

Greater Rockridge NCPC Meeting Agenda (12Y/13X)
Thursday, August 9, 2012
Seneca Center for Education and Training, 6925 Chabot Road, 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 7:04 PM and introduced Erik Rasmussen from KTVU-TV. He announced that parts of the meeting would be recorded, so people could leave if they object to that. No one left. Officer Balaoro will not attend tonight. NCPC board members introduced themselves, and then Officer Donald Lane gave the PSO report.

Joint OPD Report, beats 12Y and 13X

Robberies in the area remain an issue, numbers have gone up in the last 30 days. (*Ed. Note: if 2 numbers are given separated by a slash, they represent numbers for 12Y / 13X*):

- Robberies 22, 16 armed / 0
- burglaries 24 (15 auto) / not given
- stolen vehicles 6 / 5
- thefts 5 / 1
- assaults 11 / 2
- no homicides in either beat

When we asked if anyone was present from 13X, half a dozen people raised their hands.

Q: why is there so much robbery? A: BART. Criminal activity centers on BART stations. 90% of non-business robberies are people walking along, talking on a cellphone, not paying attention.

Resident: There's easy highway on/off here. "We had 3 burglaries in 1 week when people were home on Shafter, a high traffic volume area, in the middle of the day, taking jewelry, silver. It's a big change in the neighborhood, I've lived there 23 years. We know each other, we watch out; these guys are working in teams, they come in trucks. We don't know what the response is except to come here and say, we aren't safe. Also we had 3 robberies in 1 week. We encourage people to report *everything*." What do the police do if a home burglary alarm goes off? And how do we work with the PSO if we think we're being cased?

Officer Lane: OPD response depends on where the officer is when it goes off. A call saying, someone is breaking into my house now, will get top priority response. Police won't come for a burglary call where the guy is gone and you have no information: at that point, fill in the online form. We do what we can, if you see patterns of behavior and odd actions call us, we all have to work on it. We need evidence: license plates, color of car, time of day, how many people.

Resident: "I work at St. Augustine Parish, there's a very aggressive panhandler there, and they've called police 3 times. What can police do? And what rights do I have if he comes after me?" They had to stop handing out food bags, and this guy became very angry. The panhandler assaults the man, and threatens him and the merchants when he's just shopping on College. He's threatened to "call his friends to get you", he threatened to kill a merchant's husband; at what point can he be removed from the street? Lane: if the officer doesn't see this they can't act. The threatened people have to take action; you could pursue a stay-away order for this guy. Document the harassment, get a stay-away.

Resident: "I've been at St. Augustine's 4 years, and never seen a beat cop walk up and say hi. What does OPD now do on Alcatraz? There's a private school, a public school, a women's shelter."

Officer Lane: it comes down to the district officer and district policies – our resources here are limited, we just can't do all the things you'd like to see.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

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Resident: Are the numbers up because of summer and kids out of school? *Officer Lane:* Yes, crime goes up in summer, we see that.

Resident: We've had daylight armed robberies at Telegraph & 58th. Are there gangs around there? *Officer Lane:* We can't tell just from the cars if it's gangs, it could be an angry boyfriend. Report anything you see.

Resident: Are there statistics of where in the city the police resources go? *Officer Lane:* It's based on calls for service: we have 2 operational areas. With injuries etc. there just aren't enough officers. *Resident:* Are there X squad cars and cops in a given area? *Officer Lane:* Well, there are, but it's too thin, people get moved around as things happen.

Resident: This is just frightening; we know the police are shorthanded: what can the police do, and what can we do? *Officer Lane:* call OPD for people who shouldn't be there, and suspicious incidents. Call in unfamiliar cars, get the license plates.

Resident: what happens to someone when you arrest them for, say, armed robbery? *Officer Lane:* it varies, case by case. They may go to jail, but then it depends on the judge, the situation. That's a court issue, not a police issue.

Karen Ivy interrupted the discussion with a review of the suspect description form, saying there were copies on the sign-in table and a downloadable copy on the NCPC web site. Officer Lane handed out home security checklists.

Frank Castro said, what you can do is what you're doing. You can talk to the officer, and communicate what worries you. We won't have enough officers for months, even if they do have 3 academies. It isn't that we have to fend for ourselves; but we have to do what we can, and we're about to talk about video surveillance cameras, that can produce the evidence that lets OPD prioritize. You must be able to see someone in your house before OPD can come out. We need them, they need us.

Paula Stringfellow introduced herself, as she had to leave early. She coordinates video camera purchases; the surveillance system will help the community. If you want a camera, Paula coordinates with other purchasers so you can all get a discount on the cameras and help the officers get the evidence. We need to work together.

Logitech Presentation on HD security cameras and group discounts

Eric Vernon of Logitech gave a presentation on the firm's high-definition day/night security cameras.

(Ed. Note: I took detailed notes on the same presentation at the January 2012 NCPC meeting. I refer you to [those minutes](#) for the main details, or to the [PDF on our web site](#) describing the cameras, the program, and how to get involved. The following notes are points I think were new in this presentation.)

You can buy very cheap analog camera systems at HomeDepot: they are wired, they come with lots of cables, and they don't have very good image quality.

Logitech now offers 3 cameras: standard indoor, indoor with night vision, and outdoor night vision. (Ed. Note: I think the indoor camera with night vision is new.) The products come with associated software; related smartphone apps are free. The cameras can record up to 15 frames/sec.

Mac install software still isn't available but Mr. Vernon said he has a test copy, he expects it'll be tested this fall.

Cables up to a hundred feet are available for difficult outdoor installs. They recommend shielded conduit to protect from crooks who cut wires.

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Q? Can you link cameras, and watch an intruder walk from one to another? Can we share the cameras *between households* like that? A: If you want to share passwords and work together, yes, you could link cameras in different households. The camera-to-camera tracking is really meant for use within a household.

Q: Where is the data stored, locally or in the cloud? A: Both. Cameras store data on a local SD card, and archive to a PC. The PC has to be on, and *on the same network* as the cameras; in fact it must be on the same *breaker box*. You can back cameras up to Dropbox. You can view the cameras live on web at any time. Premium service lets you go back and view earlier clips, and change settings, even without the PC application running. Because the camera plugs into the router, it becomes a networked device, it has an IP.

Q: Seneca has had trouble with smash-and-grab car break-ins on Chabot. Could this help OPD identify the perps? A: yes, a clear photo of a guy breaking into a car is evidence. It is useful.

Q: How good are they at getting license plates? A: It depends on the lighting, the car speed, the angle. Can't guarantee a clear image.

Resident: I have a system; it *only* records on motion, doesn't record if nothing's moving. I've had some problems. (The speaker suggested they talk after the meeting)

The cameras have a microphone; they ship with audio off but you can turn it on if you want to record sound.

Resident: it's as easy as screwing your toaster to your eaves! When it's aimed at the street and the lighting isn't great, the images are iffy; at night people in motion are a blur. What the camera does is BE VISIBLE. It's got 3 big red lights. Nothing has happened on his block since he put them up because they're THERE and people know they may be recorded.

BART Police Department report (if in attendance)

No one from BART was in attendance.

Setting of Priorities

The group decided to add the robberies and muggings at 58th and Telegraph, and the rash of home burglaries on Shafter.

Priorities for August 2012:

12Y:

1. Cafe/restaurant robberies on College
2. Uptick in robberies and muggings 58th and Telegraph
3. Rash of home burglaries on Shafter
4. Noise issues with the Hut

13X:

1. Muggings in Ocean View.

Meetings are the SECOND Thursday of the month.

*Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 13, 2012** at 7:00 PM
Rockridge Library Community Room, College & Manila*

See you there and stay safe!

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