

**Greater Rockridge NCPC Meeting Minutes (12Y/13X)**  
**Thursday, February 10, 2010**  
**Rockridge Library Community Room, College & Manila, Oakland**  
**General Public: 7:00-8:30PM**

**NCPC:**

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

Frank Castro opened the meeting at 7:05 PM, and the attendees introduced themselves briefly. OPD officers present included Officer Thompson, PSO beat 13, Officer Chew, PSO beat 12Y, Acting Sgt. Vergara, and two patrol officers (one from 12Y). Zach Wald from Councilwoman Jane Brunner's office was present. Twenty-six people attended.

OPD Report

Officer Thompson reported many residential burglaries in 13Z and 13Y. There wasn't much violent crime except domestic abuse cases. Beat 13X had the fewest burglaries. Burglaries were concentrated in a small area of beat 13Z. Residents of the beat have gotten some descriptions of suspects and vehicles which Officer Thompson has been posting on the Montclair Yahoo groups. Karen Ivy agreed to post the descriptions on the Rockridge groups as well. At least one burglary is associated with a 4-door silver Acura Integra, in good condition, license plate ???597; this car usually has 2 occupants, black males 18-25. Another suspicious car is a purple or maroon Mercedes (year uncertain) with 2 black male occupants. Call OPD if you see these cars, or if you see people cruising who don't live in your neighborhood.

Car thieves leave stolen vehicles in the Charing Cross area regularly. Call the OPD non-emergency number (510.777.3333) if unfamiliar vehicles are left on your street for extended periods. A resident suggested that Charing Cross residents should contact the Neighborhood Watch on Charing Cross, since there is one, or call the Neighborhood Services Coordinator (NSC).

The Cochrane area had issues last month, but there was only one report from the area this month (grand theft).

PSOs are now working on one major priority per month, crime driven, 3 hotspot calls, and one problem property. BUT: they still want the NCPCs to set our priorities, and let them know what we want. PSOs will get to problems as soon as they can. They don't have the resources they once had. It's almost impossible to get support from other PSOs or beat patrol officers, they're overloaded.

Officer Thompson noted an issue with residential burglaries: Alarm companies have been calling residents before calling police; he suggested that if you have an alarm, make sure company calls police FIRST, AND call OPD dispatch, 777-3211 (esp. on a cell phone). Alarm Cos. will make multiple tries at calling the first person on the list, if first person isn't OPD it delays the response. [Ed. Note: The NCPC researched this, and the alarm companies are doing exactly what the Oakland Municipal Code 8.02.07D tells them to do – call the house and then the first person on the list *before* calling police.]

Officer Thompson asked if there were any other concerns for beat 13. Cochrane residents said there was nothing from Cochrane that hasn't been reported. A resident reported auto vandalism in the Rockridge Terrace area below Temescal –on Buena Vista, Ocean View and Beechwood. Someone recently saw a man walking on Golden Gate, going thru mailboxes, accompanied by a toddler. Information isn't getting distributed among neighborhood groups. This could be someone renting a local property, it's happened before – stealing credit cards from mailboxes and using them.

**IMPORTANT RESOURCES:**

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Officer Thompson provided his email address: [tthompson@oaklandnet.com](mailto:tthompson@oaklandnet.com), and asked people to email him if you know something he should know: unfamiliar license plates, strange people. Email goes direct to his BlackBerry. He usually works Tues.-Friday. If you think you're seeing a crime in progress, call OPD emergency (510.777.3211) and say so – don't just say, come look at a car.

Watch your surroundings – people are being followed home from the grocery store and assaulted in the driveway or doorway. The assailants seem to drive a white ford explorer, older model. If you think you're being followed, don't park at home, drive to lighted place with lots of people. Drive around the block to see if it's real; most people don't make 3 rights. Drive to OPD Headquarters at 7th and Broadway, or the local fire station.

In beat 12Y, Officer Chew reported people hanging out on Coronado at Desmond, there may be illegal gambling (he hasn't actually seen any). No crime numbers yet, they're working on it. Residential burglaries and armed robberies in 12Y are down a little.

*Loud neighbor with motorcycles on 63<sup>rd</sup>* – a neighbor said she called OPD recently when he was making noise at 10 PM. The police came and talked to him, and he was quiet for 72 hours! He runs an unlicensed car repair service. Officer Chew says he's known about this for a couple of weeks, would like to know when to come by and observe. He's driven by many times, the garage door is always closed. He's met with the NSC and the city prosecutor. The neighbor said the man usually starts around 7 PM and works till 10 PM or later, grinding metal at 11 PM with garage door open. Officer Chew urged neighbors to call that in. The neighbor noted the man was raided for drugs over a year ago; Officer Chew agreed, yes, he was, he had looked that up.

Acting Sergeant Vergara urged everyone to call incidents in, don't email. If you call in, it'll go out on the radio and everyone will hear it; email only goes to one man who may be doing something else. Patrol can only cite for noise after 9 PM if they hear the noise. Keep giving OPD information. This is a nuisance situation, the neighbors need to work together and with the police.

*Nude Sushi* – a neighbor reported the noise is still going on, the delivery cars sit out with radios booming. She has quit calling OPD because dispatch says we can't do anything if it's a car. Officers can only cite for noise if they hear the noise. The Kales block captain suggested the neighbors contact Arturo Sanchez, in Noise Abatement. He will hold the business accountable. Frank Castro asked NSC Patricia Rose if she can find out where Ana Martinez got on this before she was transferred? Neighborhood Services will follow up. One of the patrol officers said that he knows about this and cruises by from time to time but they're never there making noise.

Acting Sergeant Vergara reminded attendees that police calls are like the emergency room, they have to triage constantly. You must make it clear that it is a crime. The neighbor said that she just wants an incident number, it's frustrating that they aren't willing to take a report. The Montclair NCPC chair suggested the neighbors call Dispatch, ask for a supervisor, and complain about this sort of response to a call; all calls are taped, they will review the tape and see what they think.

#### NCPC Business

Since the meeting had a quorum (more than 20 people), the NCPC took a voice vote on three changes to the NCPC bylaws, which were first proposed last fall but not passed due to lack of a quorum. Proposed changes:

1. Allow the board to appoint volunteers as acting officers for vacancies, pending a meeting with a quorum;
2. Lower the number of people in a quorum from 20 to 15, and
3. Lower the quorum for steering committee from 5 to 4.

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The bylaws were amended by a voice vote with no nays and no abstentions.

Crime Stats report by Frank Castro

The crime stats now cover beat 13X. These are based on Marie Mason's weekly reports from OPD, cross-referenced with the CrimeSpotting site (*Oakland.crimespotting.org*), and include crimes on CrimeSpotting that aren't on Marie's report. You can get a direct RSS feed for your beat from the CrimeSpotting site, and incidents turn up in the RSS feed that isn't on the map OR the OPD report! Get your crime stats here!

We've cut the number of slides down, there will be no maps this month. The Montclair NCPC chair commented that OPD operates around maps. Frank promised to do maps next time. A resident suggested that if we have a major spike, focus on that. Eventually we'll have a year of data.

In beat 12Y, January crimes against persons were higher than Dec. but lower than either Nov. or Dec. Non-auto property crimes are getting progressively worse except for a dip in December. Maybe there was less opportunity during the holidays because more people are home? Auto crimes spiked in December, and have now dropped again.

Beat 13X had twice as much crime in January as in December. Non-auto burglaries are strongly up, and steadily climbing. Crimes against persons are also steadily climbing but in much lower numbers. Auto crimes and quality of life crimes much lower in 13X.

Brief discussion of gang injunction meeting.

Patricia Rose, the NSC, brought some flyers about the anti-gang injunction meeting on February 22. Frank Castro asked her to discuss that meeting. She explained that it's the Public Safety Committee meeting, 2/22 at 5:30 PM in City Hall hearing room 1. She encouraged people to attend the meeting. Frank Castro noted that the City Council has asked OPD for a cost/benefit report on existing gang injunctions (which is the one N. Oakland). The Montclair NCPC chair added that this is very important, there's a major backlash against gang injunctions in E. Oakland, and there will be a lot of people there (possibly hundreds) who will want to speak *against* the injunctions. To provide the city council a balanced look, if you can go and speak in favor, do so. A neighbor asked if we have any data? The answer was, not really, because of how it's done. Individuals are pulled in, told they're under surveillance and will be arrested if they transgress. The hope is that they will then stop doing what they're doing. There are many sides to this.

The NSC also mentioned, and put out, some handouts – one on Earth Day, 4/16, 9-noon; you can register online for that. The web site is KeepOaklandBeautiful, in the Oakland city web site, or you can Google *Oakland Earth Day*.

There will be a CORE workshop Sat. 2/26 9-noon at Montera Middle School – part of the planning for the 4/30 citywide CORE exercise. JDexter –PRose encouraged people to form Neighborhood Watch, make sure people call about problems, keep calling to make sure there's a record for nuisance abatement.

The Kales block captain gave a status on George & Walt's. The owners met with Arturo Sanchez over the pool hall permit. The neighbors hoped the permit would be issued with conditions. It was issued with no conditions. Neighbors will have to continue to work through the noise abatement program. This is a continuing issue. The manager (the owner's daughter, who lives in Brentwood) doesn't believe there's a problem, and wants neighbors to call her directly (at 1 AM) when things happen. George & Walt's did publish an article in the *Rockridge News*, promising to do what neighbors want, and agreed to attend the NCPC meetings quarterly. No one from George & Walt's attended the February meeting.

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A neighbor asked for Arturo Sanchez' phone number; it's on the new Helpful Phone Numbers list. [Ed. Note: not under his name, it isn't. We believe the number to call is labeled *Chronic Nuisance Property Abatement*, 510.238.7542.]

Zach Wald introduced himself. He is Jane Brunner's chief of staff, and works with her on budget issues. He also works on Zoning. Their office phone is 238-7001.

Frank Castro offered some closing thoughts: Since the layoffs last summer, the NCPCs have been very uncertain, we lost PSOs and now they're back, we don't know what the rules are yet, but they are changing. We're very fortunate to have Officer Thompson in beat 13, though it's too bad they lost the other 2 PSOs; his presentation was very clear and well thought out. He made it very clear that the appropriate response to crime is to pick up the phone, and report the crime. Personally, Frank thinks things will improve, and thanks to all for attending.

The Montclair NCPC chair added that the Chief has been pushing community policing very hard, and considers all officers to be community policing officers. Even though the PSOs are reduced, police activity may not be so much reduced. Deputy Chief Breshears is now head of community policing, and has been very active; the Montclair chair helped write the PSO job description. Captain Ed Tracy is the OPD point person for community policing – these are very positive changes despite all the bad news.

#### Neighborhood Issues

Attendees agreed that most neighborhood issues were covered during discussions with OPD.

#### Merchants' Issues

The Rockridge District Association representative reported that some merchants got counterfeit bills this month. Also the merchants are very concerned about the abortive mugging on Ross.

8:20 PM New Priorities for upcoming month

### **Priorities**

#### **12Y Priority**

- Problem neighbor in the 400 block of 63<sup>rd</sup> Street (at Telegraph) – noisy motorcycles, unlicensed auto repair, threatening dogs, possible drug dealing.
- Drug house on Manila is still an issue.
- Nude Sushi – noise between midnight and 4 AM

#### **13X Priority**

- Recent rash of auto and home burglaries on Sheridan and Cochrane.

*In 2011 all meetings except January will be the SECOND Thursday of the month.*

*Next meeting will be **Thursday, March 10, 2010** at 7:00 PM at Rockridge Library Community Room. See you there and stay safe!*

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