

**Greater Rockridge NCPC Meeting Minutes (12Y/13X)
Thursday, October 11, 2012
Rockridge Library Community Room, College & Manila
General Public: 7:00-8:30PM**

NCPC:

Frank Castro – Chair
Barbara Minton – Vice Chair
Denise Jorgensen – Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

The meeting opened at 7:02 PM. Nineteen people attended. Frank Castro opened the meeting and chose to skip general introductions. He introduced the OPD officers present and the NCPC board members, plus new people who had never attended before.

A new attendee, Laila Kearney, said she was from the just launched site [Rockridge Patch](#), a local coverage site created through Huffington Post, similar to other such sites in the East Bay. The site’s regular contact will be Dixie Jordan. A representative from Holy Names High School said that the new principal will attend future NCPC meetings. Frank Castro said he was glad to hear it as we've had trouble getting school administrators to attend our meetings. Two new attendees were residents from Shafter Ave. (the 5400 block near Forest and Hudson, and the 5300 block), which has had several burglaries. The burglaries have ceased recently, but residents feel they’re being cased regularly, and are still concerned. Five OPD officers attended: Officers Davis and Kirkland, beat 12 patrol; Officer Castro, PSO beat 11X; Officer Lane, PSO beat 12; Officer Balaoro, PSO beat 13.

Validate existing priorities

Laptop thefts on College: One of the officers noted that Chad, the private security officer at Rockridge Market Hall, has done a lot to reduce this. Theft reports for the last 30 days didn't include any laptop thefts, much of it was shoplifting. A resident complained that he was next to Spasso when the woman was assaulted and pistol-whipped; he confirmed that happened 2 Fridays ago, and that was the last laptop theft we’ve heard of on College. We decided to remove the priority.

Noise at the Hut: The resident said he’s working with Jennie from ABAT. He has been videotaping the patrons; he thinks they’re mainly college students from U.C. He said he didn’t have this problem when the group was older bar regulars, they were less noisy. Jennie has done 2 underage busts at The Hut. OPD says they go there and there's nothing for them to do, they can't get there when the problem is going on. Leave the priority in place.

Robberies/muggings around 58th & Telegraph: This seems to have tailed off, remove it.

Shafter burglaries: There have been no more burglaries, but residents feel people are casing the area, and want to know what to do about that. There are guys hanging around. The advice: call them in, give as complete a description as you can. The more people who call about a suspicious individual, the better. PSOs pick up suspicious person calls on the beat to take pressure off the patrol. Leave this in.

Joint OPD Report, beats 12Y and 13X

Officer Balaoro, PSO beat 13:

His main priorities are robbery suppression on Ocean View, which is a walking route from BART, and general burglary suppression. He gave crime statistics for 13X for the last 30 days, compared with beat 22X and the entire city:

<i>Crime</i>	<i>Beat 13X</i>	<i>Beat 22X</i>	<i>Citywide</i>
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IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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<i>Crime</i>	<i>Beat 13X</i>	<i>Beat 22X</i>	<i>Citywide</i>
Burglaries	2 residential (1 forced entry, 1 unsecured), 4 auto	18 residential, 5 auto	740 burglaries of all kinds
Robberies	None	5	362
Stolen vehicles	3	13	562
Thefts	3	6	359
Assaults, including domestic violence	2	12	784
Homicides	None	1	15

Officer Balaoro reported that he is working on a project for schools in beat 13, and will visit Holy Names as well as other schools. This is a safety precaution in case of school violence, so OPD knows the layout of the school if something happens. This project is also happening in other beats.

He mentioned that Ms. Rose, our Neighborhood Services Coordinator, has the burglary security checklist pamphlets, and recommended everyone take one, and check their homes for security deficiencies. Auto burglaries happen when people leave items visible in the car, and thieves smash and grab. Record the serial numbers of iPhones and other electronics, a serial number helps prove theft. Call in suspicious people, even if OPD doesn't respond quickly. Calling in gives a record of the incident, and detailed descriptions may give officers a reason to detain people.

At this point a resident asked if there was any way for citizens to learn whether an incident call was followed up. An officer said that requesting police reports required going downtown and requesting a copy. The resident became very angry and stated that the police should make what they do more accessible to citizens, and asked if there could be a blog. The resident insisted that police reports are or should be public records; the police officers maintained that they were not public because of privacy concerns. A second resident commented that the Rockridge Neighborhood Watch Network was intended as a cover for the fact that police reports aren't available. The angry resident then insisted that he didn't feel the police were "here for us" or were "going to protect us." He said, "We love you guys, we want to work with you, but we have to be able to know what's going on." He claimed that "we have the technology." He eventually sat back down and yielded the floor on a request by Frank Castro.

*(Editor's Note: Having requested and gotten police reports myself, I was pretty sure that some of what was said wasn't accurate, so I have checked the Oakland PD [web site on public documents](#). "Public records" can be requested by email, by telephone, or by U.S. Mail, as well as in person downtown. Details are on the linked site. Public records, by the definition on the site, *do* include police reports. However, the records you get are redacted to remove personal names and addresses.)*

Officer Lane, Beat 12Y

Crime numbers in beat 12Y are down over last 30 days.

<i>Crimes</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Burglaries	20	8 residential (5 forcible entry, rest just left open), 12 auto (mainly stuff left visible in cars. Thieves smashed windows, or simply opened unlocked doors.) Most burglary reports were filed online.

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<i>Crimes</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Robberies	2	Includes a father and son robbed of camera equipment on Miles by a group of 20-somethings
Thefts	12	Mostly petty theft
Stolen vehicles	4	
Assaults	n/a	(Ed. Note: I didn't catch the number of assaults; the angry resident claimed there were 9 in the last week)

OPD's weekly meeting on crime stats reported that crime in this area is down 22%. OPD is working the area; they've been patrolling Shafter and making their presence known. Patrol does the same when they can. OPD is spread very thin. Officers prefer to be on the beat rather than running statistics. The primary problem in beat 12 is robbery; those numbers are well down, and assault numbers go down as robberies go down.

There are a lot of opportunistic people checking cars, looking for stuff to steal. Don't leave anything visible in your car. People are using ladders to get into unlocked 2nd story windows.

Frank Castro commented that we've seen more black-and-whites than we're used to; they're patrolling North Oakland, and parking to do paperwork here. Officer Castro said that they cruise from dinnertime to about 8 or 9 PM. The PSOs try to be in the area when stuff is going on, try to make the thieves just go away to somewhere less patrolled.

Frank Castro congratulated the officers present on the arrest of the Pavé smash-and-grab thieves.

The officers responded that they do their best. The thieves don't live here, they come here to steal, so if they get picked up around their home, they won't be coming here anymore. Officers now work with a crime analyst who tells them where the hot spots are. She's new but working hard on it. They wish they had millions of dollars in databases, but they don't have either the technology or the manpower.

OPD no longer handwrites reports, they are mostly typed into computer. Officers only handwrite reports when the computers are down. Crime victims do give written statements, which have to be digitized. There are only so many people in the records department. If you're a crime victim, it may take 21-30 days to get a copy of the crime report.

Resident: I used to cover Hercules, they put out a regular list of crimes. Officer: We get 3,000 calls a day; we just can't handle the volume. We've had over 50,000 crime reports this year to date, last year it was over 60,000, and that doesn't count the calls where no report is made. Officers get a daily log but it isn't complete, it's just the class 1 stuff. They don't see assaults and thefts unless they go look for them. OPD has 2 people covering thefts, and 5 major crime teams (shootings, robberies, other class 1 crimes). Unless they involve a known suspect, or someone in custody, reports go on the "later" pile. All they record on robberies is time, date, and method.

Another officer encouraged people to report suspicious people in as much detail as you can, describe them to the non-emergency line. This puts the information into the database. Notice their *shoes* – people often don't change shoes.

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Officer Lane suggested that a Neighborhood Watch group would be good for the Shafter area, the residents have the mailing list but aren't formally registered so don't have the sign. Other informal neighborhood groups can be helpful against crime; one neighborhood set up a dog-walking group.

Frank Castro reminded people that the increased OPD presence is because of all our complaints! Don't hesitate to call. Pick up the phone. Don't confront solicitors. Don't open the door. Call them in. Make a call for service; the more calls for service, the more resources.

Karen Ivy gave a brief report on the Logitech camera program, as Paula Stringfellow wasn't able to attend. So far the program has enabled the purchase of 72 cameras since inception. Frank Castro noted that we're considering changing the Neighborhood Watch sign to add a camera icon, showing that those blocks are under surveillance. A resident suggested a second sign reading, "Under video surveillance."

Q: How do you do this if you have a camera? A: Burn a digital copy of the video to disk, and put it into evidence. Work with OPD. In the worst case, if you can't burn a copy, the officer can use his uniform camera to take a video of your video; that goes into the OPD database. Video evidence is really convincing when you have it.

BART Police Department Report

There was no BART officer in attendance.

New Neighborhood Issues, Additions To The Priorities

There were no new priorities at this meeting.

Q: what about the holidays? A: Yes, burglaries and thefts do increase during the holidays. Secure the house.

Frank Castro reported that Ms. Rose brought a flyer on Operation Ceasefire, which is now rolling out in Oakland. Feel free to take a flyer. Also, Oakland now has a Nixle tip watch; you can text OPD via Nixle to report violent crimes anonymously. The NCPC web site now has information on how to text anonymous tips to OPD.

Next month's meeting will be a joint meeting with Rockridge Community Planning Council, it will happen here at the Library on the *third* Thursday of November, the 15th.

Officer Lane encouraged residents to email him if you have any issues or questions, his email is dlane@oaklandnet.com. Officers check email all the time.

Priorities for October 2012:

12Y:

1. Late night noise from The Hut
2. Rash of home burglaries on Shafter

13X:

1. No priorities requested for 13X

Meetings are the SECOND Thursday of the month. Next meeting will be a joint meeting with
Rockridge Community Planning Council *on the THIRD Thursday.*

*The joint meeting will be **Thursday, November 15, 2012** at 7:00 PM*
Rockridge Library Community Room, College & Manila - See you there and stay safe!

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