

**Greater Rockridge
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes
Thursday, February 11, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM**

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):

Michael Ubell – Chair

Jon Travis –Vice Chair

Eric Neville - Treasurer

Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

Angela Moore – Neighborhood Services Coordinator

Officer Meeran Gichki – Community Resource Officer, beat 12Y

Officer Aaron Johnson - Community Resource Officer, beat 13X

Introductions

Mike Ubell opened the meeting at 7:06 PM. He asked new CROs to introduce themselves and give a little background. We have no speaker tonight. There were 8 people logged in.

Officer Gichki (pronounced gitch-kee) has been in OPD for about 5 years and became CRO for beats 8 and 14 last year. He's new to beat 12 and hasn't much to add this evening. He hasn't been able to tour the beat yet. He was assigned to OPD's 45-day plan for violence suppression, because of all the violent crime in the last year. The CROs are supporting this effort with the Ceasefire Intel and Crime Reduction teams, identifying violent suspects, and haven't been in their assigned beats. He'll have more time to drive the beat and meet people when the plan is over. District 2 has now lost 2 CROs, it's down to 5 CROs and everyone is helping out with extra beats. He has compiled a statistics sheet. Karen Ivy asked him to send her a copy of the sheet and he agreed.

Mike Ubell: What's the best way for people to contact you?

Officer Gichki: My email address, which is MGichki@oaklandca.gov.

Karen Ivy: That email is also on our web site, <https://rockridgencpc.com>, under *Resources > Important People*.

OPD Status Reports

Beat 12Y

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

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

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

**Greater Rockridge
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes
Thursday, February 11, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM**

Beat 12Y		
	12/13/19 – 02/11/20	12/13/20 – 02/11/21
Battery	07	04
Domestic Violence	02	00
Auto Burglary	149	07
Res. & Comm. Burglary	23	05
Assault with Deadly Weapon	03	01
Robbery – Armed & SA	10	08
Grand Theft	15	04
Petty Theft	05	03
Stolen Vehicle	13	10

Officer Gichki: If people report crimes online, the crimes may not get into these statistics. And of course, they aren't there if they're not reported. Auto burglaries are way down, probably because fewer cars are parked in commercial areas.

Karen Ivy: I do a monthly crime report based on data from Socrata; are you and I getting numbers from the same source?

Officer Gichki: I don't think so. Send me an example and we'll compare.

Karen Ivy: I'll do that.

Beat 13X

Beat 13X		
	12/03/19 – 02/02/20	12/13/20 – 02/10/21
Battery	2	0
Domestic Violence	1	0
Auto Burglary	9	0
Res. & Comm. Burglary	4	2
Assault with Deadly Weapon	firearm: 0	firearm: 0
Robbery – Armed & SA	0	0
Grand Theft	0	0
Petty Theft	0	0
Stolen Vehicle	3	3

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

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

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

**Greater Rockridge
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes
Thursday, February 11, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM**

Statistics for 13X doesn't have much but property crime, the violent crime is elsewhere. The CROs help with violent crime enforcement.

Oakland Police Q & A

Jon Travis: At our last meeting, we discussed the fact that bail is being set at \$1, leading to a significant number of re-arrests. Is that continuing?

Officer Johnson offered to answer that: He said he's also been with OPD 5 years; he and Officer Gichki were Academy classmates. He's also been working on the violence suppression plan. Re-arrests for various crimes will be a problem as long as COVID is a problem, due to the \$1 bail. Felony offenders are arrested and held, but people charged with misdemeanors may get the \$1 bail and be released the next day. The Alameda County Sheriff's Dept. runs the jails and they decide whom to hold, OPD has no control over that. That will change when we get a handle on COVID.

Jon Travis: It's crazy, I wake up every morning and look at my *Citizen* app, something else has happened. What do the police find most useful from the citizens? Obviously if you know something and call the police, that's great, is there anything else we can do?

Officer Johnson: Camera video is often helpful. It's great when people call the police to report. Your area mainly deals with property crime, not violent crime. People can help; but I come from a bad area, and people there are afraid to step up, they're afraid of retaliation from the violent criminals.

Officer Gichki: I agree with that. When you call Dispatch, tell them if you're comfortable having an officer contact you. Dispatch will always ask that. Some people don't want the police to get in touch, especially not to come by their house. It doesn't help us if the witness won't talk to us. When a responding officer comes on scene, the victim may be gone, the suspects are gone, there's not much the officer can do. He can meet witnesses or victims away from their house if asked. After taking a statement it helps a lot if a witness is willing to show up in court – a witness statement can make or break a case. I really wish people would ask us to contact them. A lot of people refuse police contact.

Jon Travis: It seems a shame that people will call but won't follow up. Could you call them an Uber, pay them to show up? I'm brainstorming. Is that available?

Officer Gichki: Not really.

Officer Johnson: The city's budget cuts have hit the police. Some units have been dissolved, including the walking officers. The CROs have to help cover the beats with no assigned officer. Unless the city can find some public funds, this will continue.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

3

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

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

**Greater Rockridge
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes
Thursday, February 11, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM**

Resident: I'm sorry I was late; these meetings are at the same time as the Police Commission meetings. I'm trying to follow both. I've noticed officers apparently guarding the Walgreen's at Telegraph and 51st. Where's the budget for that coming from if you've had all those cuts?

Officer Johnson: Walgreen's and Target both had a lot of shoplifting and robberies, officers went to that Walgreen's a couple of times a day. OPD, through the CROs, contacted the boards of Walgreen's and Target, with the result that the companies are paying the city for police patrols at those companies.

Officer Gichki: I was the beat 8 CRO where that Walgreen's is. Walgreen's was a CRO project. It was so bad they were losing thousands of dollars in a day. OPD officers go call to call because of the workload – as soon as an officer left the lot for one call, they'd get another call, for shoplifting, or robbery. (When an element of force comes into shoplifting, it becomes robbery.) The robbers got more and more brazen, they walked in armed to take cash – it was completely out of hand. Walgreen's was very understanding. Their corporate office authorized officers dedicated to a certain store. We have 7 officers to cover all of District 2 in a 24 hour period. However, the CROs and Intel units identified the culprit responsible for a robbery series of 10 or more cases just from Oakland, plus more from Alameda, Hayward, and others.

Mike Ubell: So the companies are paying for the overtime.

Officer Johnson: Yes, it's cheaper for the companies to pay to staff an officer.

Mike Ubell: They used to do that for the Raiders and the Warriors.

Officer Johnson: Home Depot does it too.

Jon Travis: So how many officers do we have? How many officers are budgeted? When Dan Kalb attends these meetings he's always very positive. Has there been a change last couple of months?

Officer Johnson: The attrition rate is very high. Patrol is the department backbone, but the count of officers includes a lot of non-patrol people (CROs, Crime Response Teams, investigators). There are maybe 730 officers in the department, but there are about 300 - 330 patrol officers. There's an academy running now but we don't know when the next one will be after this one graduates.

Mike Ubell: The city is many millions in the hole. Congress may send us more money but number of police will decrease.

Neighborhood Issues, New Priorities

Neighborhood issues raised between meetings by email:

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

4

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

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

**Greater Rockridge
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes
Thursday, February 11, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM**

1. Loud sideshow activity including spinning donuts at the intersection of Broadway and Rockridge Blvd. Sunday January 10 at around 8:30 PM. Several vehicles leaving the location fled and sped through the neighborhoods on Rockridge Blvd., Margarido Drive, and Ocean View Drive.
2. Aggressive panhandling outside of the front door of the Shell station and at the neighboring bus stop bench at all hours and especially in the late evening hours. Noted again around 5:30 PM on Tuesday, January 12.
3. Numerous vehicles parked for extended periods of time at the gas pumps loitering and playing loud music (and perhaps casing for victims?) I observed this as late as 10:30 PM (also Tuesday evening).
4. Muggings at gunpoint on and around Chabot Road
5. People trespassing and checking car doors, Oak Grove Ave. between College and Forest.

Mike Ubell mentioned our list of reported items (above); Officer Johnson said all that has to wait till the crime suppression project is over.

Mike Ubell: Is there any status on the sideshows at the Shell on Broadway? Was that a one-time?

Officer Johnson: There aren't many calls there since January. We've had sideshows all over town but not much there. That's not a hot spot. We'll keep an eye out.

Mike Ubell: We had an issue in 12 with the homeless person at 63rd and College. Angela Moore has the information on that but she's not here.

Officer Gichki: I just haven't had time to get to the beat. What priorities should I keep in mind? I can talk to Angela about 63rd Street. I helped the previous CRO with an individual named Melvin - we offered resources, but I'm not sure what happened. I didn't see him when I went by in the last couple of weeks.

Mike Ubell: You should know about Sean. He has been on the Avenue for about 10 years. He used to go yelling up and down the street, but he's not currently causing problems. He's living under the BART tracks by the BART parking lot. Does anyone have any other issues?

Resident: Would the NCPC be willing to meet on another night? The Police Commission meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. How about the 1st or 3rd Thursday?

Karen Ivy: The meeting schedule was set when we were meeting in person, in the library conference room, and there were definite limits on the dates we could get the room reserved. The 3rd Thursday was always reserved by the RCPC. We have much more ability to move the date around since meeting on Zoom, but if we ever go back to the library, we'll have that issue again.

Officer Johnson: The 1st Thurs. is the 13Y NCPC meeting, so I couldn't attend.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

5

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

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

**Greater Rockridge
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes
Thursday, February 11, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM**

Mike Ubell: Not many Rockridge people attend Police Commission meetings, but you obviously do! That's about it, except that Captain Bolton got a promotion to Deputy Chief. Lieutenant Rosin is now Acting Captain Rob Rosin. Meeting closed 7:48 PM.

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for December 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.

*Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council meetings
are normally the SECOND Thursday of even-numbered months.
Next meeting **Thursday, April 8, 2021** at 7:00 PM
Location TBA pending the course of the pandemic*

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

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

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