

**Greater Rockridge  
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X)  
Joint NCPC/RCPC Town Hall – Minutes  
Thursday, June 20, 2019  
Rockridge Library, College and Manila  
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

**Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC)**  
Leonora Sea – Chair  
Alden Conner - Vice chair  
Casey Farmer, Andrew Masalin – Co-Secretaries  
Ronnie Spitzer – Treasurer  
Stuart Flashman – Assistant Treasurer

**Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):**  
Michael Ubell – Chair  
Vice Chair <position open, volunteers requested>  
Eric Neville - Treasurer  
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

**Introductions**

Mike Ubell opened the meeting at 7:35PM, and introduced himself. Officers from OPD attending the meeting included Lt. Dan Royal and Officers David Mac and Kristine Jurgens-Duenas. Sergeant Nick Calonge came in later. Mike reminded the meeting that the NCPC still has no Vice Chairman, and asked for volunteers. Thirty-seven people attended the town hall.

**OPD Beat Status Reports, beats 12Y and 13X**

The Community Resource Officers for beats 12Y and 13X introduced themselves. Officer Mac reviewed crime stats for beat 12Y for the last 60 days, against the statistics for the same time last year. Crimes against the person and residential burglaries appear to be up slightly from this period last year; auto burglaries are down.

<b>Beat 12Y</b>		
<b>Crimes</b>	<b>4/20/2019 – 6/18/2019</b>	<b>4/20/2018 – 6/18/2018</b>
215PC Carjacking	0	0
211PC Robbery Firearm	4	0
211PC Robbery Strongarm	4	3
459PC Residential Burglary	5	2
459PC Commercial Burglary	1	2
459PC Auto Burglary	24	34

**IMPORTANT RESOURCES:**

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

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Officer Jurgens-Duenas reviewed the crime stats for beat 13X for the last 60 days, also against the statistics for the same time last year. Apart from a small increase in auto burglaries, 13X experienced very little crime.

<b>Beat 13X</b>		
<b>Crimes</b>	<b>4/20/2019 – 6/18/2019</b>	<b>4/20/2019 – 6/18/2019</b>
215PC Carjacking	0	0
211PC Robbery Firearm and Strongarm	0	0
459PC Residential Burglary	2	3
459PC Commercial Burglary	0	0
459PC Auto Burglary	5	3

**Q:** How does this compare to the city at large?

**Lt. Royal:** Crime is rising, but is still well below the level 5 years ago. Auto burglaries are rising. Likely times for auto break-ins are 7 – 9 AM and 5 – 7 PM. OPD has been arresting people committing auto burglaries; we were just in Montclair this evening. We also work with BART. The Montclair Safeway, a known hot spot, is refusing to put cameras in the parking lot. Lt. Royal said he walked the length of a street in Montclair and saw at least \$1000 worth of stuff visible in all the cars he passed. Auto break-ins are done by organized criminals; they use the proceeds to buy guns. Some of the groups are organized statewide. DO report these incidents. Burglaries are no longer considered a “vital” crime, so OPD is working on Ceasefire and other programs, to persuade the kids to change their lifestyles. And these are kids doing the break-ins. The last group they caught was in the 12-14 years old range.

**Q:** Can they detect Wi-Fi?

**Lt. Royal:** The adult pros can, but the kids often don't bother. They just look in the window and smash it if they see something.

**Q:** Does Prop. 47 affect this?

**Lt. Royal:** Auto break-ins are mainly a really quick way to get cash. This is organized by groups of 30-50 people and often the *same* groups working in different locations.

**Q:** What affects OPD response time?

**Lt. Royal:** In progress crimes *always* get faster response than crimes already committed. OPD tries to respond within 3 minutes, but it just takes longer than that to get to some areas, especially up into the hills.

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**Q:** So we should report these incidents?

**Lt. Royal:** Yes, we need to know when these things happen.

### **Neighborhood Issues and Priorities**

Mike Ubell asked Officer Mac about the obnoxious transient on North Street, the 12Y beat priority.

Officer Mac said he has driven around that area, and hasn't seen the guy.

Mike asked Officer Jurgens about the pedestrian crossing on Broadway Terrace at Hermosa Ave., the 13X beat priority.

Officer Jurgens responded that officers do regular enforcement stops at that crosswalk, but they're not there in the morning when the school kids cross.

After the meeting, the NCPC officers considered the 12Y beat priority and concluded it can be removed, as OPD hasn't seen the transient, and no one showed up at the meeting to complain again.

A resident said they've asked for a flashing light at the crosswalk on Claremont Avenue in front of the DMV, a very dangerous crossing. Mike Ubell responded that's not really a police issue, OakDOT has to take care of that. Lt. Royal said OPD knows about that crossing and are watching the area.

A resident commented that Oregon has overhead flashing lights for pedestrians, which are better protection for pedestrians than flashing lights at ground level. Mike Ubell repeated, information like that has to go to OakDOT – call 311 or email [OAK311@oaklandca.gov](mailto:OAK311@oaklandca.gov).

A resident complained about the regular auto-break-ins in both Rockridge and Montclair - please keep working on the broken windows. Lt. Royal responded that they are actively working on that and are making progress on it. Auto break-ins are a major police priority in both beat 12 and beat 13.

### **David Gomez, Neighborhood Law Corps**

David Gomez introduced himself. He is the new Neighborhood Law Corps (NLC) attorney for this district. NLC works on housing, blighted properties, environmental problems, illegal dumping, and other quality of life issues. He's been there less than a month and is still learning the situation. Neighborhood Law Corps is part of the City Attorney's office. They address blight, properties with a bad effect on community, and environmental problems. They also guide residents to city resources, and point people to appropriate city departments. The major problem on their hands is illegal dumping. He left a brochure on the table in back.

**Q:** What about human trafficking?

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**A.** Police usually handle those cases but the Law Corps does work on it.

**Q:** How do we report problem properties?

**A.** You can use SeeClickFix to report problem properties, or email [OAK311@oaklandca.gov](mailto:OAK311@oaklandca.gov). If you report illegal dumping, the City Attorney wants to be involved. They particularly need *witnesses* who will testify in court on illegal dumping.

Mike Ubell asked if the NLC gets involved with homeless issues.

**A.** No, the city has a separate task force that works on that. Homeless camps don't fall under "illegal dumping". Most of their cases focus on private property issues.

Mike Ubell welcomed council member Dan Kalb to the meeting. A resident asked Mr. Kalb why the funding for the CORE program (emergency preparedness) had been suspended. Mr. Kalb responded that the program was still funded, but they had lost some staffing had hadn't yet had time to hire new people, which always takes a long time.

Stuart Flashman welcomed the group to the RCPC part of the meeting. He asked how many people lived here during the Loma Prieta earthquake and the Oakland Hills fire – many hands went up. The question is, how to get ready for the next one, because there will be a next one. He then introduced Lars Eric Holm.

### **Lars Eric Holm, Eden I & R – Emergency Preparedness**

Mr. Holm began by pointing out that one's own "culture" often depends on where you grew up, and what you've done for a living. He grew up in Alaska, where there is a word in the Yupik language - *Upterrlainarluta* - that translates as "always getting ready". He also worked for a time for a software company that made backup software: data loss and crashed or stolen computers can be serious emergencies, and IT (information technology) folks often think in terms similar to emergency managers. He has worked with [CARD](#) – Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters, an Oakland non-profit, who focused on the preparedness needs of community based organizations. Eden I & R, one of the CARD founders, now offers the CARD curriculum in disaster preparedness. He is also the chair of [ALCO VOAD](#) – Alameda County Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster, facilitating cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration among nonprofit organizations, community-based groups, government agencies, and for-profit companies.

Mr. Holm said that emergency preparedness requires a *culture* of preparedness. Don't just create a kit and stuff it in a closet. It is more of an attitude and a style of thinking.

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To explain a culture of preparedness, let's play a game – called the MacGyver Game – that is part of the *SKIP (Safety Kept In Place) Kits* class. How many ways can we use a ziptop baggie, to prepare, respond, or recover? We can put stuff in it (a disaster bag). We can use it to haul water. It can help you pick up stuff you don't want to touch. Lots of other suggestions emerged from the audience. This is an example of *divergent thinking* – look at a common item (say, a fork) and rather than recite facts about the fork (it has four tines, you place it on the right in a place setting), instead think creatively, and “outside the box”. Ask: how can I use a fork to make money? To be safe? To be funny or entertaining? In a disaster, this form of thinking is more likely to help. Brainstorm how you can use the stuff around you. For an example of using a fork to be safe: A girl's school in NY put silverware in crack in the door when staying somewhere – if door is opened it makes a noise. Think outside the box.

These kinds of trainings also help establish priorities, and help you learn what is most important to you. A personal story about priorities: his family lived on Park Blvd., below Hwy. 13, during the Oakland Hills Fire of 1991. The house wasn't affected but the air wasn't great. The first items loaded into their car in case of evacuation were diapers and treasured photo albums.

Mr. Holm represents [Eden I & R](#), which is approved by the CPUC (California Public Utilities Commission) to be the 211 service provider for Alameda County. 211 is a national service, launched officially in Alameda County in 2007; but it is implemented locally. You can call 211 24/7, for any sort of human resource, be it housing, healthcare, childcare, counseling, job placement, tax assistance, legal assistance and more. They provide service in over 300 languages. You will be asked questions to help the Phone Resource Specialist guide you to the most appropriate resources.

Because Eden I&R / Alameda County 211 is a nonprofit, nongovernmental, and a trusted service provider, sometimes calls are even for life-threatening emergencies. In such cases, the Phone Resource Specialist connects quickly to the appropriate agency, including 911, and may remain on the line to advocate.

211's role in disasters includes a designated seat in the county's Emergency Operations Center in Dublin. This will allow providing information on emergency shelters, safe transportation routes, access to food, water, and medical care, family reunification, cleanup supplies, school supplies, and more. Eden I&R / Alameda County 211 has taken overflow calls on behalf of sister 211 for several recent big disasters: Hurricane Florence (North Carolina 211), the Carr Fire (Shasta County 211), Hurricane Harvey (Texas 211), and Camp Fire (Butte County 211)

To be prepared, people have to be optimistic and positive. Understand why you're doing this, what you are protecting. Make preparedness a learning opportunity. Get a kit, make a plan, be informed. Use teamwork.

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Learn martial arts (for self defense, and also for confidence). Feed your family healthy nutritious food. Get a routine medical check-up. Create a disaster plan for your organization. Sign up for ACalert.org. (That is not the same as Nixle.) Teach these skills to your kids, including optimism. Evacuation is a skill.

Preparedness is a way of being. The “why” is most important: have positive reasons for doing all this. This is what makes preparedness sustainable and maintainable, rather than forgotten or “other duty as assigned”.

Mr. Holm described a number of organizations which respond to emergencies.

[Becoming Independent](#) is a nonprofit based in Santa Rosa, established 50 years ago to help people with disabilities live meaningful and productive lives. They responded immediately to the 2014 S. Napa earthquake, connecting to over 200 clients in the impact area, by phone and in person. This was after establishing the safety of themselves and their families, in under 30 minutes, and this was due to their commitment to the safety of their clients and themselves. This was their “why”.

The [Incident Command System](#) was originally born in the Oakland hills fire but is now a national management system, under FEMA, for responding to emergency situations.

How will we all respond to a [Public Safety Power Shutoff](#)? PG&E may do this anywhere, at any time. How will we live without power, possibly for as long as 3-5 days? How do we refrigerate medications? How do we power our phones? (He suggested a solar powered flashlight, which is also a phone charger.) What are our emergency numbers, what is our data backup location, do we have a backup power source? Have we notified the power company of special needs, like an oxygen ventilator? Do we have a battery operated radio with tape on it showing 740 am KCBS as a source of emergency information. The two critical websites with information about this are: [pge.com/wildfiresafety](http://pge.com/wildfiresafety) and [prepareforpowerdown.com](http://prepareforpowerdown.com).

PG&E will have an [open house on this](#) on July 8, at the Oakland Marriott, from 6-8 PM. (also in Walnut Creek on July 11.)

## Q and A

**Q:** are you an NGO?

**A:** We're a nonprofit with funding from various sources: county, the fourteen cities, the county department of social services, some private foundations, and others.

**Q:** where should we put a kit?

**A:** Where it's easy to get at - in your car (glove compartment, trunk, under seat); in the nightstand, under your desk, in your backpack: anywhere you can have and would like access to a kit.

## IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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**Q:** How likely is a power outage in Rockridge?

**A:** PG&E is not very sure about that. There are many factors, and it's hard to predict. This could happen to anyone in California. It could be your *transmission line* turned off, not just a local distribution line. This is a major issue for the Port of Oakland, and for Hawaii - 80% of Hawaii's food supply comes through Port of Oakland!

**Q:** What about the early warning system for earthquakes?

**A:** Oakland tested this and it worked pretty well. It has been demonstrated that it is fast enough to give people enough time to drop, cover, and hold on. It needs more work, including public education, as this is different than other sorts of alerts. It requires a prompt response, while currently folks pause to read and process alerts.

A resident commented that they could expand the earthquake warning system, but they need more money, funding is always an issue.

*Note to the public:* During the meeting, an attendee spotted auto burglaries taking place in the library parking lot, and the police arrested the auto burglar, during the meeting! The suspect is already on probation for auto burglary.

## **Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for April 2018**

### **Beat 12Y:**

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Obnoxious transient in a van living on North Street near Peralta School.

### **Beat 13X:**

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Children going to school, crossing Broadway Terrace at Hermosa Ave., 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, August 8, 2019** at 7:30 PM  
Rockridge Library, College and Manila –  
See you there and stay safe!*

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