

Greater Rockridge NCPC (12Y/13X) Meeting Agenda
Thursday, May 9, 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

Frank Castro opened the meeting at 7:05 PM and the NCPC officers introduced themselves. Forty-seven people signed into the meeting. Frank asked for how many people it was their first NCPC meeting? About 9 hands went up. Frank explained that the NCPC offers a monthly chance to meet, discuss issues of public safety in our 2 beats, talk to the PSOs about issues, and hear reports.

Karen Ivy mentioned a new web application, [Find your beat:Oakland](#). Just enter your address and it will tell you the police beat you're in. Frank mentioned the NCPC web site as a general resource, with links to Google maps and other sources of crime information. Next month we'll have a joint meeting with the RCPC on the 3rd Thursday (June 20), speaker to be announced shortly. Frank asked who was already a member of one or more Yahoo lists, and about half the hands went up. For other attendees, he explained the lists as a source of information.

There is no crime stat presentation this month. In general we break down crime statistics by type of crime: crimes against persons, crimes against property (auto, residential), and quality of life.

A resident of the area around 60th and Canning said that they have a private mailgroup, and they're having a problem. They pretty much know what the problem is, and they're afraid to use the mail group for fear the person causing the problem would know who they are. Frank Castro explained that Yahoo groups are fairly anonymous, you just need a working email address and it doesn't have to look or sound like you.

Joint OPD report

Beat 12Y, Officer Donald Lane

Robberies in beat 12Y stayed about the same, around 6 in the last 30 days.

There were 7 auto burglaries, up from 18 in the previous month.

Robberies were up about 3 from last year, auto burglaries were way down from last year, when we had 23. For the beat as a whole, crime is down from both last month and last year.

Q: Any idea why it's down? Any specific benchmarks?

A: Possibly it's the education patrols, warning people not to leave stuff visible in cars. Patrol officers have been driving through area with lots of reported problems, this seems to have helped.

A resident reported that about 3 months ago, after the assault on a mother with children at Claremont and Chabot, their group went to 600 homes in the area (Canning to Acton and back to Claremont), handing out flyers about the increase in crime. This also seems to have helped. The group also put *No Solicitors* signs on all their doors, so nobody has any excuse for being on a porch.

Frank Castro noted that the crime statistics show the exact addresses where crimes happened. We'd like to target neighborhoods with high reported crime and hand out flyers. He never knew there was a burglary 3 houses down from where he lives until he read the crime report. The NCPC tries to communicate information.

Q: are there any statistics on armed home invasions?

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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A: Yes. The only one recently was in beat 11, until the one on Regent last night.

A resident commented that they seem to be getting more violent, they don't care if you're home.

A: It's not like it is out east, it's much worse there, but out there we know why it's happening. In the north Oakland beats we are concerned but can't pinpoint a cause yet. Harden your doorway; a security door that opens *outward* means you can't kick the door *in*.

Q: What makes one home a target instead of another?

A: The amount of people in the home, and what the crooks think the people have. They won't hit a large family, single people are targets. On the east side, Asian families are targeted; they have language issues, they don't trust the police. If we knew why they hit one house and not another we could solve crimes. Frank Castro noted that criminals go where it's easy: porch light is out, there's shrubbery against the windows, newspapers piled on the porch suggest the owners are away. Harden the target, make it harder to hit *easily*.

Q: When people invade, is there an alarm, is it going off?

A: In daytime robberies usually nobody is home. Alarms *help*. Some burglars may be scared off by alarms, some may not. Do what you can. Karen Ivy commented that you have to keep the alarm turned on. If it's turned off it won't do any good.

Q: The *Contra Costa Times* had an article (which also ran in the *Tribune*) on street robberies in Oakland – how current were those statistics?

A: Cellphone robberies are definitely up – thieves get more money (\$200 - \$500) for relatively little effort, just grab the phone and run. Lots of people have them, and they're easy to sell. Frank Castro commented that with your earbuds in, iPhone in your hand, you're advertising what you have. A resident pointed out a selection bias, this area has a lot of people who own smartphones, and the thieves know that. Also there are a lot of areas where a person can be walking alone. This is where the targets are.

A resident complained that it's a huge misconception that "they" are coming here to rob us, and then going "back home". Oakland is very diverse city, and some people who have lived here for decades have kids who are thugs. There are all kinds of people, and some of "them" live here. People are watching us. The people who make you uncomfortable when you see them are probably waiting to see when you're not home. Know who *all* your neighbors are.

A resident commented that Bank of America in Rockridge Center recently went to armed security guards. He also saw a private security guard on BART, armed to the teeth. Are people hiring private security here? Some people in upper RockRidge are looking into private security. Does that make OPD's job harder or easier?

Beat 13X, Officer Jason Trode

Lots of people in hills want private security. They provide eyes. But they're also really expensive, and they won't tackle a burglar, they'll phone OPD. Know your neighbors. Talk to each other. You know your neighborhoods. Keep calling incidents in. OPD needs you.

Crime in 13X was probably the lowest in years over the last 30 days: there were 3 burglaries including auto burglaries. Last year, there were 12. It's because the neighbors call in suspicious vehicles. You have to sell the call to dispatch. You know there are burglars, watching when you go to work. Burglaries happen 7AM – 4PM. Be vigilant. Call in. Officers will respond if they can, but even if they can't, the call provides a statistic. Without statistics there are no resources assigned.

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There was 1 robbery on Broadway Terrace, at 1 PM. The armed robber said gimme your stuff, the victims handed it over, the robber went off in black Mercedes.

Summer is burglary time, the kids are out of school. Yes, they'll throw an 8-year-old through the doggie door to unlock the door. The screws that hold your deadbolt should be 4" instead of the usual 1.5". 80% burglaries are front-door kick-ins: smash, in, grab, out. They're too fast to catch. If you get the audible alarms which make a lot of noise, it may make them go down the street. There isn't really a trend in this beat on home invasions. Asian families were targeted in the east because rumor says they don't use banks. Crooks now follow people home from the bank to grab the money they got from the ATM – be vigilant, don't be on the phone when you leave your car.

Q: Is it better to answer a door or not?

A: Get a "no solicitors" sign, then yell at them through the door. Don't open the door.

A resident commented that they got the Logitech cameras, because a neighbor got them, and hasn't had any trouble since they went up. The mere presence of the cameras scares the thieves away.

Q: Are there any statistics on burglaries at homes with alarms versus at homes without alarms?

A: Most statistics in the hills are for alarm calls. We get a lot of alarm calls but we only got 3 burglaries.

Q: Sure, we can be vigilant, but then OPD never comes – what support do we get??

A: it's a problem; we hope more money is coming in. Email the PSO with non-emergency information.

Neighborhood Watch

Frank Castro asked how many people attending belonged to a Neighborhood Watch; over half the hands went up. Over half a dozen in attendance were Neighborhood Watch block captains.

Frank noted that we all know OPD is just too shorthanded. Everybody gets discouraged. What do we do? Public safety and community policing starts on your block. Do you know everyone on your block? If you know your neighbors; then you can spot people who don't belong. People watch each other's back on a block level. Frank suggested a big hand to the Neighborhood Watch block captains who organize it.

Stephanie introduced herself as the block captain on Harwood above Ross and gave this description of how their group works: "We know our neighbors intimately; most have been here over 30 years. We introduce new people. We have a potluck around Labor Day, try to do National Night Out. Our ages range from babies to people in their 90s with 24-hr care, and we know all the caregivers. We have a local email group, I'm the annoying emailer. We dovetail with the block below Ross, they're all connected, many are on 2-3 lists. I'm also the Nixle point person for the neighborhood, I forward locally interesting items. We are responsible for each other. Our dogs are friends."

Frank suggested that if one person from a Neighborhood Watch could come to our meetings, they could report back to the group. Oakland groups have a symbiotic relationship. The NCPC lets you meet your police officers. At our upcoming joint meeting with the RCPC, Officer Lane will invite the patrol officers who are on duty that night to come by, say hello, and leave.

Block captains report to NCPCs, who talk to PSOs. What's the status of the shooting on Manila?

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D. Lane: a couple was walking home from College Ave. when they were approached by a single male with a gun, who demanded the woman's purse. The man thought the gun was fake, and started to fight the robber, the gun went off and shot him in the shoulder. The PSOs did a block search: they found no witnesses and no camera information. Nobody heard anything. They have no leads. The case is still open.

A resident asked about the armed robbery a week ago on Shafter & Hudson, at 9pm? A German exchange student was robbed by 2 males, who took her purse. No status on that.

Last night in Adams Point, a couple was walking along, 2 kids came up, scared to death themselves. One put a gun in the man's stomach, and said gimme your purse. The girl said, ok, but I need my phone – and she took the phone out! The kids took the purse and left. (Don't count on this, folks.)

What about the woman shot on 53rd by Children's Hospital? And 2 days later another woman was shot, her 4 year old was in the car?

Officer Lane: The first woman was there to buy drugs. The second incident happened in beat 11.

Resident: We have storytelling is going on, and the media is helping the story. "The police can't respond." If all Neighborhood Watch groups are disconnected, they lose control of the story. How do we turn the story around?

Resident: People must realize the history of Oakland – new residents don't recognize the history of Oakland.

Resident: this *isn't* the history of Oakland. It's two things: first, it's those high-powered weapons on the street. Second, we don't have enough police, which really does matter. We must get the story out of residents taking back their neighborhoods.

Priorities

Last month's priorities will stand, except for the shooting on the 5300 block of Manila. That appears to be an isolated incident, with no evidence, so there's no project to follow up. Beat 12Y will substitute a 3rd priority, a recent series of robberies in the 5400 block of Shafter, where street trees obscure the street light.

Priorities for May 2013:

12Y:

1. The illegal auto repair shop on 63rd St. is active again
2. Canning between 58th and 61st area – robberies, burglaries
3. Robberies in 5400 block of Shafter – street trees obscure the street light

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 normally the SECOND Thursday of the month.
*Next meeting is a joint meeting with RCPC on **Thursday, June 20, 2013***
(the THIRD Thursday) at 7:00 PM
Rockridge Library Community Room, College & Manila
See you there and stay safe!

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