

**Greater Rockridge  
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes  
Thursday, December 14, 2017  
Rockridge Masonic Hall, 5449 College  
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

**Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):**

Michael Ubell – Chair  
Barbara Minton – Vice Chair  
Eric Neville - Treasurer  
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

Mike Ubell opened the meeting at 7:35 pm, and the NCPC officers introduced themselves. Twenty-two people attended the meeting.

**Oakland Police Department Status Report, Beat 12Y**

Officer David Mac presented crime statistics. Between August 1 and December 1, beat 12Y had 8 robberies, compared to 121 robberies in all of Area 2 (North Oakland). Over the last few months, burglaries are down and robberies are up. The CROs and Patrol are doing more surveillance near the Rockridge Library because of persistent auto burglaries. They find that the criminals tend to work in groups, which go all over the city; so to catch one here may reduce auto burglaries elsewhere. They find that most of the cars broken into are from out of the area. If criminals break into a *locked* car, that's a felony, but it can be charged as a misdemeanor.

**Oakland Police Department Status Report, Beat 13X**

Officer Kristine Jurgens-Duenas reported 1 robbery in beat 13X in the last 4 months, at Broadway and Monroe around 4 PM; there were 2 victims, and the assailant had a gun. Be alert when walking; robbers look for people who aren't paying attention.

Beat 13X also had 4 residential burglaries and 15 auto burglaries, mainly cars parked on Broadway. One assault was reported – a motorcyclist claimed that a car swerved at him with intent. One murder was reported.

Rik Belew of OpenOakland has compared OPD's crime data with the data collected on <http://oakcrime.org>, and found it very similar, with a few exceptions. In particular beat 13X showed 2 incidents in the patrol logs that were not in the official data list, he's trying to determine how that happened. It's probably a more general issue, but he wondered if the CROs could help figure that out. The CROs didn't reply at once.

**Resident:** What about abandoned autos? There's an abandoned car on Colby by 63<sup>rd</sup> (for 9 weeks now), a blue Pontiac. He's reported it twice and keeps getting messages about "backlogs." The car has never been ticketed. The tag expired 6 months ago. How does he talk to a person about this? It's in the way of pruning the street trees (for which he's responsible), and it has to be moved. What's his recourse?

Officer Mac: Email me, and I'll look into it. Chris Jackson commented that if the car was stolen, it'll be towed the same day. Another resident said she would check on that.

**IMPORTANT RESOURCES:**

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

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A third resident noted that there's another abandoned car on Kales. Officer Mac: the Abandoned Auto detail has 4 technicians, they work 10 hour days, and each tow takes 2 hours. Each tech can do about 5 cars a day. Officer Jurgens-Duenas said that the Community Resource Officers can take care of this for you.

Resident: there's an issue with kids crossing Broadway Terrace between 8 and 8:20 AM and the school, at the 4 way intersection (Broadway, Hermosa, Golden Gate). People miss the stop sign, and the crosswalk is really faded. Can OPD do anything about this? Officer Jurgens-Duenas said they can take a look at the situation, be there a few days a week, and alert Patrol to the problem. The NCPC will make this a priority for December.

### **Priorities**

New priority for beat 13X: the issue with children going to school, crossing Broadway Terrace at Hermosa, between 8:00 and 8:20 AM.

New priority for beat 12Y: auto burglaries near Rockridge Library.

### **Burglary Prevention**

Paul Liu introduced himself as a board member of [SaferRockridge](#). The group formed 4 years ago, shortly after the Rockridge carpool robberies on Hudson. It is non-profit but donations are not tax deductible; it contracts with a private security patrol company to patrol Lower Rockridge. Mr. Liu initially crowdfunded via email to fund a few months of patrol. The effort was very successful, producing 661 contributions. They raised \$57,000 to cover 4 months of patrols, north and south of Highway 24. After the original patrol company pulled out, they formed the nonprofit to make *one* contract with one firm, currently PPS. They receive voluntary contributions from area residents. The patrol officers are *not* armed. Drivers patrol an area roughly equivalent to police beat 12Y (west of Broadway), with a few extra corners. They provide mainly visual deterrence. Patrollers won't intercede unless imminent bodily harm seems threatened *and* it appears safe for them to do. SaferRockridge also offers vacation watch and safety escorts. Patrol hours vary with funding and staffing.

Other neighborhoods are also banding together to hire private patrols, including Upper Rockridge, lower Montclair, Crocker, etc. Some groups also approach local businesses for sponsorships; this produces some money, but most comes from community donations. The SaferRockridge web site is [www.saferrockridge.org](http://www.saferrockridge.org), you can donate there, or sign up for their weekly newsletter. They encourage recurring donations, and also take checks. The group is run by volunteers, and most money goes to fund patrols. Please check the boundaries of each association to know whether your membership or donations will cover your home location.

SaferRockridge worked with Rik Belew, of OpenOakland, a few years ago, to analyze Rockridge crime trends. They saw a 30% decline in robberies & burglaries in the area coinciding with the beginning of the patrols, but there isn't enough evidence to prove that the patrols caused the decrease.

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**Resident:** The patrollers travel awfully fast, and the cars aren't clearly marked; they're invisible.

**Paul Liu:** yes, that is an issue. This is a work in progress. We've had the conversation with PPS multiple times, SaferRockridge has the same concerns you mention.

**Q:** What's the average funding?

**Paul Liu:** we average about \$8,000/month in donations, which pays for patrols by 2 men, working 16 hour days. Individual donation amounts vary.

### **Upper Rockridge Neighborhood Association**

Gordon Jacobs reported that URNA formed about the same time as SaferRockridge, and they are not identical. URNA is membership based, with monthly dues. Like SaferRockridge, they subcontract to patrol services. The challenge for both groups is to get neighbors involved, as some already pay for patrols, and some freeload. Earlier this year URNA's subcontracted patrol service disappeared. Their hours were limited to 30-40 per week, mainly in the daytime. The group decided to form a strategic partnership with Bay Alarm, which already covers a lot of houses in the area. Membership is \$30/month, neighbors sign up for the service. If you join, the first month is free, and members get discounts on Bay Alarm products. Bay Alarm patrols 24/7 and the cars have GPS; Bay Alarm provides web sites so members can see where the cars are, and URNA accounts get more access to information. For more information, please visit the URNA website: <http://www.URNA-oak.org>

### **Bay Alarm**

Lia Duncan and Paul Perez, from Bay Alarm, spoke to the group. Bay Alarm has patrolled for URNA for about 4 months now. They do most of what SaferRockridge does, because OPD is understaffed. Private patrols and alarm systems back the police up. Daytime is when burglaries happen. You have to protect your own home. Keep bushes, trees, hedges and trimmed. Paul asked if anyone does National Night Out. He recommended that neighborhoods do National Night Out; get to know your neighbors, keep an eye on things. If you know your neighbors, you know who should be around. Keep your drapes closed. Don't leave signs suggesting that nobody's home. Crooks will go to a house and knock on the door; if there's no answer, they go around and break in. Lighting is important, keep the outside lighted. Motion sensitive lights on the perimeter help; so do timer lights in the house, and leaving a radio or TV on. Don't leave ladders next to the house or near windows; keep ladders locked indoors. Garbage cans give access, burglars climb on them to reach windows. Private patrols are a deterrent. The hills get criminal activity because it takes police longer to get to some homes. You don't have to have Bay Alarm systems installed to be a member of URNA.

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Locks are important – American National Standards Institute (ANSI) grades commercial locks on a scale of 1, 2, and 3. Grade 3 is the toughest, it can survive 2 blows with 190 lb. behind them. Don't leave things visible and accessible. Make the house less desirable – alarm company signage helps, trimmed bushes they can't hide behind, visible camera systems. Some Bay Alarm customers have camera systems covering whole blocks. Ms. Duncan noted that OPD can't and won't look at video footage unless it's watermarked.

Mike Ubell said, OPD can and does look at video to identify suspects, *without* concern for watermarks. They may or may not take the video to court. The NCPC has not heard of a requirement to watermark security video.

Auto burglaries happen everywhere. Criminals cruise the same areas looking for marks; they want easy access. Don't leave anything visible in the car. Private CCTV systems, alarm systems, and patrols are all deterrents. URNA's \$30 a month includes vacation coverage, and patrols with lights on cars. Bay Alarm cars are a very visible red and white. Most of their patrol officers are not armed but one is.

Paul Perez explained that they had demos available, for people to view, of alarm systems, motion detectors, and contacts on doors. Their systems have interior sirens and external bells, so neighbors can hear. Owners can view their wireless cameras remotely.

**Q:** Do you still do hard wiring or is it all wireless?

**A:** We prefer hard wiring, but a lot of houses have closed walls, and the owners don't want holes drilled in windows. Where we can't run wires, we have to use wireless. Wireless is cheaper.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 PM.

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**Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for December 2017**

**Beat 12Y:**

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Auto burglaries near Rockridge Library.

**Beat 13X:**

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Children going to school, crossing Broadway Terrace at Hermosa, are in danger from traffic between 8:00 and 8:20 AM.

*Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council meetings  
are normally the SECOND Thursday of even-numbered months.  
Next meeting **Thursday, February 8, 2018** at 7:30 PM  
Rockridge Library, College and Manila  
See you there and stay safe!*

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