's working on it as a project, we can drop it from the PSO lists.

How's the illegal car repair situation? The resident says it's still going on, but only evenings and weekends when the inspectors don't work. The resident got inspectors to go out and now he works nights/weekends. Frank Castro asked, is there any recourse here? Officer Trode: document, document, document. Keep a log. The resident called dispatch and said the call was "info only," and they told her we don't do that anymore, we have to send a guy out. And the offender knows who's calling it in, he has threatened her. Officer Trode: If he made criminal threats, that's a reportable crime, also intimidation of a witness. Officer Lane asked, is the garage open or closed? Resident: mostly open. Officer Lane suggested she call in noise complaints both in and out of hours. The resident has a list of all the cars he's worked on, with license plates. Patricia Rose noted that Arturo Sanchez still does nuisance abatement, if you have documentation you should send it to him.

Canning between 58th and 61st? That area had a lot of burglaries in about 2 weeks. The housing development at 61st and Canning is a known problem. OPD regularly gets suspicious person calls from that area. OPD patrols the whole area, not just one block. The more details people call in, the better.

Priorities – 13X

The only priority right now is near Golden Gate and Ocean View, they have a series of auto burglaries around The College Preparatory School. The burglaries on Broadway Terrace have stopped.

New Neighborhood Issues

No new issues in 12Y.

A 13X resident reported that the College Preparatory kids are parking past the no parking limit sign next to the school, it's really hard to drive by. Officer Trode agreed that he could put out some parking tickets, and will talk to the school about it.

Q: 13Y is having a lot of tagging, throughout the Merriwood area; all the public signs are tagged. Officer Trode says he sees some tagging around the continuation school on Broadway Terrace. He thinks the tags on Merriwood signs are probably made by a resident child.

Funding

The city used to fund NCPCs at \$350 per beat per year, Greater Rockridge got \$700 per year because we have 2 beats. Frank Castro sits on Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), which has authority over NCPCs. The board is considering recertifying NCPCs. It is also considering asking city council to reinstate funding. Karen Ivy commented that she is carrying the NCPC web site on her personal hosting contract. We'd like to pass the hat, and seek donations – there are things we can't personally afford to fund. Officer Trode noted that a group he worked with used to

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do garage sales to raise money. Tax deductibility is an issue because the Greater Rockridge NCPC is not a 501(c)(3), it operates under the city's municipal tax ID.

A representative from the RCPC commented that the RCPC can set up fiscal sponsorships, and suggested the NCPC talk to them about that after the RCPC election. We could also do an article in the *RockRidge News*.

Resident: I really appreciate what you all do, and I'll write a check before I leave tonight. [*Ed. note: he did, too, thank you very much!*]

Frank Castro reminded the group that the next meeting is Thursday May 9. He asked how many people are in a Neighborhood Watch group. (A little less than half the audience raised their hands, about 8 people.) What is a Neighborhood Watch group? It's a group of neighbors, such as your block with 8-10 houses. You can register a group through the city of Oakland. Patricia Rose explained that an OPD representative will meet with your group initially and make a presentation on home security and personal safety. A group usually selects 1-2 block captains. The group has to meet once a year. Many groups meet on National Night Out in August (second Tuesday), and have a block party; otherwise you can meet as often or as little as you like. For the next meeting we plan to invite as many block captains as we can in 12Y and 13X, to discuss the advantage of organizing. Know your neighbors. We're trying to increase the line of sight between Neighborhood Watch, NCPCs, and CPAB. The residents are the basis of fighting crime. But on May 10, OPD will have an open house from 4-7.

A representative from Montclair said that beat 13Y has Neighborhood Watch groups in all but 13 blocks – 62 groups, with up to 15-16 blocks per group. There are 172 leaders on their list. Beat 13Y has been very active in making neighborhood watch groups the basis of the NCPC. The NCPC can communicate with 85-90% of areas. 13Z is even more organized.

Frank Castro also noted that the NCPC plans to call for volunteers. There are 4 of us right now. Many people just don't know we exist; we're in the *RockRidge News* on the back page next to the chiropractor ads. We'd like to leave laminated flyers at every single merchant on College, and hand out flyers for the meeting in areas where last month's crimes happened. We'd like to flyer the neighborhoods. If you can volunteer even an hour's worth of time a month, it would help.

Priorities for April 2013:

12Y:

1. The illegal auto repair shop on 63rd St. is active again
2. Canning between 58th and 61st area – robberies, burglaries

13X:

1. Auto burglaries near the school around Golden Gate and Ocean View.
2. Parking past the *No Parking* limit sign on Golden Gate is making it really hard to drive up the street.

Meetings are the SECOND Thursday of the month.

*Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, May 9, 2013** at 7:00 PM
Rockridge Library Community Room, College & Manila*

See you there and stay safe!

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