

**Greater Rockridge Neighborhood
Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) - Minutes
Thursday, December 13, 2018
Rockridge Library, College and Manila
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):

Chair - Michael Ubell

Vice Chair – <position open>

Treasurer - Eric Neville

Secretary & Information Officer - Karen Ivy

Mike Ubell opened the meeting at 7:37PM and the NCPC officers introduced themselves. Community Resource Officer David Mac and Neighborhood Services Coordinator Patricia Rose were present. Seventeen people signed in. Neither of the volunteers for vice chair was present, so Mike skipped the nomination announcement.

Oakland Police Dept. Status Report, Beat 12Y

As usual, Officer Mac reported crime statistics for the last 60 days, compared with the numbers for the same period in 2017. He has been working on auto burglaries and auto burglary suppression, the most common crimes in this area. Auto burglaries are down considerably from last year. This period in 2017 saw 59, while in 2018 we had only 38. OPD has caught 3 or 4 suspects, who may have been responsible for as much as 20 auto burglaries each. Officer Mac reports that thieves are now using a Bluetooth detector, to identify cars with active electronics inside.

Officers also caught 2 juveniles, who followed a woman wearing earbuds for 2 blocks before stealing her phone. She didn't press charges. Officer Mac suggested pedestrians should not wear earbuds while walking unless they can also hear their surroundings.

Robberies are up, with 3 firearm robberies and 7 strong-arm robberies. In 2017 the same period saw only one of each. A residence asked about the difference between robbery and theft and Officer Mac explained that theft doesn't directly involve the victim, but robbery does.

Burglaries are up 100% from last year, from 2 residential and 1 commercial to 4 residential and 2 commercial over last 60 days.

Q: what about porch burglars?

A. Porch burglars aren't on the radar because of so many robberies. He hasn't seen numbers on porch pirates. Karen Ivy commented that she didn't know whether there was a separate penal code section porch burglary as opposed to other kinds of theft, so it may not be counted.

Oakland Police Dept. Status Report, Beat 13X

Beat 13X had 1 robbery, same as last year. Auto related burglaries decreased from 10 in 2017 to 4 in 2018. Residential burglaries increased from 1 to 3, while commercial burglaries dropped from 1 to zero.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

1

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

**Greater Rockridge Neighborhood
Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) - Minutes
Thursday, December 13, 2018
Rockridge Library, College and Manila
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

Priorities

A representative from Frog Park complained about the homeless camps in the Frog Park area. There are four tents along Temescal Creek in Frog Park near the DMV, they have been there for over a year despite numerous SeeClickFix reports (as in, dozens of reports). They are affecting the creek water, debris is all over, and from time to time there is a nasty pit bull tied up to a tree near the tents, which threatens users on the pathway.

There are also 2 cars that park on Hardy Circle (near the other end of Frog Park), apparently belonging to a couple. People sleep in them overnight, and throw out garbage, drug materials, and sometimes human waste onto the sidewalk by the park entrance. A resident's dog ate some of the waste (while walking on leash from the dog park), which poisoned the dog and led to a significant vet bill for the dog owner. The overnighting in the parking area has also been reported on SeeClickFix numerous times, mostly by Hardy Street residents.

Officer Mac pointed out that the Ninth Circuit has ruled police can't cite people for sleeping in the park overnight, unless there is shelter space available.

Resident: That decision has been appealed, and she checked and there is shelter space available.

Mike Ubell asked if anything can be done about people sleeping in the car. Officer Mac confirmed that, apart from tagging a car that hasn't been moved for 72 hours, there's not much he can do about people sleeping in cars.

Another resident asked whether homeless services staff could liaison with these campers?

Patricia Rose said that Talia Rubin (trubin@oaklandca.gov), of the city's Community Housing Services, works with the homeless.

A resident complained that his home was burglarized by 4 people Monday night. The owners weren't home. Their home security firm called them. Have other group burglaries been reported?

Officer Mac said that burglars often work in teams of 2 or 3 because they need lookouts. OPD has poor statistics on multiple-person burglaries because of a shortage of security cameras. Burglars look for easy access and location. He's had burglary attempts at his own house and he has floodlights front and back.

Another resident asked what we should do? Put lights on timers? Leave the radio on? Officer Mac said all those are good ideas but not perfect.

Asked how often the patrol officers go around, Officer Mac responded that OPD has data which predict when crimes happen, and OPD schedules patrols and coverage based on the data. It's mostly in the evening, when

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

2

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

**Greater Rockridge Neighborhood
Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) - Minutes
Thursday, December 13, 2018
Rockridge Library, College and Manila
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

robberies tend to happen. This is why we ask you to report all crimes, even past property crimes which probably won't get a result. Crime reports drive police coverage.

Mike Ubell noted that when Claremont Middle lets out, the kids head straight for the BART station and start renting scooters. Can Patrol try to be there when the school lets out, at least to tell the middle school kids they aren't allowed to ride?

New priority: The homeless camp in Frog Park is getting bigger and more troublesome.

E-Scooter Presentations on Safety

Mike Ubell announced that we have representatives present from e-scooter firms Lime, Skip, and Bird. The city has almost completed new regulations for e-scooters. We hope to focus this meeting on public safety issues.

Bird: Marty Fatooh introduced himself. He is Bird's Community Relations Manager for Northern California; his email is mfatooh@bird.co. (Note: it is *not* ".com".) He put up a presentation on the screen, which lighting in the room made hard to read. We have posted a PDF of the presentation on the NCPC web site, for anyone who wants to review it. You can find it at <http://tinyurl.com/y99ht32s>.

Bird realizes there are major safety issues. Bird has handed out more than 60,000 helmets; the firm will ship them free, on request, for a \$2.50 shipping charge. From January 1, 2019, the law has changed – adult riders will have the option of not wearing helmets. Riders must now scan their driver's license when they register to use the scooters, but they didn't originally have to; Bird knows the system in Oakland is flawed, and needs some form of double verification, since it is illegal for persons under 18 years old to ride their scooters. They're considering facial recognition, having the rider take a selfie to compare with the photo on the license. They may also consider some form of double verification with the credit or debit card used. Bird is setting up a board to develop better policies for e-scooter issues on Oakland streets.

The Bird app now has a "community mode," which requires riders to take a photo of the spot where they park the scooter. Community mode allows users to report bad behavior directly to the company, through the app. Residents who don't have the app can also email hello@bird.co to report problems. You can report issues directly to Bird, or report through OAK 311 or the SeeClickFix app. Bird requires new renters to go through the tutorial, as part of the app, before they can ride. The tutorial makes clear that riders must stay in the street, not on the sidewalk. Bird's "nest" team (which collects, charges, and redistributes scooters) will make sure the scooters aren't placed in a location that causes complaints.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

3

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

**Greater Rockridge Neighborhood
Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) - Minutes
Thursday, December 13, 2018
Rockridge Library, College and Manila
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

Bird reported statistics on scooter usage collected by the city of Austin, TX, a major hub for them. From April 5, 2018 through early October, scooters traveled 1,190,900 miles in Austin, bicycles 85,000. Austin reported 81 bicycle injuries and 37 scooter injuries from May 7 – Sept 8, 2018. This amounts to .3 injuries per scooter mile traveled in Austin.

Skip: Andrew Meyersieck represented Skip, he is a program director for California Strategies & Advocacy, who consult for Skip. His email is andrewm@calstrat.com. Skip does not currently operate in Oakland. They did have a small initial operation, but they have pulled back. They have given away 50,000 helmets – riders can order a free helmet [from the help site](#), and pay a \$10 shipping fee. You must verify your driver's license to register for the app, but people without licenses are borrowing Ids to register. Sidewalk riding is a big issue. Riding scooters on sidewalks is illegal in this state; this is not clear to all riders. Skip is testing sensors that can tell if the scooter is running on the sidewalk. They are also looking at built-in locks on the scooters, to make sure riders can pull out the lock and lock the scooter to a post or hydrant. The dockless business model is very valuable; they don't really want to have to put the scooters all in one fixed place, like Ford Go-Bikes. Enforcement of all this is an issue, since OPD is overloaded. How to make sure riders understand the rules? Education is important. Skip could possibly train a group of young people to act as ambassadors and educate their peers.

Mike Ubell commented that the California state fine is \$197 for riding on the sidewalk. We should publicize that fact.

People have brought up insurance as an issue. All scooter operators have insurance. Oakland requires coverage of \$1,000,000 per accident.

Lime: Tariq Fleming is the Operations Manager for Lime in the S.F. East Bay. His email is tariq.fleming@limebike.com. He claims that Lime has now completed over 500,000 total rides. Lime has set up the Respect the Ride campaign to encourage people to ride according to the rules – they claim 75,000 people signed up in first 15 days. They intend to distribute 250,000 helmets. Their new model scooter will include a larger screen so riders can see notifications in addition to a speedometer and battery gauge. Riders must scan their driver's license and go through the tutorial before getting the first scooter. The Lime app supports geofences, so Lime can identify no parking areas and "no deploy" zones. There are flaws with the setup. They're considering adopting a practice required by the Uber app: Uber drivers must take a selfie through the app when logging in. Lime considers this a good idea and may set it up. Lime Scooters have numbers and email addresses on them, for reporting issues to the company. Educating users on fines as well as rules is a good idea.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

4

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

**Greater Rockridge Neighborhood
Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) - Minutes
Thursday, December 13, 2018
Rockridge Library, College and Manila
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

Q: Explain about the geofences. How do you keep scooters off school grounds? People were riding scooters around the track during a soccer game at a local school. Also is there a person I can report bad behavior to? And why are all those scooters right in front of the middle school? It's an attraction.

Mike Ubell noted that there's a sensor in the scooter that tells it where it is.

Lime: When the Lime geofence sensor identifies a "no go" zone, the scooter goes into maintenance mode and shuts down. Lime is working with OUSD to make sure schools are safe. Bird is working to remove "nests" from in front of the school.

Bird: Bird's Community mode lets users report a misplaced scooter, but users can't report a bad rider unless they take a photo and send it through the app. If you report a problem to the Bird operations team they will take responsibility.

Resident: But nothing will happen because no one will enforce any rules. And you have to report through the app.

Skip: Skip is working on the GPS system to make it identify scooters individually, but they're not there yet.

Resident: How do we identify a misbehaving scooter renter? If you have to have the app to report, I'd have to have all 3 apps on my phone to report a problem.

Bird: 311 calls about our scooters go directly to me. And reports through the app don't now go to OakDOT but Bird expects to be asked for the information.

Karen Ivy commented that any reports through the scooter apps won't go directly to the city when they're made, they'll go as part of a repeated data dump, at some later time.

Bird: The people who charge the scooters go around every night to collect them.

Resident: If people just drop them where they're going, they'll accumulate in popular spots, maybe near schools.

Resident: Oakland has made zero dollars off these scooters. The scooters are totally unpermitted. There will eventually be a licensing process, but the companies only have to put up a \$10K bond. We are giving away the use of the streets. San Francisco is making money off their e-scooters, and the accident rate has plummeted since they set up regulations. It's ridiculous that Oakland has allowed this to get so Wild West, and why do residents have to have all the apps to report these incidents? It's your job to police this, OPD is way overloaded.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

5

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

**Greater Rockridge Neighborhood
Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) - Minutes
Thursday, December 13, 2018
Rockridge Library, College and Manila
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

Scooters are parked in bus zones so much that people can't get off the buses, it's all different vendors. Tell the charge people not to leave them in red zones and bus zones. You're taking no responsibility for this.

Skip: The bond is actually much higher than \$10K. The fees will be very good for the city. The companies are contributing \$1 per day per vehicle to the city, for bike lanes etc. But yes, we need to take more responsibility and accountability. We're trying to respond to issues quickly, and raise the bar on safety.

[Ed. Note: According to the [East Bay Times on November 1](#): "Under the fee schedule passed Tuesday, e-scooter companies must pay a \$2,500 fee to apply for a permit, and if approved, a \$30,000 annual fee to operate, according to a report from the city administrator's office. The scooter companies also must pay a \$64 per-vehicle annual fee." The \$10,000 bond mentioned is a deposit to pay for any damage to city property that happens from operating scooters. You can see the actual document setting out the conditions on the [OakDOT page on the city web site](#), under E-Scooters.]

Lime: All the e-scooter companies are working together. Our people don't just pick up Lime scooters from BART stops, we clean up other scooters too.

Resident: What are you doing about the scooters people throw in the lake?

Lime: There's a guy going around spray painting bikes. There's a homeless camp down by the 12th street bridge by the lake, we have increased pickups from there, daily and weekly. It's not the riders doing this. He was horrified at the news reports of scooters thrown in the lake. Lime has partnered with the Lake Merritt Institute to help recover any scooters thrown in the lake.

Bird has hired a 3rd party vendor, experienced in water recovery, to help keep scooters removed from the lake and cleaned up. They've designated the area around the lake as a no parking zone to keep scooters away from the lake.

Skip: Following incidents of people stripping parts off scooters and throwing the rest in the lake, Skip is trying to make the scooters have no value on the black market. They've only had one major incident. Scooters don't pollute the lake, they're very well sealed.

The meeting adjourned shortly before 9 PM.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

6

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

**Greater Rockridge Neighborhood
Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) - Minutes
Thursday, December 13, 2018
Rockridge Library, College and Manila
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for December 2018

Beat 12Y:

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Bicycles and electric scooters ridden on the sidewalk on College Ave.
2. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* The homeless camp in Frog Park is getting bigger and more troublesome.

Beat 13X:

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

*Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council
normally meets on the SECOND Thursday of even-numbered months.
Next meeting **Thursday, February 14, 2019** at 7:30 PM
Rockridge Library, College and Manila
See you there and stay safe!*

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>