

Greater Rockridge NCPC (12Y/13X) - Minutes
Thursday, June 12, 2014
Rockridge Library, College and Manila, Oakland
General Public: 7:00-8:30PM

NCPC:

<vacant> – Chair
Barbara Minton – Vice Chair
Molly Singer - Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

Barbara Minton, acting Chair, opened the meeting at 7:05 PM. Officer San Andres introduced himself; he is the new temporary PSO for beat 12. Barbara announced that Frank Castro has resigned as Chair of the Greater Rockridge NCPC, for personal reasons. Fifteen people were present including 4 from OPD.

Beat 12Y Status Report

Officer San Andres reviewed the beat 12 crime statistics for the last 30 days. In that time beat 12Y had 8 burglaries, 9 residential burglaries, 7 stolen vehicles, 1 commercial burglary, and 1 robbery. During the same 30 days last year the incidence of crime was about the same, except that we saw 9 robberies, so robberies are well down. There was a cell phone robbery today (6/12/14) at 11 AM on Ayala. Officers actually saw the getaway vehicle take off. The suspects are in custody, and OPD recovered stolen property from several robberies.

Beat projects: The homeless camp at 51st/Broadway has been cleared out, and the project will be retired. There is no beat priority for 12Y at this point.

Q: How are the interactions with the private security force?

Officer San Andres: He sees the private patroller around the neighborhood. There's a meeting in July between the private firm and OPD command.

Q: Do you think they're effective?

Officer San Andres: Yes, extra eyes are always good.

Karen Ivy asked whether the private patrols have a private line to OPD, or do they call dispatch? Officers San Andres and Trode agreed that they call dispatch.

Beat 13X Status Report

Officer Trode didn't report on crime statistics for 13X since there was very little crime in the last month. He commented that several hills neighborhoods have private security. He talks to the patrols regularly. There are still no formal statistics to show effect on crime (largely because the patrol times are not comparable, since OPD patrols 24x7 and the private firm does not) but extra eyes are good. A major current crime trend in north Oakland is identity theft, especially fraudulent use of credit cards. He recommends buying locking mailboxes, to make sure your mail is secure. Credit card companies will refund your money but dealing with identity theft is annoying and difficult. Shred any unsolicited credit card applications you get.

Karen Ivy noted that identity theft isn't necessarily from stolen mail, as P.F. Chang just reported a data breach affecting their customers.

Officer Trode said that the new NCPC chair on beat 13Y puts sandwich boards at freeway exits advertising her meetings. The group discussed where our NCPC might do this - on College Avenue? At the BART station?

Gun Safety Presentation

Paula Hawthorn introduced herself to the group. She represented *Asking Saves Kids*, and is also a member of *MakeOaklandBetterNow!*. Assistant Chief Figueroa asked her to prepare a short

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presentation on Asking Saves Kids for all NCPCs.

We don't know whether people own guns or not, and we don't care – but what if your children are at their house? ASK – Asking Saves Kids – is a project of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The project is focused on child safety, not on the politics of gun ownership.

Every day in the U.S. a child is shot. More children die from guns than from childhood cancer.

Good practice is to store guns unloaded, store ammunition separate from guns, and lock guns or keep them in locked storage. You can buy trigger locks and trigger safes. Many sheriffs' departments give out free trigger locks, Paula wasn't sure if Alameda County does. (*Ed. Note:* I checked with the Alameda County Sheriff's Department and they do hand out free trigger locks.) Paula believes there is a law that a gun owner may be liable for keeping a gun on the premises if it causes injury to a child under 18, but she wasn't sure.

Why own a gun at all? Guns in the home are 22 times more likely to be used in homicide, suicide, or accidental personal injury than in self-defense. A gun in the home increases suicide risk 3-5 times. Homicide is 3 times more likely in houses with guns.

Fear dominates the statistics: we must have a gun to protect our home. Guns are dangerous. So are lions. You could get a lion to protect your home – it impresses the neighbors, it's cute when young.

Over 1.6 million children under 18 live in houses with loaded, *unlocked* guns. "I tell my children not to touch the gun and they obey me" - but they don't obey. Over one-third of households with children have a gun, mostly unlocked and loaded.

When your children go to someone's house to play, you have to ask, is there an unlocked gun in that house? ASK makes posters and brochures available. There's no reason to be judgmental or confrontational, be respectful – but ask, is there an unlocked gun in the house. If you can't convince the parents to lock the gun, have the kids play at your house. Asking saves lives. Children's lives are worth it. You'd ask about peanut butter if your kid had a peanut allergy.

The slides for this presentation are posted on the NCPC web site: <http://tinyurl.com/oyvx3vo>

Q: is it true the U.S. is the biggest producer of guns and ammo?

A: I don't know.

A resident suggested offering the presentation at PTA meetings.

Kingfish Pub Issue

A representative of the owner of the Kingfish Pub on Claremont Avenue had asked to address the NCPC on the subject of moving the pub to an address on Telegraph Avenue, but no one was present to speak.

Susan Shawl asked to speak; she was not on the agenda. She is a former member of the CPRB (Citizen's Police Review Board). She described the CPRB as "not an antipolice group," but said that it has few resources to work with. She felt the same applies to the CPAB (Community Policing Advisory Board). Both groups were put together by city ordinance; they have no teeth, and therefore no effect.

She is a member of a citizen's group proposing a city charter amendment for the Nov 2014 ballot, to create a new Public Safety Oversight Commission, with teeth. The new commission would take all citizen complaints against the police, would have subpoena power, and would take over supervision of OPD from the city administrator. The Commission would report to the city council and mayor. The Charter amendment includes language to provide new support for the police –

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better ways to handle PTSD, and a new objective, an unbiased Promotional Matrix for promoting officers, not based on assignments, but on time on force, time in grade, additional education, and merit. The PSOC will hold public policy evenings where a subject can be explored in depth instead of the current 2 minute limit per speaker. The Commission would maintain a ratio of 1 civilian investigator to every 100 sworn officers; the city hasn't budgeted for this.

Today (6/12/14), the City Council Rules Committee approved sending this amendment to the City Council Public Safety Committee, which will review it on June 24. This proposal is based on San Francisco's Police Commission and Office of Citizen Complaints. Noel Gallo is the lead sponsor of this in the City Council. Ms. Shawl's group is looking for endorsements from local civic groups; they already have a list of endorsers. Robert Warshaw has endorsed citizen oversight of the police but not this specific arrangement.

In response to a question Ms. Shawl said the group has no web site.

Q: You said the commission could direct the chief of police to take action – would he report directly to the commission?

A: Yes, he would. I left CPRB in frustration after an incident where a major complaint was sustained unanimously by the board against several officers, and the city administrator chose not to act. No one was disciplined.

Q: I would need more information to make any decision about this. Isn't the chief responsible for that? This is a political discussion, it shouldn't be happening here.

Karen Ivy apologized if the presentation has offended anyone; she said that her impulse is always to allow information to be presented, information is better than no information.

Reconsider priority status and add new priorities as needed

A resident noted that before he got busy, Frank Castro wanted to canvass the whole neighborhood about homeless encampments; they seem to be all over. There's one on 51st at Telegraph that just popped up, shopping carts and people in sleeping bags. And right near there, cars are broken into all the time. This isn't an OPD project, but we could do a snapshot; the block captains could report on encampments in their area.

A resident asked to whom we should report graffiti under BART station. Karen Ivy responded that if it's on BART property, you should probably report it to BART.

Patricia Rose, NSC, announced upcoming events:

- National Night Out is Tuesday August 5. Register soon if you want to have a party.
- The pothole blitz is going on. Our district is *last* on the list.
- Oakland CORE offers CPR and first aid classes, different dates and times are available.
- New smart parking meters are being installed across Oakland, with better technology than the old ones – broken meters report directly to the technician.

NCPC Priorities for June 2014

Under new OPD rules, each beat is allowed a single priority, instead of the previous 3; and new priorities must be *identifiable* and *measurable*. PSOs will also work on a *Crime project* and from time to time on a *Call reduction project* for the beat. Remember that 12Y and 13X are only part of beats 12 and 13.

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12Y:

1. NCPC Priority: None at present.
2. Crime Project: High visibility vehicle patrols on College Avenue between Broadway and Claremont
3. Call Reduction Project: to be announced

13X:

1. *NCPC Priority:* Traffic issues in the area around Broadway Terrace/Harbord/Clarewood, near the Village Market.
2. *Crime Project:* none at present.
3. *Call Reduction Project:* to be announced

NCPC meetings are normally the SECOND Thursday of the month.

*Next NCPC meeting is **Thursday, July 10, 2014** at 7:00 PM
Rockridge Library Community Room, College & Manila*

See you there and stay safe!

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