

Greater Rockridge NCPC (12Y/13X) - Agenda
Thursday, February 13, 2014
Rockridge Library, College and Manila, Oakland
General Public: 7:00-8:30PM

NCPC:

Frank Castro – Chair
Barbara Minton – Vice Chair
Molly Singer - Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

Frank Castro opened the meeting at 7:10 PM. Eleven people attended; Molly Singer was unable to attend but the other NCPC officers were present and introduced themselves. The only OPD officers present were Gunther Lee, temporary PSO for beat 12, and Jason Trode, PSO for beat 13.

Frank asked if there were any new attendees, and a woman asked to introduce herself, saying she was new in the neighborhood, and came to find out what's going on.

PSO Reports - 12Y

PSO Gunther Lee introduced himself. He will substitute for Officer del Rosario in beat 12 until she returns to duty. He is a 7 year veteran and has been on Patrol in beat 12 for some time.

Comparing last month's crime statistics for beat 12Y with last year's statistics for January, he presented these numbers:

Crime, beat 12Y	1/2013	1/2014
Auto burglaries	26	7
Residential and commercial burglaries	22	9
Thefts	6	4
Stolen cars	13	7

OPD is aware of 2 groups currently doing robberies – a group of 3 African American males, around 20 years old, working together, *and* a single man also around 20. They focus on Apple equipment because of its popularity. They aren't responsible for all the robberies but have done many of them.

Current Beat 12 hot spots are 40th Street, Telegraph Avenue, Claremont Avenue, and the BART stations – all BART stations.

Q: What about the woman who was mugged by 2 guys in a white Lexus? A friend of hers said he was robbed downtown by 2 young well-dressed guys in a white Lexus, some months ago.

Officer Lee: There's not enough evidence to say it's the same guys.

Q: What about sharing private video with police? There was a newspaper article about that in San Jose. The idea was for police to ask if they could use the video.

Officer Lee: He didn't see the article. He noted that everybody has a camera phone these days – if you see something suspicious, take photos, it's good if you can get the full license number.

Q: Has anybody used the Apple kill switch?

Officer Lee: Yes, a few times, but it's not what it's cracked up to be.

A resident said that the police have been parking in the neighborhood, for 15 minutes at a time; it really makes a difference. The police have actually caught some guys. Officer Lee encouraged people to call OPD if they see someone suspicious. Criminals often case the area for burglaries.

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Q: People say they're seeing more police cruisers, is that a change?

Officer Lee: Yes, since last fall Patrol is cruising "hot spots" instead of just responding to calls. The focus is on areas where crime is higher. Robberies are higher in summer; many suspects are juveniles. Patrol is still cruising, robberies have gone down.

Frank Castro asked about the status of the Area 2 Crime Response Team (beats 8 - 14)? Area 2 was assigned a CRT but it was being redeployed, it was only here 1 week out of 4. Has that changed?

Officer Lee: Yes, it has. From now on it's here for 1 week, then 1 week in the other area.

A resident asked why OPD rotates officers. Officer Trode said that rotation keep skills fresh, and expands knowledge. Officer Lee added that you can only spend so many years in a specialized job, then you rotate back out to Patrol. He has worked all over the city.

Frank Castro said that we'll have a meeting next month on the private patrols and asked if either PSO had any experience with them. Officer Lee said the Lieutenant and the Captain meet with them regularly. He sees them on the street but doesn't talk to them. [*Ed. Note:* plans for the March meeting were changed after the February meeting took place, watch for announcements.]

A resident asked about homeless camps. Officer Lee said that Patrol officers don't deal with them, they're too busy. The city sends Operation Dignity out. Operation Dignity offers services to the campers, and checks back on them. If the camp is still there a couple weeks later, it's destroyed. They recently abated a camp at 51st and Broadway (in the little triangular traffic island at the corner), and another in the 400 block of 42nd Street. The resident objected that the campers had just move a block or so away and set up again.

A resident asked about Citron restaurant on College, which has been closed for years. She walks past it on her way to BART, and the door doesn't look quite latched. She doesn't want to try it herself. Officer Lee advised her to call that in, and Patrol will look into it.

PSO Reports – 13X

Crime numbers for beat 13X are slightly up, they've had burglaries on Golden Gate and Harbord. Beat 13 has had some robberies, which have been rare in the hills. In one robbery in 13X a woman was robbed inside her garage. Another person was robbed at gunpoint while walking a dog. The criminals may be following people home from shopping trips (to Safeway or Trader Joe's).

Some robbers use *rental* cars, rented by someone else. It's very important to report license plate numbers when you can. Some OPD vehicles now have license plate readers. They expect to track where a license plate has been for the last 4-5 years. They've had the readers for about 5 years. The first versions were large and obvious, now they're much less noticeable. They're very useful.

Video cameras are very useful tools; video footage has helped solve a number of crimes.

Walking alone in the dark is dangerous. Whistles are useful, as are flashlights. A resident at the meeting showed a marine air horn she carries when walking alone, which she bought surplus.

The Crime Response Team is in the neighborhood this week (week of Feb. 10), our CRT is a top producer in getting guns and drugs off the street. They wrote a search warrant on Taft and found a stash of narcotics in the house. They're a very good team, we're glad to have them. The CRT focuses on drugs and violent crimes (armed robberies, auto burglaries). They don't respond to 911 calls. They work on intelligence received and track down criminals; they may go undercover.

OPD is slowly but surely getting more officers. There are currently about 100 academy students;

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we have 634 officers now, and lose about 5 officers a month. The civilian technicians are almost out of training, getting ready to come out and go to work.

Q: How many officers in our area?

Officer Trode: You should have 1 officer per beat at any time, unless they get pulled away for an emergency.

Resident: My car window was smashed while the car was parked downtown (at 19th and Telegraph). It was broken just above the wiper, nothing was taken.

Officer Trode: An *empty* plastic bag in a car can cause someone to break a window to see if there's anything useful in it.

Update Priorities?

Shafter has some new LED street lights, and a resident has put up a motion detector light that goes on when you walk past. With significantly improved lighting, pedestrians are safer. We'll remove that priority.

Frank Castro explained that the method of setting beat priorities is changing, at Captain Toribio's request. Citizens at the NCPC can set *one* priority, which must be *identifiable* and *measurable* (for instance, a grow house). Area command will monitor all *calls for service* and will set a priority for that based on most common calls; they will notify NCPC of those priorities. Also, area command will set a general goal to reduce a specific *type of crime* in the beat, and notify the NCPCs.

Resident: We had a priority on noise at the Hut, what happened to that? Karen Ivy explained that the situation had improved when the complainer worked through the licensing agency and talked to the landlord.

A resident commented that we're an easy target because our area (around Shafter and Hudson) has easy access. Shafter and Hudson are significant traffic routes and will continue to be. OPD's directed patrols are definitely helping the area.

Frank Castro explained that we need to teach people to observe, and to identify measurable, identifiable issues. Do your homework. Think about it. A resident asked if homeless encampments would qualify.

Karen Ivy announced at the meeting that the March meeting will be a joint meeting with RCPC and the organizers of the private security contracts, date TBD, either the 13th or the 20th.

[*Ed. Note:* After the February meeting, the NCPC learned that the private security group was moving to consider a new contract and had scheduled a meeting on February 27 with their current subscribers. We've decided to delay the meeting on private security patrols to April, to let the situation settle and collect more data.]

NCPC Priorities for February 2013

12Y:

1. No measurable, identifiable projects submitted at this time.

13X:

1. No measurable, identifiable projects submitted at this time.

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NCPC meetings are normally the SECOND Thursday of the month.

*Next NCPC meeting is **Thursday, March 13, 2014** at 7:00 PM
Rockridge Library Community Room, College & Manila*

See you there and stay safe!

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