

**Greater Rockridge  
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes  
Thursday, April 8, 2021  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM**

**Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):**

Michael Ubell – Chair  
Jon Travis –Vice Chair  
Eric Neville - Treasurer  
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer  
Angela Moore – Neighborhood Services Coordinator  
Officer Meeran Gichki – Community Resource Officer, beat 12Y  
Officer Aaron Johnson - Community Resource Officer, beat 13X

7:00 – 7:10 PM – Introductions  
7:10 – 7:25 PM – Oakland Police Dept. (OPD) Status Reports, beats 12Y and 13X  
7:25 – 7:40 PM – Oakland Police Q and A  
7:40 – 7:55 PM - Neighborhood issues discussion, including new priorities

**Introductions**

Mike Ubell opened the meeting at 7:05 PM. No citizens logged in at the beginning, 2 logged in later. Mike suggested since we had no citizens attending, we should skip the agenda and ask what’s happening with the CROs? Are you still on alternate duty?

*Officer Gichki:* We’re back for now, and we’ve been going around the beats, meeting people, walking some areas. Glad to be here.

**Oakland Police Status Reports**

**12Y**

	02/07/21 – 04/08/21	02/07/20 – 04/08/20
Battery	03	08
Homicide	00	00
Auto Burglary	10	57
Res. & Comm. Burglary	09	09
Assault with Deadly Weapon	0	0
Robbery – Armed & SA	0	03
Grand Theft	02	09
Petty Theft	08	09
Stolen Vehicle	20	13

*Officer Gichki:* Apart from the numbers shown above for beat 12Y, crime is up in OPD District 2 (beats 8-14). The district has had 10 shootings this year (none in 12Y), while last year to date there was only 1. People are

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shooting at houses and cars (whether occupied or not) – 15 district 2 incidents in 2021 versus 2 in the same period last year. The district had no homicides in early 2020 but 4 homicides in the 60 days this year - a 400% increase.

**13X**

	02/07/21 – 04/07/21	02/07/20 – 04/07/20
Battery	4	0
Domestic Violence	0	0
Auto Burglary	5	3
Res. & Comm. Burglary	4	2
Assault with Deadly Weapon	firearm: 0	firearm: 0
Robbery – Armed & SA	2	0
Grand Theft	0	1
Petty Theft (including Shoplifting)	3	0
Stolen Vehicle	5	9

*Officer Johnson:* As the numbers show, there’s not much crime in beat 13X, no assaults, shootings, or homicides, and only 2 robberies. Robbery increase may be because people are getting out. Battery can be just a couple of people fighting. Property crime is low, with slight increases year to year, although vehicle theft is down. Crime in beat 13Z (which includes Montclair) is much worse, they’re trying to change that. The city as a whole has had 39 homicides to date in 2021, there’s an overall uptick in violent crime. Compared to the rest of the city, beats 12 and 13 look pretty good.

The beat 12 and beat 13 CROs have been working together across both beats, becoming acquainted. They’ve been driving and walking around both beats.

*Mike Ubell:* is that new? CROs didn’t used to ride together.

*Officer Johnson:* CROs have usually ridden together unless they’re uneven, or there’s only one on the beat.

**Oakland Police Q and A**

Since so few citizens attended there was no formal question and answer period.

**Neighborhood Issues Discussion/Priorities**

*Mike Ubell:* Do you have any updates on the homeless situation at College and 63rd?

*Officer Gichki:* Is that Melvin? We were walking around 63<sup>rd</sup> and College today for 30 minutes, we saw no sign of him.

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*Mike Ubell:* Chris Jackson (of the Rockridge District Association) said they got Melvin a room somewhere in a hotel. He is afraid Melvin will be back when the money for COVID housing runs out.

*Officer Gichki:* I wouldn't be surprised if he came back.

*Angela Moore:* Eric Neville commented in chat that he hasn't seen Melvin for awhile, maybe a couple of months.

*Mike Ubell:* Is there any action on the homeless camp at Hardy Park (the playground under the freeway on Claremont).

*Angela Moore:* I only know what we saw when we did the police walk. Where's Hardy Park?

*Mike Ubell:* it's not a priority because it's not a big camp. There's a huge stack of bicycle parts there; stolen, maybe?

*Officer Gichki:* isn't that property CalTrans? Wouldn't that be CHP? Is there something criminal there? We can't act on mere suspicion of stolen bike parts.

*Mike Ubell:* I was actually talking to Angela, it's not a criminal issue. And no, the property there does belong to the city. The biggest problem camp is on Hudson near Frog Park and the dog park – there's lots of trash, and evidence of public defecation. The park bathroom was closed most of last year, it's now reopened.

*Angela Moore:* I will pass this issue on to the emergency management team.

*Mike Ubell:* The campers are not *really* causing problems. Dan Kalb had a cleanup in the area, he's aware.

*Angela Moore:* Maybe Neighborhood Services can offer some services, or housing, she'll look into it.

*Mike Ubell:* we can let the officers go if they have other things to do. We can talk about community outreach.

*Officer Gichki:* I got emails about traffic problems, especially cars speeding on Hillegass. With no other priorities I've been doing traffic enforcement around Hillegass and 61<sup>st</sup>, Hillegass and 62<sup>nd</sup>. I called in a team that issued at least 40 citations for distracted driving.

Both officers signed off the meeting at about 7:21PM.

*Angela Moore:* should we be posting our meetings on Nextdoor more? I don't normally post there much because Karen does, but from now on as soon as Karen puts up information I'll flood the community. Can we make some flyers to put up on phone poles, or give to businesses, for publicity? What do you think?

*Mike Ubell:* We used to hand out cards to businesses, we stopped that last year. We could design some new cards, I don't know how effective they were.

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*Angela Moore:* I don't understand why no one is coming. In the rest of my beats, attendance has doubled and tripled; it's more convenient on Zoom than driving to a meeting. You can attend while doing something else. We need more creative ways to attract people. Can we get speakers? Do educational workshops?

Mike Ubell welcomed Tom Donovan from beat 22X Council, who had just logged in.

*Tom Donovan:* I'm attending this meeting from 22X, I'm on the steering committee there. Zoom is convenient to visit other areas. If you're interested in attending our meeting, email us at [22xneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:22xneighbors@gmail.com)

*Mike Ubell:* We need to get speakers, to attract people.

*Karen Ivy:* The other time we get a lot of people is when awful things happen in the neighborhood, like the time those guys held up the casual carpool lane on Hudson. We got something like 70 people. Not much has been happening, and people aren't out and around talking about what's happening.

*Mike Ubell:* Maybe Dan Kalb would attend, although it's budget season. Olga Bolotina is back, maybe she'd attend. We should reach out to her and see if she would attend and represent Dan. Her email is [obolotina@oaklandca.gov](mailto:obolotina@oaklandca.gov). We list in *Rockridge News* but the April issue came out yesterday. Lisa Jacobs used to be in Dan's office and she attended regularly.

*Tom Donovan:* We have the same question in 22X. We work with the Diamond Improvement Association, they're very active. I'll attend their meeting. How about established organizations in Rockridge?

*Karen Ivy:* We are connected to the Rockridge Community Planning Council and the Rockridge District Association, the merchants group.

*Angela Moore:* We should notify about the meetings sooner than 1 week ahead. Residents' calendars are filled up.

*Mike Ubell:* We can post it tomorrow.

*Angela Moore:* I can inundate OPD with information. Are there days when people gather in Rockridge? We could put out a table at the BART station.

*Karen Ivy:* We did a Coffee With A Cop on the plaza in front of Safeway, it was very successful.

A resident who logged in late said they need information about the meetings at the first of the month. Zoom classes on computer are often on Thursday and Friday night.

*Angela Moore:* We need a list of invited guests that really serve the interest of the community, to talk about what their department handles? A more informational NCPC.

*Jon Travis:* It's a good idea but whom could we ask?

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*Mike Ubell:* We've always focused on crime and crime prevention because RCPC covers other topics, they're very active and cover a wide range of topics. At the Community Policing Advisory Board (CPAB) meeting last night, they discussed reimagining community policing, make neighborhood councils more community organizing focused, not so much on crime. One idea is that we merge back into RCPC as a public safety committee? Should we consider that?

*Jon Travis:* What went on at that CPAB meeting? Sounded like there was a proposal for more funding and other stuff.

*Mike Ubell:* They want to expand Neighborhood Services, have NSCs do more community organizing, also a fund for training Neighborhood Council leadership, which would expand NC funding from \$700 per beat to \$12,000 to promote activities, and pay for projects. I doubt that will get through the city council; during the last recession, the council cut NCPC funding completely. It wasn't clear how that money would be spent or where it would come from. One person said that could cover the rent on an office. There's a list of things you can and can't spend money on, quite a list of what you can't spend on.

*Angela Moore:* We have a lot of NCPCs now, like Rockridge, that don't use all the money. Why should Council approve more for neighborhoods when we don't spend it all now? And racial equity – the NCPCs in east and west Oakland not only need all their money but need *more* money. That's why I'm always telling you to spend all the money.

*Jon Travis:* It's too bad the communication between beats is so iffy. Could a beat could ask another NCPC for unused money?

*Mike Ubell:* One of the restrictions is, you can't donate money to other groups. I don't know if that would include other NCs. Creighton Davis, the chair of CPAB, is trying to connect council leaderships. They also want Neighborhood Ambassadors, to help organize the community. They also discussed funding block level organizations or groups, I don't know if that's community watch groups or what.

*Angela Moore:* It's not; it's for block-to-block grant money. If you live on a street, you can apply for the money, increases visibility. And each block might have a different issue, reduce crime or do community engagement.

*Karen Ivy:* This \$50,000 says it's for fifty \$500 grants. You can't do a whole lot with \$500.

*Mike Ubell:* You could do a community cleanup, or beautification, or even a block party.

*Mike Ubell:* The money for training Neighborhood Council chairs is interesting. I expected more of the discussion. They also discussed 79235, the community policing resolution. They want more community organizing, less community policing; they want the city council to redraft the resolution along those lines. I can't

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believe the city council will even look at that this year because of the budget problems. If anyone wants copies of the CPAB document, just ask me.

*Angela Moore:* Creighton is already redrafting the resolution, he has U.C. Berkeley students working on the draft; but the city council would have to approve the new version. We need to meet as a steering committee, work out how to spend our money on outreach, to bring more people in. We need to discuss possibilities. I will organize it. We need to do some in-person walking around to meet people and encourage them to participate.

*Tom Donovan:* I've been attending NCPC meetings all over town. Everybody thinks they're in this alone, but they're all dealing with the same problems. We're all subdivided, that could be a strength if we can make connections. We contacted all the NCs we share borders with. We're trying to create a group of maybe 5 to pool ideas and resources.

*Karen Ivy:* We could certainly identify the NCPCs we share borders with.

8:00 PM Mike Ubell closed the meeting.

## **Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for April 2021**

### **Beat 12Y:**

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Homeless camp at 63rd and College.

### **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 10, 2021** at 7:00 PM  
Location TBA pending the course of the pandemic*

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