

Greater Rockridge NCPC (12Y/13X) - Minutes
Thursday, August 13, 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

Molly Singer opened the meeting at 7:35 PM. Mike Ubell and Barbara Minton were unable to attend. Officer Hutzol (beat 12 CRO) was present, as was Patricia Rose (Neighborhood Services Coordinator). Officer Jurgens (beat 13 CRO) was on vacation. Twelve people attended.

Priorities

Residents report that robberies seem to be picking up. Officer Hutzol said he is aware and is working on the issue. The meeting agreed to make no change to the priorities.

Speakers

Cathy Leonard of the Community Policing Advisory Board canceled at the last minute due to personal issues.

The speaker was Anthony Finnell, Executive Director of the Citizens Police Review Board (CPRB). He was accompanied by Dr. Timothy Knight, policy analyst. He explained that the CPRB has 2 goals:

1. Investigate citizen complaints against the police
2. Evaluate policies (and possibly suggest new ones).

The CPRB has 12 citizen members of the board, 5 investigators, and hopes to hire some civilian intake technicians soon. Three of the investigators are lawyers, as are some of the board commissioners.

When the CPRB investigates citizen complaints, they may refer them to the board for a decision, or they may make an administrative closure and present that to the board. The board can accept the administrative closure or choose to have a hearing on the issue. The goal is to have more people looking at the evidence, and talking to the complainers. Over time they hope to build trust in the process, act as an oversight agency for the Oakland Police Department, and finally build trust between the police and the community.

Projects currently under way at the CPRB include developing a strategic plan; developing board bylaws (with community input); and working on mediation as well as full investigation. Mediation works well on "demeanor" cases – it's hard to qualify the meaning of "the officer was rude to me." Officers have to work in the neighborhoods and work with citizens, and everybody needs to understand the rules for both sides. The goal is to get both parties to hear each other and be respectful; they don't have to agree.

They hope to hire enough intake technicians to handle all walk-in complaints. Currently citizens can also go directly to the police Internal Affairs Division (IAD). CPRB wants to have all complaints come to them first. They can then review the complaints and hand them on to IAD. CPRB investigates complaints independent of the IAB; it answers to the city administrator, not the police chief. They work through differences with the city administrator as needed.

Mr. Finnell's talk is part of the board's effort to get back into the community and make itself known. CPRB should receive both complaints and compliments; they pass compliments on to make sure the compliment gets to the officer.

Q: How many complaints do you get each month? Is it worse now than before? What kind of outcomes do you see?

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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A: Complaints are down across the board. The main reason is the PDRDs (*personal digital recording devices*, or body cameras) now worn by most officers. The board gets fewer frivolous complaints because there's a video record of the exchange. Officers can get into trouble if their cameras are not on. If officer is out of line, the camera is there to provide a record.

They've investigated many more cases this year than last year – 93 this year to date versus 47 for all of last year. Prior to February, the IAD didn't send over every case, as they should do; the CPRB only got a subset of complaints. Now they see everything; this only changed in February.

Q: What kind of outcomes do you expect?

A: Some people think the outcome is correct if the allegation is sustained. CPRB personnel try to reach the proper, correct disposition by following the evidence. If an officer did what was claimed, but the officer was following rules and policies, the officer will be exonerated. In this case they'd go back to the complainer and explain the rules and policies the officer followed. If the officer was in the wrong, they may sustain the complaint and recommend discipline.

If they can't establish what happened, they will not sustain the complaint - they won't sustain if they can't prove. A case like this might go to mediation.

Q: How do you get mediators?

A: All CPRB investigators must be able to conduct mediation. Four investigators are trained mediators; they work with a third party for additional outside mediators. Complaints don't go to mediation if the officer has been in mediation in the last year, or if they've had several sustained complaints. Mediation *doesn't* go on the officer's record. All parties have to agree to mediation; they use a panel of several mediators. Mediation is considered successful if everyone participates. If an officer refuses to cooperate with mediation, CPRB will assign the case to a new investigator. If a citizen refuses to cooperate with mediation, the case is closed.

Q: How long has the CPRB existed? What's your background?

A: CPRB has existed for over 30 years. Mr. Finnell was brought in as Executive Director last July (2015). He previously served as the Supervising Investigator for the Independent Police Review Authority in Chicago, Illinois, overseeing the areas of case assignment, misconduct complaint review, investigation compliance, and recommendations for suspension for the Chicago Police Department. Prior to this role, Mr. Finnell served as a Sergeant for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) for more than 23 years, where one of his most notable accomplishments was his introduction and implementation of the O.K. Program. The law enforcement based mentoring program, O.K., fosters strategic alliances between the Indianapolis Public School system, the business community, and the Indianapolis Police Department. In addition, he oversaw the Indianapolis School Liaison Officers and developed strategic alliances between the public schools, business, community, and the police department. Mr. Finnell also previously owned a private investigation and security company. He and Dr. Knight were homicide partners; also worked in chief's office in community relations.

Q: How do you handle the 100+ languages in Oakland?

A: One investigator speaks Spanish and English; one speaks Cantonese and English. Investigators can also use the "language line" to get other languages translated. They haven't had to use the translation service yet; so far English and Cantonese have been enough. They're reaching out to other groups across the city.

The board now has a much better mixture of genders, ages, and ethnic backgrounds than it had before. They need that diversity when looking at existing policy and creating new policy – a broad perspective is useful. They work with the chief to make sure he and his staff understand and support the policy.

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Q: How often does the CPRB meet?

A: Twice a month at a minimum, the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. The case load has doubled or tripled, so he may add another meeting.

Molly Singer asked Mr. Finnell how people contact him. Mr. Finnell handed out business cards.

A: Our contact information is on the brochure on the table. We work for the public. We are drafting board bylaws at public retreats. Community members have gone through the bylaws draft line by line; we will have another retreat next Wednesday evening. We'll work with community members all the way to the final draft. The Council will have to approve the bylaws, but the community is helping write them.

OPD Status Reports, 12Y and 13X

Officer Hutzol reported for beat 13X. In the July-August period, 13X had 1 robbery, 5 burglaries, and 4 auto burglaries. Year to date, 13X has had 22 robberies, 19 burglaries, and 22 auto burglaries.

<i>Beat 13X</i>	<i>Year to date</i>	<i>July-August</i>
Robberies	22	1
Burglaries	19	5
Auto burglaries	22	4

[*Ed. Note:* I'm not at all sure I didn't mistype the number of robberies for beat 13X, year to date. My separate crime records suggest that the correct number is 2. I've asked Officer Hutzol to confirm, but he's a busy man and hasn't responded yet.]

For perspective, Officer Hutzol decided this time to give comparable statistics for Beat 12Y and the rest of the city, over the July-August period and 2015 to date. He also included last year's stats for beat 12Y.

<i>Beat 12Y</i>	<i>July-August 2015 / 2014</i>	<i>Year to date 12Y</i>	<i>12Y 2014</i>	<i>Year to date Oakland</i>
Robberies	6 (5 armed) / 7	40 (all types)	27 (18 armed)	1,844 (mostly armed)
Burglaries	14 / 5	64	37	1,270
Auto burglaries	30 / 19	127	80	

Beat 12Y has 1.2% of Oakland's robberies. It feels bad but other places are worse. Last year (2014) saw 2,013 robberies citywide, and 1,878 burglaries. Beat 10, just west of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, has had 40 robberies in 2015 to date; last year at this time it had had 45. Yesterday alone, East Oakland had 17 armed robberies. OPD puts a ton of resources in Rockridge to keep it safe.

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Five percent of Oakland burglaries happen in beat 12Y. The 64 burglaries this year to date, against last year's 37 for the same time period, represent before and after Proposition 47. Proposition 47 essentially made burglary a misdemeanor. The residential and auto burglary numbers also reflect Proposition 47. Property crime went up all over the state after Proposition 47 passed. Proposition 47 released something like 7,000 non-violent petty offenders (purse snatchers, etc.), who went back to petty theft as soon as they were out.

A huge police surveillance effort on people of interest recently led to numerous arrests. Investigators actually saw the beginning of a robbery, called in Patrol, and arrested 3 men with guns. The men are tied to 4 robberies in Rockridge and half a dozen in Adams Point. There have been no robberies since they were arrested. We're monitoring Area 2, we know the robbers are coming here from East Oakland and from Ghost Town.

Burglaries are now harder to deter. Burglary is now a citation, not a felony. The library parking lot is still terribly lighted, hence all the car break-ins. If parking lots put in lights, auto burglaries stop happening.

Chris Jackson of the Rockridge District Association (RDA) reported that the City of Oakland "deems the lighting acceptable" in the library parking lot. The city says it has no money to improve the lighting. The library has 5 non-working cameras now and would like to get them working, and get more. The RDA hopes to be able to put cameras on the back end of Restaurant Chu.

Q: is there crime around BART?

A: Yes, there was a big uptick of crime on Presley – BART commuters park there. They leave stuff in cars, the cars get broken into. Officer Hutzol asked BART Police to patrol the area between 7 and 9 AM and the auto burglaries numbers from there are now down.

Q: What about the parking lot at Pleasant Valley Safeway?

A: That's in beat 9, a different officer is responsible. I used to work Beat 9. There are huge numbers of burglaries in that lot. The community has asked Safeway to put cameras up, but so far only the banks have cameras. Safeway refuses to put in cameras at 51st and Pleasant Valley, but has installed them at 6300 College, that lot now has cameras.

Chris Jackson reported that there are 14 car burglaries a week at the Safeway on Pleasant Valley.

Officer Hutzol reported that the Safeway on College now has cameras and a security guard, so burglaries and auto thefts are way down. Auto theft is unusual for a parking lot.

Officer Hutzol has also been working on a bike lane on College Avenue. It's actually going to happen. That was a priority a few months ago. [Ed. Note: there are now bike lanes in the single block next to the BART station.]

A resident complained about the right arrow in front of the Bank of America building at College and Claremont. Drivers are turning right on the green light, and not waiting for the right-turn arrow which is delayed. This is endangering pedestrians.

NCPC Priorities for August 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*. CROs 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:

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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, September 10, 2015** at 7:30 PM
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See you there and stay safe!

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