

**Greater Rockridge
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X)
Joint NCPC/RCPC Town Hall - Agenda
Thursday, June 11, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM**

Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC)

Leonora Sea – Chair
Vice chair -
Casey Farmer, Andrew Masalin – Co-Secretaries
Ronnie Spitzer – Treasurer

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):

Michael Ubell – Chair
Interim Vice Chair - Jon Travis
Eric Neville - Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

Welcome, and OPD Police Status Reports

The meeting began accepting people into the Zoom session at 6:57 PM. Mike Ubell started the meeting at 7:00 PM. In total 33 people participated. The RCPC and NCPC officers introduced themselves, as did Angela Moore, [Neighborhood Services Coordinator](#). Mike asked the Community Resource Officers to give the crime statistics. OPD personnel present included Lt. Rob Rosin, Officer Josiah Ladd, and Officer Kristine Jurgens.

12Y

Officer Josiah Ladd gave numbers for beat 12Y last 60 days: no carjackings, 2 robberies with firearm, 2 strongarm robberies, 1 residential burglary, 10 commercial burglaries, 26 auto burglaries. Crime is down, [he felt](#) the obvious reason is shelter-in-place. Most restaurants are pickup and go, diners aren't parking on public streets.

Beat 12Y		
Crimes	4/5/2020 – 6/5/2020	4/5/2019 – 6/5/2019
Robbery Firearm	2	2
Robbery Strongarm	2	2
Carjacking	0	0
Auto Burglary	26	83

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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Beat 12Y		
Residential Burglary	1	6
Commercial Burglary	10	2

13X

Officer Kristine Jurgens gave beat 13X statistics for the last 60 days – there were 13 auto burglaries. The hot spot for auto burglaries is Margarido Drive. There were 2 residential burglaries, one felony assault (a personal argument got out of hand on Sheridan Road), and 1 robbery on Estates Drive on 5/20 at 11 PM. The victim was out watering plants, the thief approached and asked for her phone, there was an altercation and she gave him the phone, no one in custody. There was no major decrease or increase in crime compared to last year, 13X has relatively little crime. Officer Jurgens asked about the Broadway Terrace/Hermosa stop sign priority and Karen Ivy told her it has been removed due to lack of comments. She asked about new priorities and Karen said not in 13X.

Beat 13X		
Crimes	4/5/2020 – 6/5/2020	4/5/2019 – 6/5/2019
Grand theft person	0	0
Assault	1	0
Robbery	1	0
Auto Burglary	12	10
Residential Burglary	1	2
Commercial Burglary	1	0

After the police report Mike opened the meeting for questions. Karen Ivy repeated the priority for 12Y, on a request from Angela Moore. It is the homeless camp on 63rd at College, next to Yasai.

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Anne Janks, Coalition for Police Accountability, about MACRO

The Coalition for Police Accountability has been working for over a year on MACRO, a pilot program. The Oakland Police Commission held a hearing in February 2019 about policing the unhoused community, and the unhoused people who came talked about the problems they had dealing with the police. In Eugene, OR they decided over 30 years ago not to use police and fire personnel for homeless complaints. Over time, the Eugene police, fire and city all found it cost less money. Responders cost less, and calls resulted in fewer arrests and fewer hospitalizations. It was a better toolbox. The community trusts them because the responders have no arrest powers. The Oakland Police Commission is just getting a proposal, tonight, for a pilot, one 24x7 van to respond to non-violent situations for a year in East Oakland. The team is now going around answering questions. Please tell your councilman if you like the idea.

Q: Who decides if it's a 911?

A: Every call goes to OPD dispatch, 911 and non-emergency. If it's medical, or some chemical spills, it goes to Fire Dept. We get to decide which type of calls go to which responders. As in, someone is sleeping in a doorway and doesn't move. Dispatchers take the calls, they're very well trained civilian staff of OPD, training takes months. Ms. Janks lives near 2 hospitals, and she regularly sees people in hospital gowns walking on the street. She has personally worked with them and gotten them help. That's the kind of call they want to redirect. She did a sit-along in dispatch and heard the calls. Police officers say they'd rather not answer calls about wandering patients, they aren't social workers. Send the van to the referral – the team is skilled in de-escalation, they can handle it if the person sleeping in doorway gets upset, where a police officer would have to arrest them. This is a non-criminal situation.

The resident thanked her for a very good answer.

Q: What do we tell our council members to support?

A: MACRO – Mobile Assistance Community Responders of Oakland. We want a small pilot, in a small discrete area. Her email is annesjanks@gmail.com.

Lt. Rob Rosin said he will work to get the MACRO program out to North Oakland, we need it here. Anne's points are all valid. Lt. Rob Rosin is special resources commander for Area 2, boss of CROs, he's filling in for Capt. Bolton at this meeting.

Q: Jon Travis asked, what ~~are~~ metrics will we have to say the pilot has worked?

A: Urban Strategies Council got a grant to do an implementation report last year, it just came out. She can send the report, it'll be up on the web site pretty soon. The issues are financial, and impact. OPD doesn't track arrests in a way that tells how many of the people they arrest are unhoused. Unhoused people say they feel that majority of arrests are unhoused people, but there's no data. We'll get information on the pilot from day 1,

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what types of calls are they, outcome of calls, how many calls in a shift. We want to see calls shifted from the police to MACRO. The county currently has 2 mental health programs working now, the clinicians say they respond to about 8 calls per shift. Those are just mental health, MACRO would include those and more.

Jon Travis: That sounds good, but he'd like to know how we decide if it hasn't worked. Is that in the report?

A: It's not in the report, but they'll track it and do 3 month snapshot reports on the number of calls, the number of staff needed. They'll also consider outcomes. They want to involve U.C. Berkeley to look at other areas doing the same thing. Does the number of arrests go down with these responders handling these calls?

Angela Moore: How is this program funded?

A: Her position is, if you're answering 911 calls you're doing public safety. In Eugene it's funded out of the public safety budget.

A resident said this was his first time at an NCPC or RCPC meeting, and he thanked everyone. He lives in a neighborhood that recently met to discuss how they might become more involved, and asked if Ms. Janks could come and talk to them about MACRO. He thinks she'll find a lot of support. She agreed that's what they're doing by letting people know.

The resident thanked her again and asked where resistance against this might come from.

A: 3 weeks ago she thought COVID-19 had killed the budget. She has changed her mind; she isn't going to kill it. And a lot of the current discussion of the police tactics is about this. The Police Commission is meeting right now, some people are objecting because the MACRO responders don't reflect the communities. But the report says they plan to identify people in the community with skill sets to who can work in this. Alameda County has been training young people to be EMTs. We could get the EMTs from the community. Also, communities have youth who've been unhoused, who want to work to help others. Some people feel 911 calls are "too close to the police," but she doesn't get that.

Sean Maher, Public Information Officer, Oakland Slow Streets

Sean Maher introduced himself, he is from Oakland Dept. Of Transportation (DOT). Slow Streets is a pilot responding to COVID-19 issues. DOT started working on it because of physical or social distancing, people were running and exercising either in popular areas like Lake Merritt or Lake Temescal, or on the sidewalks. They weren't necessarily wearing masks. They wanted to create safe spaces to exercise outdoors without crowding. They began with temporary partial "soft" closures, starting on streets in the bicycle networks, where there was existing community demand. They launched this in early April with less community engagement than they would have liked. They were expecting lots of people out over the warm Easter weekend. Slow Streets are still accessible to residents, and to emergency vehicles, garbage trucks, etc.

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Recent feedback from East Oakland is that Slow Streets isn't serving the people most affected by COVID, specifically the black and LatinX communities. People in East Oakland need access to essential services – they need to walk to food distribution, grocery stores, COVID testing, etc. In that area Slow Streets is moving toward making intersection access safer in areas near essential services. They will announce the next locations next week. They understand that some community members feel they weren't consulted; DOT is trying to learn from that. <https://www.oaklandca.gov/projects/oakland-slow-streets>

Stu Flashman thanked Mr. Maher for changes to the project based on community response. ~~Our~~The Rockridge zip code isn't even listed for COVID-19, we're not being hit at all in this area. Will the program continue here or will it stop after shelter-in-place?

A: The program was designed to respond to shelter-in-place, further developments will involve community feedback.

Q: What can the community do to engage the process or do we just wait for DOT to announce?

A: Wait for announcements, we're working with Neighborhood Service Coordinators (NSCs). There will be lots of questions as shelter-in-place changes. They will update through NSCs.

Mike Ubell announced that NCPC is supposed to have elections of officers, we really need a vote of the community to re-install the 4 officers. We will take that vote at our next meeting on August 13.

Captain Chris Bolton, Area 2 Commander

Lt. Rob Rosin announced that he is sitting in for Captain Bolton. He apologized for the lack of video and hopes we can move on to actual meetings.

Public safety in 2020 began rough. Crime in north Oakland has decreased compared to previous years, especially violent crime. ~~But~~ there's been an increase in violent crime east of the Lake, especially ~~in~~ shootings. There was a 22% increase in shootings city wide.

OPD as a whole is shocked at what happened in Minneapolis. We stand united against police brutality. We are probably the most progressive department in the nation. CROs are stretched thin, especially over the last 2 weeks – their days off were cancelled, they've dealt with protests, bottles, bricks, fireworks. We hope to return to our regular responsibilities, dealing with local concerns about quality of life in neighborhoods. This is high level, I hope to take questions. We're currently tracking several different protests in the city, and when this talk is over he and the CROs will go back to deal with that.

Q: We don't want a Minneapolis to happen in Oakland. If a use of force incident does happen how will it be investigated and dealt with?

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A: Our policies, including use of force, are published on the web site for public review. We're ahead of the game on use of force. He's been a procedural justice instructor instructing the entire department for years: responses in that training shows we're ahead of a lot of departments. Check the [city](#) web site; download and read the use of force policy.

Stu Flashman: I tried that earlier and the web site froze on me.

A: Get with me later and I'll send you the PDF.

Dan Kalb – Thanks to Lt. Rosin. [The](#) Police Commission has been around about 2 years. Just this week I and some colleagues introduced a new measure to improve [on the](#) original measure, [and](#) fix gaps in ~~the original~~ [measure](#) it, and provide a little more independence and oversight authority. This will hopefully go to the ballot in November.

Leonora: What is [8Can'tWait](#)? It was linked in the Chief's public letter, but the web site was not helpful.

Dan Kalb: There was an early discussion across the country's large cities of certain policies that should be banned. When this came up Oakland had [5 of them](#) already banned, [we have](#) 2 ½ [more](#) to deal with. The next item is to ban carotid neck techniques and chokeholds, we think we have consensus between the police chief, the police commission, and the council to do this. ~~They~~ [We](#) will also require a warning before using deadly force; San Mateo, where our current chief formerly worked, is already doing this. We also need to reconsider the partial ban on shooting at moving vehicles. Right now officers can shoot at moving vehicles in certain conditions.

Jon Travis posted on chat:

There is some question about the validity of the data at <https://8cantwait.org/>. Statisticians from Columbia University and Cambridge have both posted about it. Here is the post from Columbia (which also points at the Cambridge report): <https://statmodeling.stat.columbia.edu/2020/06/07/the-seventy-two-percent-solution-to-police-violence/>

They advertise up to 72% reduction in killings by police if the 8 items are adopted. Statisticians find fault in this conclusion.

Lt. Rosin – Thank you, you've hit 95% of this. We have been training officers on de-escalation. We encourage de-escalation and minimum use of force. When investigating use of force, supervisors are in training to check for this and decide if de-escalation was used and was in compliance.

Q: How carefully are new recruits screened for anger issues, and prejudicial attitudes about minorities?

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Lt. Rosin - Hiring begins with a written exam. Then we have a background investigator ~~on~~assigned to each candidate, followed by a psychiatric assessment if they pass the background. If a candidate fails the psychiatric evaluation they are not hired.

A resident suggested that we should pass on our condolences to the family of Officer Underwood.

Lt. Rosin - the CROs ~~here~~here- tonight were there the night Officer Underwood was shot.

Q: Do you have any comments on Safer Rockridge's interactions with the police, if any?

Lt. Rosin: I don't know, I'll pass that on to Ofc. Ladd.

Officer Ladd: I don't know either.

Mike Ubell explained that Safer Rockridge is an independent nonprofit that arranges security patrols in lower Rockridge area. The patrols are unarmed. They drive around, and report incidents to the police. They also answer calls from residents who know about them. They don't intervene, they just report to the police. It's not related to the NCPC. There was some concern about people with money paying for extra security. We could have them present at a future meeting. A similar group patrols upper Rockridge, he can't recall the name.

Dan Kalb: 2012 and 2013 were very high crime periods, and OPD was very understaffed. That was when this nonprofit was set up. They were originally meant to stay in contact with OPD, this may have slipped away. He insisted that the patrols be unarmed.

Lt. Rosin – Officer Ladd and I will take this as a deliverable, to reestablish connectivity with Safer Rockridge.

Q: Does the city know if there were outside agitators and white supremacists involved in the looting and damage?

Lt. Rosin – We don't know right now. Your CROs have been following up on the vandalism and damage. Captain Bolton has been talking to businesses about what happened, asking for any video or other record of who was involved.

Mike Ubell noted that the officers need to get back on the street, can we take 1 more question?

Resident: I went to the Oakland Tech march and appreciated the OPD officers' actions at that time. I thanked one, and he said, That's our job.

Lt. Rosin - Thank you, we've done a lot over last 15 years. I'm extremely proud of OPD.

Robin McDonnell - Were there really only 4 civilians injured during the protests? There was tear gas, I saw some injuries from rubber bullets. Was that 4 police reports, 4 emergency room visits, or what?

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Lt. Rosin - No OPD officers fired any rubber bullets over the last 7 days. The tear gas is being investigated, including by the Police Commission. There was a record low number of reported injuries; more police were injured than protestors and demonstrators. If you know someone who was injured during the protests and hasn't reported it, please have them come forward.

Jon Travis - If you're so progressive, doing such a good job, we'd like to see the data that shows that. Can you put the data forward – how many people claimed injury, what were the racial statistics. And how available can the data be made for others to analyze?

Lt. Rosin – if I could hire you to get the data out, I would. We need to do this but are having trouble sharing data in a way that makes sense. I have no simple answer except a huge yes.

Jon Travis - Who is spearheading that?

Mike Ubell – Captain Bolton has worked on this since he was a Lieutenant. OpenOakland takes OPD data and publishes it. There's a lot of data. Traffic stop data is on the OPD web site now. One of the issues with police data is privacy – crime reports have the reporter's name and address, OPD can't publish this. Cleaning the data is a problem.

Jon Travis – The stop data is published in PDF format, we can't access numbers directly, we have to copy them into some other medium.

Lt. Rosin and the CROs ~~dropped off~~left the meeting at 8:17 PM.

Q: When will College Ave. have outdoor coffee houses and restaurants?

Dan Kalb –Our case counts have been rising, Alameda County health officials are not comfortable opening up now. The county is preparing to open up, but we don't have a time yet. They're trying to protect public health. We understand that the level of caution causes challenges for small businesses. We already know some have closed for good.

Mike Ubell - It's not up to the city, it's up to Alameda County.

Dan Kalb noted that when we do open we plan to allow a lot of outdoor dining, we may even close some streets to make it easier.

A resident said he is a small businessman, and put a link to the County web site in the chat. [Ed. Note: here is the link.] He talked to them and they were very helpful.

<http://www.acphd.org/media/584319/alameda-county-covid-19-reopening-plan-english.pdf>

Stu Flashman said the health department dashboard is very good, broken down by zip code, but the county hot spot is Fruitvale, not Rockridge. And Fruitvale numbers are not dropping yet.

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Dan Kalb reminded people that he has a collection of information on COVID on his city council web site.

Resident – Does the county need volunteer COVID tracers? How's that working?

Dan Kalb – the state was trying to hire thousands of people to do tracing, not sure what the county is doing. He'll look into it.

Stu Flashman said he talked to Keith Carson's office. ~~the~~ The county couldn't hire them because the county union insisted they had to be full employees. There's a non-profit community group in Fruitvale called Street Level Health Project ~~is~~ which is doing tracing. ~~they~~ They could use some help, including donations. Here's their web site: <http://streetlevelhealthproject.org/>

Field Code Changed

A resident asked if there is a demonstration this Saturday at the Rockridge BART station?

Dan Kalb replied that yes, it's organized by SEIU. They will meet at Rockridge BART at 11 AM, and walk up College Ave. to the campus.

A resident thanked Dan Kalb for his service.

Mike Ubell: The NCPC meets the second Thursday of even numbered months, our meetings are open. I'm not sure what the RCPC does.

Leonora Sea: RCPC board meetings are not public as a rule. Town halls are the 3rd Thursday of the month. They are considering a town hall about the California College of the Arts (CCA) changes and legislation.

Stu Flashman ~~says~~ noted that there are proposed changes to the CCA project, and they want to have a community session about it.

Dan Kalb explained that the project is separate from the 4 story dorm. He wants to maintain the dorm as below market housing. The community must tell the CCA project how important that is.

Stu Flashman noted that CCA is in this for the money, they want to finance their new San Francisco location with the sale of the East Bay properties.

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for April 2020

Beat 12Y:

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Homeless camp at 63rd and College.

Beat 13X:

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* No current priority.

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*Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council meetings
are normally the SECOND Thursday of even-numbered months.
Next meeting **Thursday, August 13, 2019** at 7:00 PM
Location TBA – See you there and stay safe!📍*

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