

**Greater Rockridge NCPC (12Y/13X) – Agenda**  
**Thursday, October 13, 2016**  
**Rockridge Library, College and Manila**  
**General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

**NCPC:**

Michael Ubell – Chair  
Barbara Minton – Vice Chair  
<open> - Treasurer  
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

Barbara Minton opened the meeting at 7:35 PM, as Mike Ubell was unable to attend. No OPD officers were present. The NCPC officers introduced themselves, as did Patricia Rose, the Neighborhood Services Coordinator. Eleven people attended the meeting.

**Farrah Hussein, Neighborhood Law Corps**

Ms. Hussein introduced herself as a relatively new attorney in the Neighborhood Law Corp, a division of the City Attorney's office. She works mainly on nuisance abatement. There is one attorney for each of the 5 Oakland police districts. Ms. Hussein is currently litigating 3 massage parlors, for human trafficking. She may also deal with blighted properties, gang abatement, absentee property owners (for hotels and rental housing), and illegal dumping. The goal is to hold offenders accountable.

Barbara Minton (NCPC vice chair) asked how to keep people from dumping stuff on her property. They come late at night, in trucks, and often leave construction debris. Dumping happens about every 6 weeks. She has a box of ceramic tiles, and has had wet cement dumped. Her house is on 63rd Street, next door to Nude Sushi and the Thai restaurant on Telegraph. The restaurant owners don't want to discuss the issue.

A: Illegal dumping is very hard to prosecute for lack of proof. They once got a couple of videos of the dumpers in action, but the vehicle was stolen. You can and should report this to Public Works, anonymously if you want. The best tool to catch illegal dumpers is a camera, cameras sometimes deter them. The city can't clean up dumping on private property; the owner has to clean it up.

Q: How about a fence?

A: You might try a motion detector with a light, or a light and a camera?

A resident said that Netgear offers a wireless camera you can clamp onto a gutter with a magnet.

Q: Do you deal with noise issues?

A: Yes, do you have an issue?

Q: Yes, motorcycles with (probably) illegal exhausts roar by all the time, can we do anything about that?

A: We can prosecute properties, it's harder to prosecute the motorcyclists. If you had a photo of the license plate, that would help.

**IMPORTANT RESOURCES:**

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

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A resident noted that we have to take care of ourselves, and we have to report things, because the police are overwhelmed. It can get ugly, but we're in charge of us.

Ms. Hussein commented that reporting crimes helps OPD prioritize and assign resources. They focus on areas with a lot of reports of crimes. The police response may not be immediate, but in the future. DO report issues, it goes into the statistics. She can't prosecute a problem if there have been NO official reports of nuisances. Nextdoor is a good for neighborhood communication, but it can't be used in court. Use online sites like [SeeClickFix](#) [Ed. Note: put the phone app on your smartphone if you have one] or OPD's [online crime reporting web site](#).

A resident noted that, at a meeting in another district, SeeClickFix representatives said they want to get ALL the calls, so they can funnel them to the correct department. Someone complained that we keep getting CLOSED notices on issues that aren't really closed. Chris Jackson (Rockridge District Association) said he thinks some of the Public Works staff go through SeeClickFix and just close items. Call back or repost as needed.

Q: How useful is video?

A: Very useful, we use video all the time. The person who took it may have to appear in court to authenticate it.

Q: How about mail theft?

Ms. Hussein said she doesn't handle mail theft. An officer from a neighboring NCPC said you should report the mail theft to OPD first, online, and then pass the incident number on to [the postal authorities](#). This is a new procedure (we used to go straight to the postal authorities) because mail theft has been getting much worse. Patricia Rose says you can now report mail and package theft online. [Ed. Note: mail theft is in the third box down on the crime reporting page; the box is labeled *Theft, Burglary*. It is *not* in the box labeled *Bad Checks, Forgery, Identity Theft*.]

A resident commented that people give up on a system if they report issues that are never followed up, and everything seems disconnected. This causes report fatigue.

Q: How do you think your work is going?

A: Great, I've been there 6 months, and filed 3 lawsuits against 3 massage parlors. Massage parlors *are* organized crime; they are part of a national human trafficking ring. NLC tries to attach both properties and business owners (mainly Korean and Chinese). We sue civilly; fines can run \$1,000 per day. The DA handles the criminal side. Oakland has 2 NLC attorneys assigned to focus entirely on human trafficking. A seminar we attended suggests that such a business may generate \$700,000 in cash every year.

Q: Have many women, girls, and boys been rescued?

A: We see almost no males on the sexual trafficking side, mainly females of all ages.

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Massage parlors are licensed businesses. I'm building a relationship with the massage parlor regulation agency, so we can keep them from getting a license if they aren't regulated. The San Francisco Bay Area, specifically Oakland, is a major center of sexual trafficking. Frequently a business owner will sell the business to someone else to avoid injunctions.

Q: Are these business licenses fraudulent?

Chris Jackson (RDA) interjected that the Business License division in Oakland doesn't do its job correctly, and doesn't enforce properly.

Q: Do you work with federal authorities?

A: Yes, regularly. Federal authorities and State authorities also work on human trafficking, in fact the Attorney General just arrested the CEO of *Backpage.com*, a site which advertises prostitution.

The city does have a nuisance eviction process for a problem tenant, if needed. We can also use drug nuisance abatement for problem tenants (but maybe not for marijuana any more).

## **Priorities**

Beats 12Y and 13X have no priorities at the moment.

The attendees discussed mail theft as an ongoing problem but didn't request a priority. Mail theft is scattered around the neighborhood, there's no clear focus. Christmas is coming, which means packages on the porch. When you order goods from Amazon, if the package vanishes, complain to them, they have to replace it. Report unsafe delivery practices to Amazon, some Amazon contractors are not professional.

A resident reported a possible priority, a new scam. An older person recently left the new Safeway on College, and was flagged by driver of an older model red car. The other driver said, you dinged my car, pay me not to go to the insurance company. The older person drove off without paying, but others might not. This scam has been reported to the police and sent directly to Officer Hutzol. There's nothing behind this except intimidation, the older driver had not hit the other car.

A resident reported another scam. An older woman driving to the airport heard a couple at the side of the road yelling "your tire is about to come off"! We can help you." She panicked and pulled over and they fiddled with her tires. Then they tried to charge her \$400.

Chris Jackson (RDA) warned residents about a stocky white man in the neighborhood who pushes a wheelchair filled with his property. He seems to be a sexual predator, and was recently found naked near the library. He also used to smear feces in library bathrooms, that's why they're locked. Not all "5150s" are harmless.

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**OPD Reports**

No OPD officers attended meetings, so there was no police report. Chris Jackson (RDA) reported that crime is down. Shane (a local belligerent homeless man) has calmed down a lot recently, but he refused housing.

Karen Ivy announced an election at the December meeting to make changes to the NCPC bylaws and elect a new Treasurer, Eric Neville.

**NCPC Priorities for October 2016**

**12Y:**

1. *NCPC Priority:* No current priority.

**13X:**

1. *NCPC Priority:* No current priority.

*NCPC meetings are normally the SECOND Thursday of even-numbered months.*  
*Next meeting **Thursday, December 8, 2016** at 7:30 PM*  
*Rockridge Library, College and Manila*  
*See you there and stay safe!*

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