

Greater Rockridge NCPC Meeting Agenda (12Y/13X)
Thursday, June 14, 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

Frank Castro opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Twenty people attended; PSO Jo Balaoro was present, PSO Maureen Vergara was absent. Frank announced a special speaker, Bruce Nye, board chairman of MakeOaklandBetterNow! (MOBN), a grassroots organization that wants to make Oakland better than it is. Bruce will discuss the Ceasefire program tonight although it is his birthday.

Mr. Nye began by saying that he isn't a criminologist, but MOBN! has been trying for the last 3 years to bring Ceasefire to Oakland, and to see that it's done right. Oakland Community Organizations has also been active in this effort. He explained the background of the Ceasefire program. When he first heard of Ceasefire he thought it sounded like "hug a thug," but it's a solid program with proven results. It isn't meant to affect burglaries or drug traffic, although in some areas it has helped reduce outdoor drug markets – it focuses on gun violence, specifically black-on-black gun violence. There has been a 40% increase in gun homicide for African-American men aged 14-17 between 2000 and 2007. African-Americans are a minority of the population but a majority of homicide victims: 2,600/year for African-American men under age 25 versus 1,400/year for Caucasian men of the same age range. We're locking up more and more people and it isn't working, crime is not down. Crime is down in big California cities *except* in Oakland, Stockton, and Anaheim. More details, and the full PowerPoint presentation, are available in the NCPC web site post [Ceasefire in Oakland](#).

David Kennedy is a self-trained criminologist, now a Ph.D. He began work in Los Angeles, and developed the basis of Ceasefire, which he describes in his book *Don't Shoot: One Man, A Street Fellowship, and the End of Violence in Inner-City America*. We know what we need to do; the issue is whether we have the sustained will to make it happen.

A very small number of people do the majority of gun violence. Law enforcement knows who they are, or at least who the groups are. Finally, the young people doing this hate it, they're afraid of it, they'd like it to end, but they don't know how.

Here are the elements of a Ceasefire program:

- ✓ Create a working group
- ✓ Analyze the problem, identify target groups and people
- ✓ Organize a call-in

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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A *call-in* is a meeting with probationers who are likely to cause gun violence; because they are probationers, they *have to attend*. The meeting must also include the entire community: local religious and community leaders, relatives of victims, the police, the District Attorney, the state and Federal authorities. Everybody sits in a very organized way, and tells the young men: "We have alternatives for you. We also have a lot of law enforcement focused on you. The violence stops now, and we will be on you like wet on water if the violence doesn't stop. You *will* go to jail."

Mr. Nye tried to display a YouTube video of an actual call-in session, but it was inaudible. A [link to the video is here](#), and also in the post [Ceasefire in Oakland](#).

MOBN! is very focused on data. Most people's opinion on crime is based on ideology, not facts. Eleven cities have done Ceasefire programs so far; a meta-study by Braga (Braga, A.A., Weisburd, D.L. (2011). *The Effects of Focused-Deterrence Strategies on Crime: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of the Empirical Evidence (Campbell Collaboration)*. **Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency**) shows that in every case, reduction in homicides is significant. The technique also seems to work to reduce outdoor drug markets. Hawaii used it on recidivism, and got a 26% reduction. Results appear almost immediately when you do the process correctly.

Q: What period do these reductions cover? A: It's different in every city. Harm reduction seems to be sustained *as long as the practice continues*. Crime only goes back up when cities decide to stop doing Ceasefire, or do something else.

In 2009 Oakland had what they called a call-in program. MOBN! was very positive at first, and then discovered what they were measuring. They weren't measuring *violence* or reduction in violence. They measured employment, education, job referrals: the sort of thing Measure Y programs focus on. There was NO measurement of the effect on violence, and no effect on violence levels. OPD shut the program down, as it wasn't really "Ceasefire."

Stewart Wakeling lives in Piedmont, and works in Oakland; he is a colleague of David Kennedy, and ran the Stockton Ceasefire program. Chief Jordan started talking to him last fall: how do we run an *effective* Ceasefire program? They needed a "Freddy Cardoza" – Freddy Cardoza was a really bad actor in Los Angeles. The LAPD busted Freddy and his gang and put them away for a long time. They then used them in call-ins as an example of the awful outcome if you don't get with the program. Chief Jordan has been waiting for a big ATF bust, which was just completed a couple of weeks ago, to get a bunch of "Freddy Cardozas" to use as horrible examples.

The Mayor's office also got a grant to fund a manager to *run* the program; before, there wasn't anyone clearly in charge, and this was a critical reason for the failure. Ceasefire is expected to begin in Oakland *probably* in early to mid-July, with full involvement of state and federal law enforcement, Alameda County probation department, community members, and service providers.

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This is not a “program.” This is “what we do.” It really works *as long as it's sustained*.

What do we need from you? No one is publicizing when the first one will be happen. MOBN will do a lot of asking. They will broadcast everything they find out. We need everyone in the community to hammer the mayor's office to make sure it happens, it's a full Ceasefire program, it's the real thing.

Oakland has a high crime rate but *Don't Shoot* shows we aren't alone.

Q: Thanks for the summary, will you be back? Will there be follow-up on this? Frank Castro: On Wednesday July 25, the Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee will have Bruce Nye and his cohorts to give an update on Ceasefire, a much longer, more detailed presentation. Chief Jordan says, it'll probably start up July 2. This will be publicized.

Q: You imply that imprisoning people doesn't work, how does this make them stop if you threaten them with prison? A: It's true that when you lock one guy up, he can't shoot anymore; but it doesn't stop the street violence. You make it clear to the guys you call in, if you aren't with our program, prison is your alternative. Make sure the people involve know they *are* being watched, and not just by law enforcement. Everyone is watching.

Resident: The call-in is the first time most of these guys have had someone say, face-to-face, we care what happens to you, and it will be OK. Michael Krasny, on KQED's *Forum*, interviewed Kennedy recently (Ed. Note: that was in October 2011, the podcast is at [this link](#).)

Resident: You make clear, it isn't just about the guy who's called in; it's all his friends, he will tell all his friends.
Bruce Nye: Yes, that's right.

After the presentation, Frank Castro did introductions, asking new people for details on who they are and why they came. A resident who works on her laptop in cafes said she was concerned about laptop thefts, also about the incident on Chabot below Dreyer's this week when a woman with kids was assaulted. A UPS driver honked and ran the assailant off. A resident who lives on Harwood is horrified by crime, feels there's no consequence for criminals in this area. She asked if we can get private security; she wants to be able to walk around. A resident has a friend whose house was burgled. They tracked the stolen phone (for which they *had* the serial number) to Richmond, then to Pinole. They called the Pinole police, who said they couldn't go after it because the guy, whom they know, isn't on probation.

Officer Balaoro said, “We are as frustrated as you are. We know you're angry and feel violated. We don't want to be like this. It's always life over property, that's what it comes to. With 230 officers on patrol on all the beats, there just aren't enough.”

Q: What steps are being taken? A: talk to your city council member. Encourage them to fund police academies.

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A resident said her house was broken into twice in 2 weeks, once when her mother was in the house; apparently 2 thieves with different M.O.'s. A resident, who lives on Mendocino behind Lawton, has been there 10 years and gets burglarized regularly. Recently he called the police when someone shot a pellet gun at his window and the police came right away. A resident of Kales said that last week 3 different cars were rifled.

Joint OPD Report, 13X, Problem Solving Officer Jo Balaoro

Officer Balaoro apologized to all crime victims; he asked them to believe that the police are hurting too. It makes him happy when they can capture the suspects. It all depends on what else is going on in the city. Ten to twenty calls for service *at a time* is a normal day, they pop up on his screen just like an email inbox, and life is always priority over property. Officers may not even be on their beats all day, there are a lot of "open beats" (no officer assigned) because of illness, vacation, or whatever. Oakland just hired 10 new lateral recruits, another 10 are in training. Karen Ivy explained that a "lateral" is a new police recruit who has worked for another police department.

Beat 13 projects

Auto burglaries at The College Preparatory School (and the surrounding area): These usually happen during the day, which is unusual. In *most* areas car burglaries are night crimes.

Speeding and dangerous driving in the 1500 block of Ocean View: Officer Balaoro is trying to get reflectors and speed bumps put in to force traffic to slow.

Joint burglary suppression beats 13, 22, and 25: Two of their 4 shift days, officers come in early, because 8 AM – 5 PM is when burglaries usually happen. Burglaries are the major problem in beat 13. During the day he cruises the beat doing burglary suppression, and does other duties as he drives around, looking for suspicious activities, and making stops.

Officer Balaoro explained that a PSO (Problem Solving Officer) is not the same as a beat officer. Beat officers respond to 911 calls. PSOs have specific targets to work on; in the hills, it's burglary. He asks to be sent to all suspicious person calls in his beat, for example.

Statistics for the past 30 days (as of 6/13):

Beat 13X:

6 residential burglaries
11 non-residential burglaries
8 auto burglaries (versus 973 city-wide)
1 crime against persons

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Beat 12Y:

26 residential burglaries
10 auto burglaries
9 robberies
5 stolen vehicles
9 thefts
2 assaults
0 homicides

Oakland is at 51 homicides so far this year.

Most burglaries happen between 8 and 5, working hours; most burglars enter through unlocked or kicked in front doors. Burglaries happen on random days of the week, but are more likely during the work week. 80% of the burglaries in the last 30 days were thru unlocked doors or windows. Don't leave desirable items in plain view, close the curtains. Most people keep no records of serial numbers of their electronic equipment and no photos of their valuables.

Auto burglaries happen during evening hours, usually through broken windows or unlocked doors.

Q: How much deterrent is a burglar alarm? A: If you hear an alarm go off, LOOK to see what's happening. If you see 2 guys you don't know at your neighbor's house, call OPD. You can refuse to give your name, but give as many details as you can. Get involved: call the police, keep talking, give them information.

Q: Are you more or less likely to get hit if you have an alarm? A: An alarm helps, because people may call. Keep your call list up to date; alarm companies *have to call the call list first*, and they can't help if they can't reach someone. Please pay attention to hardening the target.

Resident: We hear the Logitech cameras have been helpful. A: yes, very helpful. We recently got a good photo of a suspect in beat 13Z; we put it out on Rockridge Neighborhood Watch Network, we need to know who he is. If they know who he is, then if he's a probationer they can search the house. They need identification.

Crime Stats, Frank Castro. May 8 – June 10, beat 12Y.

11 robberies
16 residential burglaries

There were a total of 52 crimes in beat 12Y between May 8 and June 10 – close to 2 crimes per day. Crime *was* worse. It's bad out there. There just aren't enough police.

BART Police Department report

There was no BART officer in attendance.

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Logitech camera program update

Denise Jorgensen briefly explained the Logitech camera program. At the last meeting Paula Stringfellow reported about 30 cameras sold to about 10 households. We asked for feedback and got an email saying the cameras are great, they have reduced solicitors calling (this person installed one over his front door), and all problems were handled quickly by Logitech support. A resident reported that she just did it: she got 2 outdoor cameras, total was about \$400 plus tax instead of \$600. You get a free 1 year subscription to their monitoring software, she hasn't hooked it up yet.

Frank Castro commented that we should do another camera presentation, since half the people attending this meeting haven't seen the presentation. Let's schedule for August. (Ed. Note: we may have a minor conflict in August.)

Frank Castro said, we can do something about the police. Go to city council meetings; you have the right to speak. Most of the people who show are the Measure Y folks. We need to go to the council and speak out about needing more police. The more people who stand up and say that, the more traction we will get. A group of citizens got the city to implement Ceasefire; that's a huge win. It does work. A resident asked, would it be useful to have a letter signed by everyone, or should everyone come? Frank replied, both work; be sure to send the letter to everyone on the council. MOBN feels we need 3 academies per year to beat attrition. Denise Boisvert suggested, if you've had burglaries, flyer your neighborhood, put up signs saying we are calling in suspicious persons.

Setting of Priorities

Based on the evening discussions, there are no priorities on the list that we don't already know about.

Priorities for June 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. Multiple laptop thefts from cafes on College Ave., apparently by a team of young African American males with a female African American getaway driver.

13X:

1. Muggings in Ocean View.

*Meetings are the SECOND Thursday of the month. In July 2012 only, the meeting will be **the THIRD THURSDAY.***

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, July 19, 2012** at 7:00 PM
Rockridge Library Community Room, College & Manila.

See you there and stay safe!

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