Greater Rockridge
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) Meeting – Minutes
Thursday, April 9, 2026
Rockridge Library and
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):
Michael Ubell – Chair
Parker Monroe - Vice Chair
Eric Neville - Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

7:00 – 7:05 PM – Introductions

Before the meeting began, the residents present asked the officers what areas are actually in the 12Y/13X beats, and also in in Area 2. The officers said that Area 2 is very large, the northern border is basically the Berkeley border (Parker Monroe pointed out that is Alcatraz Ave.). Asked about the eastern border, an officer said that the eastern border of beat 12Y is Broadway, and beat 13X (also part of Area 2) is on the east of Broadway up to Highway 13. [*Ed. Note:* You can see a map of the Oakland beats at Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Locator.]

Resident: In other words, this is lower Rockridge, but you are also covering upper Rockridge?

Officer Tran: Yes, that's right. There's a little chunk of beat 13 next to beat 12.

Karen Ivy: I thought you said area 2 goes down to 40th. I thought it stopped at 51st, or is that just beat 12?

Officer: 51st is where beat 12 stops, beat 12 is a pretty big beat.

Parker Monroe: So Area 2 goes down to 40th?

Officer: Yes. Area 2 is a big district.

Captain Burke: Area 2 is everything above West Grand. We have a huge geographical part of the city. The city is divided into 6 districts. Districts are composed of beats; Area 2 has beats 8 through 13.

Mike Ubell: They split beats into 2 and sometimes 3 sections; we're responsible for beats 12Y and 13X, leaving other parts of those beats to another Neighborhood Council.

7:05 – 7:20 PM – Oakland Police Dept. (OPD) Status Reports, beats 12Y and 13X

Mike Ubell officially started the meeting at 7:07 PM. OPD Officers Tran, Stern, and Reiton attended, plus Acting Captain Burke. Officer Reiton said he was a training officer. Officer Tran said he was the beat 12 officer from Tuesday to Friday. Chris Jackson introduced himself, he is the head of the Rockridge District Association. The

officers introduced themselves, as did the 3 residents who attended in person. The NCPC officers were all present in person and introduced themselves, except Eric Neville, who attended on Zoom. There was one other person on Zoom.

7:20 – 7:30 PM – Discuss neighborhood issues and problems

Resident: Where does most of the crime happen? I was robbed on Colby while I was sitting in my car waiting for a long red light to cross Claremont, and they smashed my window and reached in and grabbed my purse.

Officer: We get that kind of crime all over but there's more of it in beat 12. When was this?

Resident: Oh, it was a while ago.

Captain Burke: Was that recent?

Resident: No, about a year ago.

Captain Burke: For Area 2 the officers, and also the community, are doing a great job helping us tamp down the violence and crime we're seeing in the community. We've seen a 45% drop across the board, year to date so far, not just the officers but the citizens who have worked with the police department. We're still seeing broken glass, and car break-ins, especially here in the library parking lot. People park here, leave their windows open, and just walk down the street, and when they come back their stuff is gone. We're still concerned about that. But we're seeing less than we were last year. And when we can identify the thieves and their cars we can take them into custody. We're helped when Chris sends us emails about crime, and when people report it. Continue to share information with us about people and things that you see, and encourage people to do that.

Karen Ivy: We do encourage them but I'm not sure they always do it. I do monthly crime stats for our 2 beats, and beat 13X has turned in very few reports over the last few month, often less than 10 per month. I don't know if they actually have that little crime in upper Rockridge but I know they don't report much.

Captain Burke: We know there are some things in the area that we don't hear about, including a couple of commercial burglaries that we heard about after the fact. In that area they're either not reporting or they're reporting online, and I don't see online reports as fast as I do when an officer responds to 911; I may even not see them for a couple of months. Online reporting takes a long time to get to us.

Resident: You're saying that online reporting doesn't get to police management for a long time. If you call 911, that gets recorded. Do you also have a separate file, of things recorded online with OPD?

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/

Captain Burke: No, if you call 911, they ask if you have any suspect information, or anything we need to know; and if you say no, you have the option of going online and doing a report yourself.

Resident: So if we get a window broken, and something stolen, the only way *you'd* hear about it is if we filed online?

Captain Burke: No, I'd only hear if you called 911 and a cop came out; the cop would file a report I'd see. There's only one investigator who looks at all the online reports.

Resident: We had a guy trying to get in our back window, I scared him off, but I called 911 and I was very grateful when your guys came VERY quick!

Captain Burke: If it protects human life, that's what we're about!

Resident: I went to Market Hall the other night. There was what looked like an old police car in the lot, it was black and white but it had a light on. I went closer and there was an officer or someone in the car.

Captain Burke: That's private security, ask Chris Jackson about it.

Parker Monroe: Chris Jackson is the head of the Rockridge District Association. He hires private security officers because they have frequent break-ins at Market Hall parking lot.

Chris Jackson: The customers are not happy when their cars are broken into.

Parker Monroe: Chris Jackson hires private security to monitor the Market Hall parking lot, they are not police.

Resident: That's what they told me, that they are not police.

Parker Monroe: Let me just follow up. I'm on the Safer Rockridge board that does provide local private security. Safer Rockridge is a nonprofit, selling local subscription. They provide unarmed neighborhood patrols. Have any of you police ever gotten a call from them?

Officer Reiton: Are you talking about the gray vehicles with the lights on them?

Officer Tran: I've seen them around occasionally.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/

Parker Monroe: Yes. They're instructed to call 911 if they see a problem, not to intervene. They're mainly eyes on the street. They aren't at Market Hall, Market Hall has hired Intervention Security. Safer Rockridge wants to know if there are other private security firms that you can endorse?

Captain Burke: Actually, we cannot endorse.

Parker Monroe: We've worked with Intervention Group Inc. for years and they have a tracking software in the cars called "Bouncy," which produces maps that show where the drivers have been. Sometimes they do a wonderful job, twice through 12Y in a night; at other times they don't look so good. We wondered if there was an alternative.

Chris Jackson: We also brought them on, to have them walk around during the month of December to give the merchants feelings of safety.

Parker Monroe: Were you pleased with their work?

Chris Jackson: I have mixed feelings about the whole business. But that's my personal response.

Parker Monroe: OK, we're glad they're there. I've done a couple of ride-arounds, sitting in the car 3-4 hours at a time, just to see how they're doing. They go all over 12Y and 13X, way up in the fire district. I've learned a lot.

Resident: What times do the volunteers work? Even in the dark?

Parker Monroe: They work 5-10 or 6-11 – 5 days a week, and yes, in the dark. If I see any cops up there while I'm riding along, I'll treat you to something!

Chris Jackson: Why don't you explain the model? You have a number of households paying $30 a month for this service. How many households and from where to where?

Parker Monroe: The boundaries are what we articulated – 51st to Alcatraz, from Telegraph all the way up to Highway 13, concentrating in 12x because that's where the people are. We've added a special patrol just for College Ave. to make the merchants feel better. [*Ed. Note:* Although Safer Rockridge is a nonprofit, subscription based organization run by volunteers, the people who drive the Safer Rockridge patrol cars are paid professionals.]

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/

Captain Burke: Something is definitely happening. We're not seeing the crime we saw before. We're seeing a 45% drop in crime, burglaries, and vehicle burglaries, over what we saw last year. Something is definitely working.

Resident: What is the time span for that 45% drop?

Captain Burke: This is from January 1. But last year we were seeing maybe 20% reduction.

Resident: So that may coincide with when the increased security at Market Hall happened?

Captain Burke: Well, Market Hall had that incident where – how many cars were broken into in that one night? That was the biggest single jump in the time frame back then. So we went from 25% to 45% down.

Chris Jackson: When we were at the height of the auto break-ins, they would go from district to district. I could put an alert out, and they would hit Jack London Square and hit all the businesses. They were doing this 3 times a day, one area after another.

Resident: Do you think it was the same group?

Captain Burke: Well, there were multiple groups.

Parker Monroe: One of the things you said last time, which I took back to Safer Rockridge, was that it's so easy to get on the freeway from Claremont. They could be in and out in minutes.

Mike Ubell: This isn't just Area 2.

Captain Burke: This is city wide; it's trending down all over. But it's much greater for Area 2, our numbers are actually in the 50% range. We had a 55% reduction for Area 2 alone. We're trending very well.

Chris Jackson: Now I'm not seeing as many broken windows, and much less broken glass than I used to, much less per day. I don't know what the stats are but it just feels safer, and people are feeling safer.

Captain Burke: Even citywide it's better. It'd probably be even better if people reported everything. But it's looking much better. Summer is coming, it gets worse when the kids are out of school; it's mostly juveniles who do the auto burglaries and the home invasions

Parker Monroe: It's not gangs, is it? It's just kids getting together and breaking into things. It's not organized crime?

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/

Captain Burke: There are some organized crime groups, some neighborhood gangs, in town. They're in all types of crime. When people band together and all commit crimes together, that's a gang. That's how they make their money. They do all kinds of crime – prostitution, home invasion. The latest crime is to get a fire extinguisher and use it to rob a convenience store, stealing all the cigarettes and whatever. The definition of a gang is broad.

Resident: I understand the rumor is there are 30 or 40 different gangs in Oakland.

Paula Hawthorn: Is the decrease in crime because there are more cameras now? And more lighting in the parking lots, and a greater possibility of detection? We live right across the street from the American Red Cross blood center, and they have a big parking lot which used to be very dark. I don't know if there are cameras, but it's very well-lit now. Before the lighting, both of our sons parked next to that lot, and they got both cars broken into. Now, you see much less broken glass around those parking places, my kids can park there, and I think it's because of all the lights. I don't know if they actually have cameras, but all that light makes it look like they do.

Captain Burke: Crooks normally drive in darkness. That's how they want to live, not to be seen or heard. One of our biggest saving graces has been Flock. Flock has helped us greatly because it tells the police what cars were in the area. We can track what cars came into a district, what cars left and when. Even if you try to conceal the license plate, if we have a good description, we don't need the license plate to find the car. And they all go back to someplace in Oakland, or they may leave town and go somewhere else, but we can follow them.

Resident: What is the Flock coverage?

Parker Monroe: Are the new cameras on Claremont Flock cameras?

Captain Burke: Flock is all through the city. No, those cameras on Claremont are for speeding, we don't handle that. That's the Dept. of Transportation. Flock cameras are on all major thoroughfares and pretty much all freeway entrances, you'll see them on poles.

Resident: What about those things that hear guns?

Captain Burke: That's ShotSpotter, that has nothing to do with Flock. You won't see ShotSpotter.

Resident: Is the ShotSpotter in Bushrod still activated?

Captain Burke: Yes.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/

Resident: So, what about violent crime, like assault? Is that down?

Captain Burke: Aggravated assault is a different issue, that's down 55% from the last numbers I gave. All this stuff, including the burglaries and so on, is worse during the holidays, you'll see it go up during holidays.

Resident: It's darker at night, people are carrying packages??

Captain Burke: That's right. That's a crime of opportunity.

Resident: I was sitting at the red light, looking at the light, and they smashed my window and grabbed my purse. They know that's a long red light, and that I'm watching the light, not looking around for them.

Chris Jackson: One of our merchants was robbed, they watched her come out of the bank and put stuff in her car, then they smashed and grabbed.

Captain Burke: What else do you have for these officers?

Resident: What about the No Kings rallies? I saw a really good police presence at that, it felt very comfortable. What's your role? Or were you anticipating something?

Captain Burke: Our role is public safety. Everyone has a right to free speech. We know that for No Kings rallies, there's no opposition which will show up. We're just there to keep things safe. And they do some of their own security; they've told some groups that they don't want them. But those rallies have all been peaceful. We understand what they're doing, we talk to their security people. They notify us when they're planning a rally. We're contemplating not staffing those because they've had no issues, although we should be there.

Resident: It's affirming to have you there because it's not about local government, it's about federal.

Captain Burke: We understand that most anarchists like to hijack any local rally – they come in, cause problems, and leave. And the rally people say, what just happened? We understand the dynamics from previous rallies.

Resident: This is very different from the Occupy rallies, I finally had to stop going because I couldn't stand it. The Occupy leadership refused to keep the violent people out.

Captain Burke: Oakland isn't the focus of all this; the attention has shifted to SF. If you want media attention you go across the bay. They come to Oakland when they want to do something and get away with it. We

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/

appreciate what the community is doing, especially in Area 2. They're very good about letting us know what they're planning.

Chris Jackson: We have a very good community, very few broken windows, lots of people on the street. Have you noticed an increase in sentencing, with the new DA?

Captain Burke: the DA is charging people responsible for doing crime. Her mission is to show the criminal element that they can't just do anything and get away with it. But we have over 240 murder trials waiting for a courtroom for a couple of *years,* and we don't have that many courtrooms. And that puts everything back. People are now making plea deals and going to jail, just to get out of waiting for the trial to happen. It's validating for the victims, we don't have time to keep an eye on all this. And we get people who've been on probation 3 or 4 times. I don't have time to track all these people, it's just rough on the victims.

Resident: We were burglarized years ago and we got terrible identity theft. They finally caught one of the ring who had a lot of people's data, but they just nailed her for parole violations because they didn't have enough people to prosecute.

Mike Ubell: We'll let these people get back to work. Our next meeting is June 11, and we'll have Dr. Holly Joshi, Chief of the Dept. of Violence Prevention. Thank you all.

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for April 2026

Beat 12Y:

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Car break-ins on College Ave., especially in the library parking lot.

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, 2026*** *at 7:00 PM*
Rockridge Library and virtual meeting
Zoom link is available at https://rockridgencpc.com, NEXT NCPC MEETING

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/