

Greater Rockridge NCPC and Rockridge Community Planning Council

Annual Joint Town Hall Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 9, 2016, 7:30 PM

College Avenue Presbyterian Church (Sanctuary), 5951 College Ave.

The joint Town Hall meeting opened at 7:30 PM; Laura Schlichtmann of RCPC and Karen Ivy explained that the first part of the meeting would cover NCPC issues, and the second part would cover RCPC issues. As the policy of the RCPC is not to take minutes at its meetings, these minutes only cover the first part of the meeting.

Because of the tight schedule, the NCPC did not hold its usual discussion of NCPC priorities. The April priorities will remain in place.

New Neighborhood Law Corps Representative

Farrah Hussein introduced herself as the new Neighborhood Law Corps (NLC) attorney for Oakland Police District 2 (north Oakland). She is the lead attorney on all hotel/motel cases (both compliance and prostitution) and handles all public nuisance issues in your neighborhood. She works on blight, graffiti, prostitution, code enforcement, illegal dumping, tenant protection ordinances, and anything else that can be considered a public nuisance under the Oakland Municipal Code. Ms. Hussein handed out business cards.

OPD Reports

Community Resource Officers Hutzol (beat 12) and Jurgens (beat 13) introduced themselves, and then introduced Officer Ryan Jensen, the new walking officer for College Avenue. Officer Jensen greeted the group and handed out business cards with his cell phone, 510-882-8292. He encouraged people to call him directly for issues on College Avenue, but urged them to call 911 *first* for emergencies. The walking officers are funded by a grant and will be here while the grant money lasts. His primary responsibility is foot patrol for the business area.

Beat 13 – Officer Jurgens

Beat 13 hasn't seen much crime since the last NCPC meeting. Auto burglaries are down - 3, versus 16 in the same period last year; they mostly happen near Lake Temescal. There were 6 stolen vehicles, against 4 in the same period last year. Residential burglaries are up slightly from last year, 21 instead of 19. There seems to be a burglary hot spot around Acacia, OPD has some video evidence they're pursuing.

Q: Why can't we stop the illegal dumping that is going on constantly near Acacia, Monroe, and the golf course?

A: Keep calling SeeClickFix about it – the more people who report the dumping, the more likely it will be picked up quickly. You might consider talking to Ms. Farrah Hussein, the new NLC representative, who just spoke; illegal dumping issues are one of her specialties. The city offers rewards for help catching illegal dumpers. Officer Jurgens suggested residents call the non-emergency number (777-3333) to report illegal dumping, ask the dispatcher for the incident

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number, and send the incident number to her at KJurgens-Duenas@oaklandnet.com. You should also report it to SeeClickFix to get trash picked up.

[*Ed. Note:* See this page on the city web site for details about reporting illegal dumping: <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Reward/index.htm>]

Officer Hutzol added that general city video surveillance, which would have been part of the domain awareness program, was backed off due to citizen complaints about privacy. We also have issues at the Rockridge Library, where the parking lot has no cameras. It is a hot spot for auto burglaries. The issue with the cameras seems to be, who will see the data?

Beat 12 – Officer Hutzol

Officer Hutzol defined certain types of crime, which are often confused [*Ed. Note:* PC means “California Penal Code”]:

- Robbery (PC §211) is defined as the taking of property *from a person* by the use of force or fear.
- A residential robbery (PC §212.5) is commonly known as a “home invasion”. In a home invasion or residential robbery, *a person who lives in the house is there and faces the robber*. If nobody’s home, it’s just a burglary.
- Aggravated assault, governed by (PC §243(d) and 245), is violence between 2 or more people resulting in, or actions likely to cause, *great or grievous bodily harm or death*, a much higher bar than simple assault (governed under PC §242).

The three highest priority projects are street robberies, auto burglaries, and pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Crimes which involve a victim are treated more seriously than thefts from unattended cars or houses. Here are robbery numbers for the last few years in beat 12Y:

PC 211 (Robbery)	2012	2013	2014	2015
Yearly	64	92	40	18
Monthly average	8	7.66	3.3	3.6

The number of robberies has been dropping. In Jan. – May 2014 beat 12Y had 18 reported robberies; in the same period in 2015 there were 15 reported. In a series of recent robberies, 3 persons are now in custody. In one case, a *shoplifting* incident turned into *robbery* when a clerk tried to intervene. In general, robberies tend to happen between 8 PM and 10 PM. In 2014, robberies happened between Monday and Thursday; in 2015, robberies moved to Sunday, followed by Thursday and Friday. In 2015, robberies also moved away from the College Avenue corridor to the western residential neighborhoods. OPD has directed patrols to the new hot spots.

Auto burglaries have been less frequent up to the beginning of 2016. In Jan. – May 2015, beat 12Y had 39 reported auto burglaries, compared to 45 in the same period of 2014. Auto

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burglaries are most likely to happen along the College Avenue corridor, especially in the Rockridge Library parking lot.

Q: Do the police take evidence on burglaries again? They used to be too short staffed. They haven't come to dust my house after 2 burglaries.

A: Yes, especially if there's video surveillance evidence. Police still take fingerprint evidence, but video evidence is *much* better, especially for court evidence. Video lets experienced officers recognize local crooks from other encounters. It's very hard to get fingerprint evidence that is good enough to use in court. Also, OPD's overall priority is life over property, so shootings do get more effort and attention than burglaries. Video surveillance is *critical* for solving crimes; he can recommend a number of cheap cameras if people are interested. They had a case where a man burgled all the cars in a public garage and the whole thing was captured on video.

Q: Can cameras record both audio and video?

A: Only a private camera may record audio. A public camera isn't allowed to record audio.

Q: How are police staffing levels?

A: Staffing is much better than before, up to approximately 715 officers. The new young officers are very eager, and NextDoor is helping citizens to support the police.

Q: How can we continue this discussion?

A: Watch for the next announcement of *Coffee with a Cop*, on NextDoor and the NCPC Yahoo groups, *Rockridge Neighborhood Watch Network* and *RockridgeNCPC*.

A Safe Place – Vivian Irving, Program Manager

A Safe Place is the oldest domestic violence shelter in Oakland, in business for 40 years. They offer support to women, children and men who need a change from violent domestic situations. They offer a 24x7 crisis line.

Shelter – shelter offerings include a screening process, to ensure they only serve people made homeless by intimate partner violence. A Safe Place offers 60 to 90 days room and board free, and provides a stake when clients leave. After a 90 day stay, the clients become like family.

Services – the goal is to get clients back on their feet. To this end they offer counseling, support groups, a children's program, case management to keep focus on individual goals, legal resources, and medical services. They also train clients in job hunting skills, and how to keep jobs. Community counseling services are free when clients are considering leaving. They offer an art therapy group, and classes in jewelry making.

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Teen dating violence prevention – They work with teens to define what is a healthy relationship. Only 80% of teenagers in violent relationships realize that their relationships qualify as violent. Very few parents - only 20% - are aware that their teenagers are in violent relationships. Staff members try to consider the entire family, and all the cultures in it.

A Safe Place increasingly finds itself helping men in violent relationships. They also have male volunteers, who work to provide positive role models to clients from troubled families. Ms. Irving introduced Kevin Williams, a volunteer who works with children under 17. He said the children simply watch him to see what he'll do, or they just want to talk to him.

NCPC Priorities for June 2016 (carried from April)

12Y:

1. *NCPC Priority:* Stop sign at Ayala & Martin corner – people going onto Claremont don't stop. Add this as a priority.
2. *NCPC Priority:* Watch for encampments and parked RVs near Anthony Chabot Elementary and Claremont Middle School, especially the area around Miles & Patton.

13X:

1. *NCPC Priority:* No current priority.

*NCPC meetings are normally the SECOND Thursday of even-numbered months.
Next NCPC meeting is a joint meeting with Rockridge Community Planning Council on
Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 7:30 PM
Rockridge Library, College and Manila
See you there and stay safe!*