

Greater Rockridge NCPC Meeting Minutes (12Y/13X)
Thursday, June 9, 2011
Rockridge Library Community Room, College & Manila, Oakland
General Public: 7:00-8:30PM

NCPC:

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

In Frank Castro's absence, Karen Ivy opened the meeting at 7:10 PM. Attendees introduced themselves briefly. Fourteen people attended the meeting.

13X OPD Report

Problem Solving Officer Trenton Thompson reported that beat 13X has been very slow; major calls have been for domestic violence and DUIs. The recent burglaries have been mainly in 13Y and 13Z. A lot of the activity in beat 13 had to do with the bust on Lee Crago, the man who was found squatting in a foreclosed house for sale, full of stolen goods. An alert real estate agent spotted him and called the police. The burglars appeared to know him and were selling stuff to him. Crago doesn't match characteristics of burglars reported by witnesses; he must be a fence. He doesn't seem to be one of the burglars who were kicking doors in. He had alarm schematics, he didn't ransack places, he went for specific items. He got caught doing the same thing by the Kensington police a year and a half ago. Officer Thompson just caught him a month ago so didn't spend a lot of time behind bars. The city will try to get him tried federally. Catching Crago slowed down the burglaries.

Officer Thompson has two other leads on the burglaries, and just needs to know where they sleep and where they stash their stuff. They live East of the lake and commute to Rockridge/Montclair!

In 16 additional cases people have been able to get their stuff back – from Orinda, Piedmont, Kensington victims; those are the ones Officer Thompson thinks Crago was responsible for.

Any shootings are most likely gang related; mostly for turf. People are staying out longer with the nice weather and that usually increases violence.

In the recent home invasion rape, the victim thought the man was a construction worker; the apartment complex was being renovated. She didn't understand why the 'worker' was moving her things so she filmed it; then he returned and raped her.

12Y OPD Report

Acting Sergeant Maureen Vergara reported on behalf of PSO Randall Chew, who injured himself during a recent operation and is out on disability. She introduced Officer Del Rosario, who is in training, not a new officer but new to the PSO Division. Officer Del Rosario is the new PSO for beat 11 but will substitute for Officer Chew for the next 3 weeks, after which Sgt. Vergara will return as interim PSO for beat 12, since Sergeant Ortiz is now back on light duty.

In the past month, beat 12 had 3 robberies, 3 residential burglaries, 6 auto burglaries, 7 petty theft and vandalism, and an increase in domestic violence. The 3 robberies were on Forest & College, in the 5500 block of College, and in the 5600 block of Telegraph.

A lot of times criminals say they have a gun, whether you see it or not.

Home invasion robberies often involve unusual situations such as gambling parties or medical marijuana growers – they sometimes happen to people who are followed home, too. There are only about 1,000 verified valid medical marijuana licenses. They carry enough validity in Oakland.

12Y Merchant Issues

The RDA representative reported that a College Avenue employee told her employer that she'd seen goods from the store at the Laney College flea market; they managed to recover \$3,000 of

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goods, more than they realized they had lost. The thief is suspected to be an older man who has 2 women who shoplift for him.

Pasta Pomodoro was robbed and also a pharmacy on Piedmont. The witnesses at Pasta Pomodoro positively identified the robber. He may also be the person who has been doing the Beat 13 burglaries. Burglars are slowly being caught, things will slow down, but then 8 or so months later they start up again.

One of the attendees said she had heard there were sideshows at Broadway and Manila. Officer Thompson (Beat 13) noted that sideshows are usually confined to East Oakland. They begin at 2-3 AM and go on until dawn, they have absolutely NO rules, and the cars are usually stolen. West Oakland had no sideshows last year. A representative of the Youth Employment Partnership, Inc., a Measure Y organization, claimed that there were lots of summer jobs last year and that was why there were no sideshows.

12Y Neighborhood Issues

A resident who had reported graffiti in his area last month, plus people knocking on doors in the small hours, said there have been no more occurrences. They plastered the neighborhood with warning flyers and the trouble stopped.

A resident got an email invitation to support OPOA – he asked why, and how did they get the contact information? Sergeant Vergara and Officer Thompson agreed that this is just trying to get people involved – the OPOA plans to send out emails with articles discussing city issues from the OPOA's point of view. There wasn't a clear answer on how they got the contact information.

Crime Stats – Suzanne Sargentini

Beat 12Y had 11 crimes against the person versus 3 last month; there were also 2 robberies with a firearm, one simple assault, a couple of batteries, 1 domestic assault, 1 grand theft. There were 25 burglaries, up from 19 the previous month. Auto crimes were way down, only 7 against 24 the month before.

Beat 13X showed one domestic violence incident (Officer Thompson said 4 but the numbers don't always match), 4 burglaries. Auto-related crimes stayed about the same.

Cameras aren't effective in catching criminals because they are often mounted overhead and a burglar can easily wear a hat and be completely concealed. Most cameras don't have the resolution for easy identification of a suspect, especially at night.

Officer Thompson said that people forward him important emails from the groups and it is really helpful.

One person in a group wrote in about the person whose car was broken into and the suspect dropped his ID and medical marijuana card, he called it to OPD but they wouldn't take a report. The problem is that it wasn't in progress; OPD needs to handle all calls in progress *before* they get to completed crimes. Also, the fact that the ID was dropped beside the car only proves that the person who owns them stood next to the car. The group discussed the story that went viral on the Internet about the guy whose computer was stolen, but kept photographing the thief at intervals.

Youth Employment Partnership (YEP)

Galen Parsons, a representative of Youth Employment Partnership, Inc. (YEP) in East Oakland, asked to speak on their program, which is funded by Measure Y. YEP offers reentry training for youths and young adults, plus after school and summer job program for youth in the juvenile justice center. There are a small number of jobs for young people on probation. Youth in jobs funded by Measure Y must be on parole or on probation. YEP also works with some adults. In

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addition to the job placements, they offer weekly "soft skill" training – how to show up for work on time and every day, how to deal with the public. They serve about 1,000 kids a year.

They also run programs not funded by Measure Y, such as the Mayor's Summer Job Program. The County pays wages for foster care youth and youth on probation. Oakland is going to have 400-500 jobs for those youths. Last summer there was a lot of federal money. The jobs may be in cafes, rec centers, the Oakland Ice Center, small businesses, non-profits. Youth in the program do landscaping at schools with some partners; they may also have internships with the city to do filing, mailing, and so on. YEP pays their salaries, minimum wage at 20 hours per week; the other 20 hours are spent in training.

They are always looking for placements – and donations to fund them. It cost \$1,250 to give one youth a job and supervise him. YEP pays the wages but the business must agree to take the youth on and supervise them. They find local businesses are better partners than national firms. The most useful feature of these jobs is often that they take the youth to new places, introduce them to different adults and different situations. Some of them have never been to downtown Oakland.

A resident asked about their recidivism rate. For adults, Ms. Parsons cited 5 out of 86 who re-offended (approximately 6%). Out of the 38 youths they worked with (time period not stated, presumably last summer), 11 (approximately 30%) stayed in the jobs provided for 90 days. YEP stops following their participants after 90 days and does no longitudinal studies to evaluate long-term effectiveness.

BART Police Officer Report

There were no BART police officers in attendance.

Neighborhood Services Coordinator

Patricia Rose, the Neighborhood Services Coordinator, mentioned handouts available for National Night Out (coming up August 2), how to form Neighborhood Watch groups. She also had a Public Works flyer and her usual list of helpful crime prevention tips.

Setting of Priorities

Determine priorities for upcoming month based on OPD reports, new issues brought to the NCPC's attention, and Crime Stats observations.

Priorities for June:

12Y:

1. Drug house on Manila - tenants have told landlord that they intend to move and are looking for a new place; OPD is working with property owner intensively
2. Graffiti & burglaries around Manila, Desmond, & Glendale. No more incidents, but possibly related to the drug house?
3. Burglary at 60th near Colby & Claremont

13X:

1. No priorities for 13X this month.

IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR JULY ONLY: *July's meeting shall be a Town Hall Meeting held jointly with the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) on the third Thursday, July 21, 2011 at 7:00 PM at Rockridge Library Community Room.*

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The regular Second Thursday meeting schedule shall resume on Thursday, August 11, 2011.

Refer to the Rockridge News or our website for any changes or announcements.

See you there and stay safe!

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