

Greater Rockridge NCPC - Agenda (12Y/13X)
Tuesday, November 17, 2009
The College Preparatory School, Room P1 – 6100 Broadway, Oakland
General Public: 7:00-9:00PM

NCPC:

Chris Jackson – Chair
Frank Castro – Vice Chair
Denise Boisvert Jorgensen – Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

PSOs: Beat 12Y Officer Patrick Gerrans; Beat 13X Officer Randall Chew

NSC: Debra Ramirez

Chris Jackson opened mtg 7:00 PM, general introductions around. 23 people attended the meeting including 3 OPD officers.

PSO Gerrans was out on special assignment and didn't attend; Officers Mike Munoz and T. Thompson from 11X attended to cover for him. Officer Chew is off on disability.

Sgt. Jake Bassett is now the Sergeant for Officer Chew. jbassett@oaklandnet.com Officer Gerrans still reports to Sergeant Ortiz.

Presentation on crime statistics (Vivek Bhatia)

Vivek briefly explained his methodology (full details at <http://Rockridgeresidents.org>, available to registered users; follow the *Sticky: New monthly Crime Stats analysis notification thread* in the Crime and Safety forum). Crime was up in beat 12Y in July, dropped way down in August, and is now creeping up again. 13X has so few crimes you can't really generalize. Property crime is a little lower than '08 but still well over '05 levels. Beat 13X had a spike in property crime in October (14 calls vs. median 11.5). Property crime YTD numbers in beat 12Y are down 21% over 2008, in beat 13X down 15% over 2008. The biggest spike in October is auto burglary and vehicle theft. People have seen men walking down the street, trying car doors one after another to see if they're open.

Crimes against the person – this category consists of OPD *Part 1 violent crimes*, plus certain crimes that disturb Vivek. August and September had 3-4 calls each in this category, October is way up (around 14 calls). Crime against the person in Area 1 overall was flat or declining. Vivek thinks crime is moving around from other parts of area 1 to our district. October numbers were 15% lower than 2008, but 53% up from '09 median. Violent crime year-to-date is pretty flat, except for a small increase in beat 13X. No crimes were reported on Halloween. Vivek closed with his usual list of safety precautions to take.

Chris Jackson reminded people to password protect their PDAs and phones. A PDA was recently stolen in a carjacking; the thieves went through the PDA and phoned everyone in the contact list, to see if they were home, identifying empty houses to burglarize.

Karen Ivy explained the change in meeting dates for 2010. The Greater Rockridge NCPC will not meet in December 2009. In January 2010 the meeting will move to the *second* Thursday of the month. The first 2010 meeting will be Thursday, January 14. Meetings will be in the Community Room at the Rockridge Library, from 7 PM to 9 PM.

OPD Report

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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Ofc Jennifer Krump reported on beat 12X. They're seeing a lot of robberies late in the evenings on Telegraph, they suspect it's gang-related (Northside Oakland and Bushrod gangs). The muggers are hitting darker streets: use motion sensor lights on your houses, keep porch lights on. Auto burglaries are constant; OPD tries to follow up suspicious person calls. This area has such easy highway access, by the time OPD arrives the thieves are in Moraga. OPD has a couple of people in custody for the College Ave. business burglaries from last summer.

A resident asked about the late night dog walker who was robbed and assaulted (hit on the head). Chris Jackson asked if OPD has any idea what provoked the assault? Assault is unusual. The man was 6' 3" and accompanied by a dog, but they jumped him. No one seems to know. It's very rare to see a man with a dog get mugged. The victim doesn't remember what happened.

Officer Krump thanked the NCPC for reminding people of the personal safety precautions. Chris Jackson reminded people, don't make anonymous calls to the police. Leave your name; the officers need it. They can't follow up anonymous calls about a suspicious person unless they see the person do something. If they have a name and number, they can ask you, why did you call this person in? Otherwise all they can do is ask the person, "can I talk to you?" A citizen who is willing to leave a name and number is considered a "reliable source" by the courts and can be the basis of an arrest. An officer from another NCPC asked if field reports were still submitted on paper and filed in shoeboxes at HQ? Officer Thompson responded no, they're mostly online and the PSOs can pull them up in their cars. A citizen asked if the police use cameras. Officer Krump said, if you see an officer with a camera, it's a personal item. Only the police technicians have official cameras. Officer Munoz reminded people, if you're describing a suspect, watch for *details*, like bulges around the waist – everybody's wearing big puffy jackets and they all have pockets sewn in for guns, they're all armed.

Officer Thompson reported that an eviction notice was given to the tenant in the Kales problem house, the tenant should be out by Nov. 30.

OPC ran 2 traffic operations at Forest and Claremont – they issued no citations for not yielding but Officer Gerrans wrote 7 tickets and passed the project on to the beat officers.

Debra Ramirez introduced herself and said that she's the temporary Neighborhood Service Coordinator (NSC), only on the beat until Dec. 31; the new NSC will be Anna Martinez (535-5689). On the subject of the Keith traffic project, she passed out "building blocks for problem solving" - these are the things they need to solve the problems. These are worksheets for problem analysis using the SMART method. People need to establish what is long-term goal? Officers use the SARA model, and work in collaboration with residents. She said she hasn't really heard a firm definition of what citizens want. Denise Boisvert-Jorgensen said, they're clear; they want a stop sign.

Ms. Ramirez also handed out holiday safety flyers.

Nila Kim, of Jane Brunner's office, announced that her office is working on a North Oakland park volunteer project, because the city budget is really bad and park maintenance is getting cut. Jane Brunner is collecting the names of volunteers; Nila had applications with her if anyone was interested. They will schedule a training session for volunteers, probably the first Thursday of Dec.

A resident asked if there are any changes yet under the new chief? One of the officers said, he's still transitioning in.

Neighborhood Issues

A resident asked if recycling thieves were still a priority; Chris Jackson responded that you can call them in but they're not priority. A resident said she had heard that you can rent a drug dog, to sit in your yard and smell the drugs. One of the officers responded that they can't use that for probable cause, it's not done through OPD, and it's useless for criminal prosecution.

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A resident from Cochrane Ave. said people have been coming to the door. She doesn't answer, but, what should she do about them? One of the officers recommended to bluff them ("let me put the dog up," call out to your husband, etc.), try to get a look at them. If they're supposed to be from a firm, look for a truck with a logo, look for real credentials. Officer Thompson said he gets people asking for donations, it isn't all scams. If solicitors get a clear look into the house they can case it, and you: are valuables visible, do you wear a wedding ring, can they hear a dog. A resident reported that he watches solicitors look at his large, obvious security camera and walk on by. A resident noted that since everybody put up "No Soliciting" signs, solicitation on their block has dropped like 95%. Chris Jackson emphasized that the city issues *very few* door-to-door solicitation permits, most door-to-door people *don't* have them. A resident asked about AT&T people calling on *their own customers* to sell UVerse – does this need a permit? The callers didn't have one but said they were only talking to their customers and didn't need one. Not sure if that was right.

A resident asked, what about census workers, the census is next year. Frank Castro said that in March 2010, every household will be mailed a form. If you mail the form back in, there's *no reason for a census worker to come to your door*. They only go to the door of houses that *don't* return the mailer. We should put this on our web site. Chris Jackson said that the incidence of teenage solicitors going door-to-door is way down here because we've become a "no solicit" area. There's a single group of people, which wears different T-shirts every time, who solicit on the street; they *have* a permit. He sees them regularly and recognizes them.

A resident asked: if we get a Crimeview Cyberwatch notice that says "Auto Theft" on Buena Vista, is that where the car was stolen from? There've been 3 of these on Buena Vista in the last week or so. An officer responded yes, that information is where it was stolen from. There is an officer working on these auto thefts but he hasn't got a clear lead yet; they're very short staffed.

A resident asked for tips on how to respond in mugging situation to avoid getting your face beaten in? The officers responded, it's best to avoid the situation. Cross the street; turn around and go the other way. Chris Jackson noted that Officer Gerrans recommended to throw your watch and your wallet at them and run away as fast as you can. Yell, scream, make a noise, blow a whistle. Stay alert, try not to look like a target.

The Dean of the College Preparatory School reported a lot of car break-ins on Golden Gate Ave., above the school. He thinks it may be one walker, one driver of a hovering car. There have been 5-6 incidents since September but they may not all have made police reports. Could OPD come out and talk to the parents (or the kids) about not leaving things in cars? Debra Ramirez can do that.

A group of teachers on a trip to the U.C. Berkeley botanic garden had their cars rifled; their wallets, purses, etc. showed up in the ivy along Golden Gate Ave. Officer Krump commented that they see a lot of crime during school hours and it's truants. The Dean responded that his school doesn't have a truancy problem, and asked if OPD can help. Officer Thompson said they can't patrol just that area, but they can at least roll by once or twice a day. This item was noted as a priority, the College Preparatory School is in beat 13X. Officer Krump recommended leaving ash trays *open* and *empty*, thieves are stealing change. Chris Jackson noted the same issue with people parking up by Lake Temescal.

Denise Boisvert-Jorgensen asked about the homeless encampment. The Dean responded that he knows exactly where it is. Denise commented that the Presbyterian Church Friday dinners attract homeless people from all over the city, and there's a trail of theft behind them. Nila Kim told the Dean to call her and she'll send out the homeless service lady, she'll go talk to the campers.

Vivek got a better video of the taggers on Lawton, thinks he knows who it is. He's still trying for a clear photo.

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Merchants' Issues

The man who snatched a purse in the parking lot at Trader Joe's is still around, same jacket, same bike – older AA male, tan jacket, riding a BMX style bike. If you see him, call OPD and report a suspicious person.

College Avenue is getting a walking officer back, Officer A. J. Fry will be there 3-7 PM; the RDA has hired 3 "ambassadors" to work from 63rd to Broadway, from 3-7 PM, they'll have T-shirts and badges; they will greet people, offer to help with packages, etc. A woman on Taft is using drugs again, and soliciting on the street.

Review of Previous Month's Priorities and Setting of New Ones (10 minutes)

College Preparatory School, 13X – patrol Golden Gate Ave. roughly from 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM for car break-ins, and people dumping stolen goods.

The Cochrane resident asked about solicitors – have the neighbors had them too? This has declined recently and isn't really a priority now.

12Y – Karen Ivy suggested we leave Canning property as a priority *if* we don't have 3 others; it's on there because Officer Gerrans said last month that it was acting up again. Debra Ramirez reminded, be sure to report suspicious stuff.

A resident commented that a house on Brookside, right by The College Preparatory School, had open daytime drug dealing out of car trunks in the middle of the street; this was about a year ago. The same people still live there but there isn't any recent open drug dealing.

Traffic priorities: The Dean has a radar gun and has clocked drivers up Broadway Frontage at 54 MPH; he's concerned about his inexperienced teenaged drivers turning out into this traffic. He's asked if traffic can be better controlled; the answer was no. He asked if he can get Jane Brunner's radar trailer there in the afternoon, or possibly get some ticketing? Nila Kim gave him her phone number and will work with him.

Priorities (three allowed per beat)

Beat 12Y

1. OHA property on 5800 block Canning – drug activity seems to be acting up again, also having graffiti trouble.

Beat 13X

1. Car break-ins and dumping of stolen property on Golden Gate Ave. uphill from The College Preparatory School, usually from 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM.
2. Speeding and not yielding to pedestrians on Keith around Presley intersection.

Traffic Priority - 12Y (one traffic priority per beat)

- Not yielding to pedestrians on College.

Traffic Priority – 13X (one traffic priority per beat)

- Speeding past The College Preparatory School, Broadway frontage road.

NO NCPC Meeting In December 2009.

In 2010 meetings will be the SECOND Thursday of the month. First 2010 meeting will be Thursday, January 14, 2010, 7:00 PM, Rockridge Library Community Room, College and Manila.

See you there and stay safe over the holidays!

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