

Greater Rockridge NCPC (12Y/13X) - Minutes
Thursday, June 11, 2015
Rockridge Library, College & Manila
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM

NCPC:

Michael Ubell – Chair
Barbara Minton – Vice Chair
Molly Singer - Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

Mike Ubell called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. All NCPC officers were present. Officers Jurgens (CRO beat 13) and Castro (CRO beat 11) were present from OPD, as was Patricia Rose, the Neighborhood Services Coordinator. Officer Jurgens reported that Officer Hutzol would be late, as he arrested someone on the way to the meeting and had to take the person to the jail. Seventeen people attended.

Citizen Input to Priorities

A resident of Clover and Miles reported homeless camps, graffiti, and car break-ins along Miles. CalTrans has been helpful but there are regular camps by the freeway. Officer Jurgens said OPD will do visible enforcement in the area.

Chris Jackson, the Rockridge District Association manager, reports that one neighbor has worked with CalTrans for years on the homeless issue, it just keeps coming back.

Officer Jurgens reported that they can't tell people living in cars to leave any more, they can only tag the cars if they've been parked in one spot over 72 hours. This is based on [2 court rulings](#) from 2014.

Chris Jackson showed around a photo of a man (72 year old black male, alcoholic, not quite wheelchair bound) who has been hanging out on the street for 5-6 days; he's not a "5150" (mental disorder, danger to self or others) and he refuses help. He's been just hanging out. Outreach is supposed to contact him tonight (6/11). He's the man who was reported defecating on the street near 60th some time ago. The police are powerless if homeless people are sane and refuse to accept help.

A resident commented that we know the police are trying, but what can we do to help? We feel badly for the homeless.

Officer Castro said that every beat in Oakland has problems with homeless encampments. Empathy brings them to the area, because people here give them things. This is a city-county-state issue. Until the state decides to subsidize housing for the homeless, it won't go away.

Q: Who breaks into cars?

Officer Castro: It's not just the homeless; there are sophisticated thieves who drive around in nice cars looking for autos to break into. A neighbor reported seeing people walk up and down the street checking car doors to see if they're locked.

Chris Jackson said the new recycling company will supply locking recycle bins to businesses. He suggested people ask them if they can get residential versions. He reported a car break-in (a Mercedes) this afternoon (6/11) at 3:15 PM on College.

Q: What happens when thieves are caught?

Officer Castro: You have to prove the facts for a court case.

Q: I like to report crime but hate the online system. The online system wouldn't let me file a report because I checked the box that said nothing was stolen.

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Karen Ivy asked what happened to using civilian evidence techs to take burglary reports? Officer Jurgens said they're doing it now, they wear light blue shirts.

Q: How do we report attempted burglaries – I couldn't find it on the online site.

Officer Castro: Just use the "burglary" category. If the threshold is breached, it's considered a break-in or burglary, even if they don't get in and don't steal anything. He recommended that people write down all the serial numbers of belongings – computers, TVs, bicycles, etc. The police need them to document who owns recovered goods.

The NCPC chair for beat 15Y, who attended the meeting, said that Mayor Schaaf just announced a new web site to track police reports. Actually, the new site, [Record-Trac](#), allows you to find or request *any* public record of the city of Oakland, including several types of police report.

OPD Reports beat 12Y

Chris Jackson reported that there have been no robberies on College Avenue recently.

A resident reported an increase in attempted burglaries in her area (62nd & College, near Claremont). Recently someone broke a rear window to access the trunk; they now remove the car's security cover so the thief can see there's nothing there.

Officer Hutzol arrived around 8:30 and asked if anyone had questions. Asked for crime statistics, he said he'd taken a broader view of crime numbers for this week. There was a big change in crime numbers after 2013, specifically on armed robberies.

<i>Crimes, Beat 12Y</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015 to date</i>
Robberies	92	40	18
Auto burglaries	138	144	110

He's been working with the Crime Reduction Team; 12Y has had zero armed robberies since March 11.

He had a focus group on the Locksley crime wave – between 4/17 and 4/28, they had 14 residential burglaries. He reallocated some patrol resources, got full support from Capt. Allison, and burglary there is now a non-issue. Property crime is invasive and annoying but there's nothing worse than having a gun waved in your face. He suggested talking to your friends if you see them walking along staring at a phone; it takes a village.

Last year the robberies were mainly on College, usually in the early evening; OPD eliminated some hotspots. There was 1 robbery on College this year, near Toast. Robberies are either in the morning when you're groggy, or in the evening when you're tired; they happen a couple hours off the burglaries, which usually happen during the day. Robberies are pushing west of College, OPD is working on improving lighting.

Q: What happened on Locksley?

Officer Hutzol: OPD pushed one suspect into Berkeley and Berkeley picked him up. OPD caught one burglar in the act; couldn't quite arrest him but they told him they were looking at him, and he left the area. They talked to Locksley residents about hardening the neighborhood. He walks down the street looking for stealable stuff he can see through windows – a Macbook on a table, a big TV visible on the wall.

Q: What about motion activated lights? Is that good if you don't like light pollution?

Officer Hutzol: Any light is good, but we're talking about canopy lights – street lights. Auto

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burglaries are better than in 2013 (which had 144 reported); we're heading for 110 reported auto burglaries this year. The hot spots are Market Hall, and the Library area. The Market Hall private security guard takes photos, he has no constitutional restrictions; he sends them to OPD. OPD pulled over a stolen Mercedes with 4 guys in it – all were on probation for theft; also all had been caught on camera. Cameras are great; you can't put a price on it.

Q: Do mock cameras deter burglary?

Officer Hutzol: Dummy cameras are no help at all. Real cameras don't deter, but they help us catch the thieves and convict them. One house on Locksley has a dozen cameras – but none of them worked. A good deterrent is a really loud alarm system. The little alarm sign works.

A resident offered a quick plug for ADT! They upgraded their system and got a camera at a very reasonable price.

Officer Hutzol: Don't leave stuff in the car, as a habit. A cellphone charger cable will get your car window broken; so will a gym bag. OPD is trying to harden the area, and make it unattractive to career criminals.

Q: What do you do if you think you see a robber?

Officer Hutzol: Robbers usually approach *from the rear*, to people who have headphones or are reading the phone. Look around. Robbers don't want to be looked at; they don't want you to see them. If you do see them, scream, cross the street, give yourself time. Situational awareness is key.

Q: Are robbers and burglars armed?

Officer Hutzol: Sometimes. Sometimes they're armed with replica guns that aren't real, although they look real. The Alameda County District Attorney is pushing for firearms enhancements (including for fake guns), an extra 7 years that can't be plea-bargained. There are many fewer armed robberies now. There's an uptick in purse snatchings, plus laptops stolen from tables in cafes.

Q: What's the penalty for breaking into a car?

Chris Jackson recommended Officer Hutzol talk about Proposition 47.

Officer Hutzol: Proposition 47 was a great idea – let's reduce prison time for non-violent crimes and drug crimes, and lower the prison population. Non-violent crimes are burglaries. They're now releasing burglars from jail; they get out and go back to the trade. A lot of things are essentially decriminalized: there's no place in jail for non-violent offenders. This is why cameras are important – you need a lot of photos of the same guy doing the crimes to get jail time. Also it takes a \$950 loss for the burglary to be a felony, used to be \$450. If someone steals a handgun, that's now a misdemeanor. We have to be preventive, because punitive isn't working. Oakland is a hub, you can get anywhere from here, so non-violent criminals like to work here.

OPD Reports beat 13X

Officer Jurgens reported on crime in beat 13Y over the last 30 days.

<i>Crimes, Beat 13X</i>	<i>5/14 – 6/14</i>	<i>This period last year</i>
Robberies	0	0
Auto burglaries	6	4
Stolen vehicles	1	1
Residential/ Commercial burglaries	0	1

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She sees a lot of burglaries and car break-ins near the freeway.

A resident noted that the crime maps show almost no crime above Broadway except auto break-ins.

Officer Jurgens urged people, if you see something suspicious, call 777-3333, tell them about it. Even if the suspicious persons are gone when the officer arrives, it's worth reporting for the picture of activity in the area.

Neighborhood issues

Officer Jurgens noted that some people cruise around, just looking for likely targets; they can smash windows with a spark plug and get away in seconds.

Chris Jackson asked to address the meeting. He introduced himself as the manager of the Rockridge District Association, and said it is trying to get cameras along College Avenue. Nestle's put 18 cameras up, and fenced off their parking lots; crime there has stopped. Before the fence they had 21 cars broken into, despite full camera coverage and a parking attendant; the fence stopped it. Trader Joe's and Pharmaca don't want to put in cameras. They're afraid they'll offend customers. The RDA is asking people to write to Trader Joe's and Pharmaca *corporate offices* to ask them to put in cameras. The managers at Trader Joe's can't act on this, you'll have to write to corporate. They'd like to get as many cameras as possible: cameras help catch auto burglars.

Programs for Sexually Exploited Minors – Christopher Watson, BAWAR

Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR) is the Alameda County rape crisis center, founded in 1971 after a rape incident where everything was done wrong. They run four programs for rape survivors.

- Rape kit support – this happens at Highland Hospital. Highland is the only hospital in the county that handles forensic rape investigations. BAWAR dispatches a person to Highland when they are notified of a rape investigation, to support the survivor.
- Hotline – They maintain a 24/7 hotline for anyone who's been assaulted, no matter how long ago. The hotline is also used for sexual abuse of minors; any caller gets 30 minutes of crisis intervention.
- Accompaniment programs – a BAWAR representative accompanies survivors to court dates, and other situations where having a sympathetic person near would be helpful.
- SEM – He personally works with Sexually Exploited Minors (but also adults in prostitution). His team is on the street with law enforcement, to make sure the exploited person is supported. Most SEMs are also sexual assault survivors. BAWAR can provide water, a little food, a little comfort, maybe a pair of sweat pants. Survivors are often scantily dressed. You can't provide everything they need.

How does this impact ordinary citizens? The average age of a sexually exploited minor is 12-14. They are recruited either by a pimp (or exploiter), or by another kid who's being exploited. Where there is sexual exploitation, there is also crime.

Q: as a father, what should I look for?

Mr. Watson: There are 4 kinds of exploiters.

- Romeo pimp – a boy says I love you, etc., then says do this if you love me. They are usually but not always older males.

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- Guerrilla pimp – exploits through brute force.
- Family exploitation – not all relatives are benign.
- Peer exploitation – some exploiters are quite young.

If your child is around an older male and you don't know why, that's a bad sign. If someone goes to a hospital for sexual assault, they may also be exploited. If they have more money than they should have, that may be a sign.

Q: Is rape kit testing an issue?

A: It's better here than it is in San Francisco right now. If an assault is reported within 72 hours, they'll do a rape kit investigation. The kits are stored, but there may not be funding to test them, or there may not be a match for the DNA. There's legislation in process to ensure kits are tested. Most assaults are by someone the victim knows, and/or by a serial rapist.

Mike Ubell commented that the Alameda County District Attorney started a program on this. He also asked what part of BAWAR's work is funded by Measure Y? And how many clients does BAWAR serve?

Mr. Watson: All of it is funded by Measure Y, and now by Measure Z. We serve 200-250 clients a year – that is, 200 juveniles. We support children who are assaulted in Oakland but they may not be from Oakland. There's more sexual exploitation of minors in Oakland than in other cities or areas in California. Technically, BAWAR is funded only to help children exploited in Oakland, but they are exploited here even if they were brought in, and so can be served.

Q: If someone goes to Kaiser or Alta Bates for a rape report, they'd be redirected to Highland?

Mr. Watson: Yes. There are things related to assault that can be done other places but only Highland can do the rape kit.

Q: I've heard that rape prevention training is a very powerful experience.

Mr. Watson: Rape prevention training is not funded right now, but it is a good program. One in four women will be assaulted in her lifetime. A confident woman is less likely to be assaulted.

The meeting thanked Mr. Watson for his information.

Priorities

Molly Singer asked if the Miles & Clover issues rise to become a priority.

The Clover resident responded that Officer Hutzol is aware of the situation and working on it. He has told them there's no trespass law for CalTrans property, so transients can build little structures – there's an illegal 2 story structure up there now. The meeting did not add the priority.

The NCPC decided to remove the priority about speeding on Lawton above Broadway, as no one has asked about it in 3 months.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

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NCPC Priorities for June 2015

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* (?) a *Call reduction project* for the beat. Remember that 12Y and 13X are only part of beats 12 and 13.

12Y:

1. *NCPC Priority*: No current priority.
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*: No current priority.
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 9, 2015** at 7:30 PM
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See you there and stay safe!

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