

**Greater Rockridge
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes
Thursday, April 9, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM**

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):

Michael Ubell – Chair
Jon Travis – Interim Vice Chair
Eric Neville - Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

Introductions and Election Announcement

Mike Ubell opened the virtual meeting at 7:05 PM. Oakland Police Dept. was represented by Officer Ladd (12Y Community Resource Officer), and Neighborhood Services Coordinator Angela Moore. 14 people signed in at the start, 16 attended eventually. Mike Ubell announced Jon Travis as Interim Vice-Chair, but said we will put off the election till we can do an in-person meeting.

Oakland Police Status Reports

Beat 12Y

Beat 12Y		
Crimes	2/9/2020 – 4/8/2020	2/9/2019 – 4/8/2019
Robbery Firearm	2	7
Robbery Strongarm	2	2
Carjacking	1	0
Auto Burglary	55	101
Residential Burglary	4	9
Commercial Burglary	3	2

Officer Ladd provided crime statistics for the last 60 days, and the same period a year ago. In addition to the numbers above, he mentioned that last year saw 12 larcenies and 10 car thefts. Auto burglaries are down because people aren't parking to dine in restaurants, just picking up food to go. Robberies are flat, although people are still walking around. The carjacking last month was at College & Clifton; 3 of the 5 suspects have been taken into custody. We've had no other major crimes of late. Most crime now is domestic violence or petty theft from local stores. He asked the meeting if anyone had questions and concerns about crime and got no response.

Mike Ubell placed a link to the [mayor's April 7 briefing](#) with OPD in the chat section. Officer Ladd noted that shootings are not down, as shooters aren't sheltering in place; but fewer people have been killed.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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Mike Ubell noted that Lisa Jacobs, from Dan Kalb’s office, was present, and that Dan will try to join the meeting at 7:30 PM. Lisa reported no news, but the office has gotten questions about the enforcement of shelter in place (SIP).

Officer Ladd suggested that if you see something out of line related to shelter-in-place, call it in. Police response starts with a warning, with some paperwork. A second call to same group would result in a ticket, which the District Attorney would decide whether to prosecute. Lisa Jacobs asked whether OPD has spent much time on this? Officer Ladd said they get 30-40 calls a day about this. They try to deal complaints about non-essential businesses. Construction is considered essential, especially residential construction (small homes). For anything you feel is risky, call it in and OPD will check it out.

Dan Kalb joined the meeting. He recently got to speak to the interim chief, and asked residents to tell him if we have anything we want him to pass on to her. Don’t consider this a substitute for regular contact with Captain Bolton.

Beat 13X

Beat 13X		
Crimes	2/9/2020 – 4/8/2020	2/9/2019 – 4/8/2019
Grand theft person	1	1
Robbery	0	1
Auto Burglary	3	5
Residential Burglary	1	0
Commercial Burglary	1	0

Neighborhood Issues

Vivek Bhatia commented that he has trouble getting to the in person NCPC meetings, but remote meetings are very useful. He asked if we could we regularly live-cast this meeting? Mike Ubell responded that we'd need someone who knows how to do it. Karen Ivy offered to talk about this if Vivek will loan his account. Mike Ubell said that the city is buying more Zoom licenses.

Resident: How is OPD’s response to calls? *Officer Ladd:* response time is improving, but a big incident like a recent shooting will back up Dispatch and slow other responses.

A resident asked, how far along is the transition to the new 911? Also, how many officers to we have now?

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Dan Kalb responded that he doesn't have the numbers with him, but a police academy graduated before the SIP order, so we have new officers in training. Another new academy is under way, it's still happening under SIP. Recruits are distancing as much as possible, and the city is delaying some training until SIP is removed. We'll need more academies. Dan would like to add another police academy in next year's budget, but the financial impact of SIP is very bad, the city may not be able to do that. Police academies already in the budget will stay. He's not sure how many officers we have right now, it's somewhere in 750s. Some officers are on medical leave due to the virus. The dispatch center is mostly fully staffed. Some of the calls they get should go to either 211 or 311. Dispatch gets non-emergency calls about violations of SIP; these are valid calls, but they do back up Dispatch, since the same people handle emergency and non-emergency calls.

As for 911 changes, some parts of Oakland now get cell calls to 911 sent to Oakland dispatch. He didn't say which.

Jon Travis commented that we haven't talked since Chief Kirkpatrick was removed. He talked to some officers in the recent Coffee with a Cop – they told him some neighboring cities poach officers from Oakland. Do we have a contract to block that?

Dan Kalb: We do. If you graduate from an Oakland police academy and leave within 5 years, you have to pay back a percentage of the academy expenses. Unfortunately, the other departments just pay it for them. This happens all over the state, we've done it too. Oakland pays well, we have a good salary and benefits package.

Jon Travis: Why don't we have more officers? What kind of support do officers get from the community? Black Lives Matter is an affront to the police, and the officers feel they aren't being supported. An Oakland officer posted on Reddit that even if he does his job with the correct protocols, he could still be punished. There's a mismatch between department protocols and what officers get reprimanded for.

Dan Kalb: Part of this is because of the federal order under the Negotiated Settlement Agreement (NSA). Many of the requirements aren't unusual, but some may be. If an officer is accused, Internal Affairs will investigate, and there's a parallel investigation from the civilian run Police Commission. This could lead to a suspension. Officers are generally not fired unless the offense is egregious. Mr. Kalb doesn't think the 51 requirements are inappropriate, and we have to do them under the NSA. He doesn't feel Black Lives Matter itself is the problem; there are local activists who are very critical of OPD in general. Those activists attend City Council and Police Commission meetings and speak out, but people with more positive views don't attend the meetings. This may skew what officers feel. Civilian police oversight can't be the enemy of a good department, we need to support our department. To show support for OPD, attend public meetings and say so. The Police Commission has only been active for about a year, the members are still figuring it out. The interim chief is very good, and we're now starting nationwide search for a permanent chief.

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Jon Travis: How do you feel about the firing of the chief?

Dan Kalb: Police chiefs are always hired “at will” in California. That's standard. When we created the Police Commission, people said, the mayor can fire the chief at any time, we want the Police Commission to be able to fire chief at will. The council decided no, to fire the Chief the Police Commission has to have a majority, and produce documentation and a good reason. Over time, the commissioners decided to fire the chief; they haven't yet produced any documentation. At that point the mayor’s choice was either, allow the commission to fire the chief for cause without the mayor, or the mayor could agree with the commission and fire the chief “at will.” Allowing the Police Commission to fire the chief for cause could have left the city open to a lawsuit and would show disunity between the city and the commission; firing the chief “at will” would avoid both of those.

Resident: will commission release the report on their decision?

Dan Kalb: There's no report he knows of. The “at will” firing decision removed the need for documentation.

Jon Travis: Absent actual cause we're in a bad position, we don't know what was wrong so we can't improve it. The incoming chief might like to know what not to do.

Dan Kalb: that information will probably come out in recruiting for new chief, possibly in closed session. At will firings are not unusual.

Dan Kalb said he has a special link to [information on COVID-19](https://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/councilmember-kalbs-covid-19-resources) (<https://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/councilmember-kalbs-covid-19-resources>) on his city council page. Send email to Lisa Jacobs ljacobs@oaklandca.gov if you want dan's updates regularly.

Priorities

Karen Ivy asked the meeting if anyone had any new priorities. No one responded. We won't add any new priorities, and we are removing the 13X priority for the crosswalk at Broadway Terrace and Hermosa, as we've had no recent reports on the problem and the schools are now closed. Dan Kalb said he thinks we have fewer armed robberies, but more car break ins.

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Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for February 2020

Beat 12Y:

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* No current priority.

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, June 11, 2020** at 7:00 PM
Location TBA pending the course of the pandemic*

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