

Greater Rockridge NCPC (12Y/13X) Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 21, 2013
Seneca Center for Children & Families, 6925 Chabot Road
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 7:05 and introduced himself and the other NCPC officers. Twenty-two people attended, including six OPD officers and a civilian crime analyst.

Assistant Chief Anthony Toribio

[Ed. Note: I took down what the Assistant Chief said as best I could but he talks very fast, and I may not have caught everything he said. He has reviewed this for accuracy. A few internal notes contain information about changes which he supplied during the review process.]

Assistant Chief Toribio began by saying he has been with OPD for over 23 years. He was Area 1 commander (which included 12Y and 13X) a few years ago. He is now Assistant Chief, and oversees daily operations including all the PSOs and uniformed officers in Patrol. He thanked Frank Castro and the NCPC for invitation. He then introduced PSOs Lane (beat 12) and Trode (beat 13), acting supervisor John Perrodin, and Lt. Robert Chan, the swing shift watch commander.

He proposed to present the management perspective on where OPD is right now: cops, consultants, crime, community, compliance.

Staffing is an issue. OPD's authorized level is 613 officers, down from 803 when he was area 1 commander. This shortage is the biggest challenge in fighting and investigating crime, and providing service. The Police Academy currently in progress will graduate 41 trainees (down from 55) on March 22nd; the graduates will then take field training for 16 weeks, and be on the street as solo officers, in July. [Ed. Note: the academy is down to 38 trainees as of 3/15.] On 3/25 a new Academy with 56 trainees will start. The city has plans for a third Academy in September; OPD is currently doing oral interviews for that academy. OPD is also getting help from the California Highway Patrol (which has been providing additional services since Nov 1, and will now stay another 60 days starting 2/1) and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office (for 90 days starting 2/1). These extra services provide at least 5 cars per night (four nights a week), with 2 officers per car, in East and West Oakland. They concentrate on fighting gun violence and sideshow activity.

In January of this year, the patrol division was reorganized from six police districts to five. This was done for two reasons: 1) low staffing levels and 2) reduce need to utilize acting supervisors.

OPD management was still concerned about control, because the span of control for captains under the old system was too great to hold them accountable – captains had 3 districts (each district having 7-8 beats), and 24/7 responsibility. The Assistant Chief was concerned about command oversight with such a great span of control. Initially, Dept. considered going back to a 3 watch system, day, swing, and grave yard, with a captain responsible for each *watch*, and bringing all of patrol back from Eastmont to 7th Street. They reviewed the proposed change and after discussions with the outside consultants (Strategic Policy Partnership [Bob Wasserman]), who said that current national standards recommended geographic rather than watch-based systems. The consultants recommended assigning a captain to each district—smaller more manageable area. They plan to beta test this arrangement in districts 4 and 5, in East Oakland, beginning March 1, 2013. [Ed. Note: the beta test start date slipped to March 16.] They expect these changes to improve accountability and consistency and strengthen community relations.

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Dispatch calls for service often overwhelm officers. OPD is considering a call reduction strategy they hope would reduce dispatch calls (roughly 15%) by pushing more reporting online and changing some internal processes for dispatching officers and other administrative processes.

Crime was up in 2012 and Chief Jordan is committed to reducing crime. He has implemented several strategies to reduce crime, including working more collaboratively with our federal law enforcement agencies such as the ATF and FBI to reduce gun violence. Oakland is committed to Ceasefire and we have begun using this strategy in East Oakland and will expand it into every police district.

The consultants, Bob Wasserman and Bill Bratton, were hired to do three things:

1. Conduct an organizational assessment to improve efficiencies and help with compliance efforts
2. Develop a short term immediate impact crime reduction strategy
3. Develop a long term citywide crime reduction strategy.

He commented on "stop and frisk" – it's a legal tactic if the officer can articulate *reasonable suspicion to conduct a pat search. It is illegal if done without proper cause.* OPD has policies in place and provides officer training on the legal aspects of searching people.

On compliance with the NSA – the 12th quarterly report was critical of the Department. The judge directed the city and the plaintiffs to recommend a compliance director. The judge is interviewing the candidates. We expect him to name a director by the end of the month. [*Ed. Note:* Compliance Director Thomas Frazier started work in early March.] The compliance director will develop a plan and help the department get the department into compliance. The compliance director will collaborate with the monitor, and will continue auditing the Department's compliance level.

Q and A for Asst. Chief Toribio

Q: What's the difference between call-for-service and problem solving?

A: Calls-for-service is responding to calls, as in 911 or non-emergency calls. Problem solving means working on an identified problem (such as a call for service, neighborhood complaint, or NCPC priority) to resolve or reduce the problem.

Q: Describe the relationship between the compliance director, the federal monitor, and the consultant.

A: The compliance director and the monitor will collaborate. They both report to the judge. The consultants work for OPD and make recommendations to the Chief, who is responsible for implementation. In areas that directly impact the NSA, the compliance director must be consulted. However, the compliance director will be kept informed of all changes.

OPD wants professional cops who engage in constitutional policing.

Q: I'm a great supporter of the police, but I was disappointed when I read the monitor's comments on how poorly OPD has progressed toward compliance. It's very sad that so much work is still to be done after 10 years. Compliance takes time from policing. Will you and Chief Jordan be able to work to fix this? Also, on the gang injunctions, after 2 years have we any results?

A: The North Oakland injunction named 15 people, the Fruitvale injunction many more. We have no plans to expand the injunctions at this time. Anecdotally, we haven't seen a nexus in crime with those named individuals.

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A: We're 10 years into the compliance effort and very frustrated. The Settlement Agreement is with *City of Oakland*, not just OPD. OPD didn't always have complete support from city; it has it now. The Mayor and City Administrator are firmly behind compliance effort. City support makes a difference. Upgrading the risk management system is expensive but it will improve our ability to manage risk. There has been a failure of leadership at OPD – in the first 2 years, for example, we made very little progress. There were management and accountability challenges and this has changed. Compliance is not an issue for officers; it's a management issue. We are very close to compliance. In some cases technology and staffing issues have impacted our compliance efforts. In others compliance is subjective. We want to be out of the NSA, but not by compromising constitutional standards and community trust in OPD. I think the progress is irreversible now.

Q: I read the consent decree years ago and it didn't seem out of line; I'm glad you're making progress but why did it take so long?

A: We're changing our processes to meet current standards, streamline the complaint process, improve way we manage at-risk employees, and how we gather stop data more accurately. The NSA is a living document. We're trying to make it more efficient without compromising what it's trying to accomplish.

Q: What about curfews? Is it time to try curfews? Does OPD support? Does the city?

A: OPD supports curfews, we tried to move it along and failed. Recent changes in the city council may change that if revisited.

Q: Can we help? Should we call our council member?

A: Yes.

Q: How will the push for online reporting affect getting in touch with human beings during investigations?

A: We've done research, talked to investigators, and talked to other agencies. We don't think we'll lose any investigative value by pushing reports online. As we hire officers, they'll move into patrol first. On Jan. 19 we had 256 patrol officers assigned to patrol; previously wanted at least 330. Officers now have to work 8-9 OT shifts every 3 months because of short staffing. We have about 50 investigators. We need more investigators in all areas. Then there are the proactive investigative units we *used* to have: we no longer have Traffic, or Vice, and other enforcement units--all the officers were reassigned to patrol due to short staffing. The only investigating unit that increased was Internal Affairs for compliance purposes. We're trying to maximize existing resources.

Q: Do the consultants know what budgetary restrictions are?

A: Yes, they do. They understand budget and staffing, they know OPD. They are in frequent contact with the chief.

Q: What's the ideal number of officers?

A: Over 900—there have been several studies made in the past and the recommendations have been varied, but it is clear we need a significant increase in staffing. A 5-year budget recommendation called for 2 academies each year. The council has agreed to fund police academies.

OPD is facing major changes at the command level – we have expected numerous retirements within the next five years. What's the succession plan? Where do the next leaders come from? We're rotating commanders and supervisors to give them varied experience--need to train the next people who will take over. Also need to mentor future leaders.

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Q: Thanks, whatever you're doing, keep doing it. We aren't scared to go out any more.

A: That credit goes to the officers. They are doing outstanding work.

Google Crime Map

Frank Castro couldn't demonstrate his new Google crime map for beat 12Y because we couldn't access the Seneca Center wireless, but he described it and promised to send a link to the Yahoo groups. He plans to build maps for one quarter at a time.

Joint OPD Report, beats 12Y and 13X

- Problem Solving Officers Donald Lane and Jason Trode

Officer Jason Trode, the new PSO for beat 13, asked if anyone from beat 13X was there and 2 people raised their hands. Beat 13 has very little reported crime, mainly auto burglaries. Crime analyst Ms. Lea Rubio attended the meeting; she is a colleague of Marie Mason who publishes the weekly spreadsheet. Crime numbers for 13 seem very low. Is there really no crime or are people just not reporting it? He said he loves 13X, because nothing ever happens. Crime spikes in summer when kids are out, but that's months away.

Q: There was a rash of break-ins, and particularly one a while ago when an old woman was locked in her bathroom by intruders? How's that investigation going? Have there been many more?

A: There hasn't been much more, knock on wood. Home invasion burglaries are a statewide trend but in the Oakland hills, they're more likely to happen south toward the Mormon temple. But all of beat 13 has had burglary problems.

Q: On Broadway, women drop kids off at the Montessori preschool near Thomas. A couple of guys lurk in the Shell station - they run across and steal purses from the women.

A: None of that was reported; *it doesn't happen if it isn't reported*. We can't respond if it's not reported.

Officer Donald Lane, the beat 12 PSO, had a comparison of crime numbers this year to '12. Except for burglaries, numbers are down across the board. [Ed. Note: I didn't get all the numbers he gave.]

Auto burglaries: 28 by this time in '12, 18 so far in '13

Stolen vehicles: last year we had 28, this year only 16

Most burglaries are forcible entry. Thieves drive continuously around a neighborhood, watching people come and go. They watch for people leaving the house. If somebody seems to be casing your area, call it in. Use the [suspect description form](#), describe the vehicle, try to give specific details. Pictures work, take photos. If you see something suspicious, call it in.

A resident said that when leaving the house, she turns and waves to it, to imply there's someone home.

Officer Lane suggested, take photos of your jewelry, it's mostly unique. Photos will help you identify it if stolen. And write down your electronic serial numbers – iPhones, iPads, cell phones, and so forth. Ms. Rubio displayed a flyer, which explains how to do this.

Q: What about the attempted assault on 2 young girls walking on Golden Gate Ave. on Feb. 11? Is there any action on that?

Officer Trode: A citizen saw a man following 2 young girls; she told the girls to run and they ran. The man took fright and ran the other way. There was no crime reported because no crime was

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committed – it isn't illegal for a man to walk down the street behind two girls. But the neighborhood was working together and that's good.

Q: if we take photos of cruising cars, where do we send them?

A: Email them to us, email works. The photo may match something else we saw.

Ms. Rubio said that she constantly looks through the logs, looking for patterns, looking for the same car in similar areas. Patrol then looks for these cars that turn up in different areas. Let the police decide if it's important; if you think it's suspicious, call it in.

Logitech Digital Security Cameras

Paula Stringfellow reported that so far, we've sold 81 cameras. The real news is that they are now Mac compliant; the Mac installation software is ready. Many people have been waiting for that to buy. We'll send an announcement that the cameras can now be configured with Macs.

Priorities

A resident asked for a new priority for beat 13X. Eric Neville reported a recent series of burglaries on Thomas Ave by Broadway and Broadway Terrace. The area has had multiple burglaries over several months. The burglars came with ladders and went through the street, sometimes while people were out to dinner. One of them regularly walked the street carrying a bag, as if collecting recycling, but the bag was never full.

Barbara Minton reported that the illegal auto repair shop on 63rd Street is back in action and the man has threatened her.

Olga Bolotina announced that she had attended the meeting for Dan Kalb's office and would try to continue attending.

Priorities for February 2013:

12Y:

1. Late night noise from The Hut
2. The illegal auto repair shop on 63rd St. is active again
3. Robberies in the area generally
4. Burglaries in the area generally

13X:

1. Repeated burglaries on Thomas between Broadway and Broadway Terrace. There are 2 suspicious individuals, one was carrying a bag as if recycling but the bag was never full.

Meetings are the SECOND Thursday of the month.

*Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 14, 2013** at 7:00 PM
Rockridge Library Community Room, College & Manila*

See you there and stay safe!

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