

**Greater Rockridge
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes
Thursday, February 8, 2018
Rockridge Library, College and Manila
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):

Michael Ubell – Chair

Barbara Minton – Vice Chair

Eric Neville - Treasurer

Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

Mike Ubell opened the meeting at 7:35 PM. The NCPC board members introduced themselves, as did Patricia Rose, our Neighborhood Services Coordinator. Barbara Minton was unable to attend. Mike also introduced Chris Jackson, the operations manager for the Rockridge District Association. Officer Mac, the Community Resource Officer for beat 12Y, attended. Twenty-one people attended the meeting.

Andrea Dooley introduced herself. She is a new member of the Oakland Police Commission, and gave a brief overview of what the Police Commission does. It has two broad functions: to ensure OPD follows national standards of constitutional policing, and to oversee Citizens' Police Review Agency (CPRA), which investigates police misconduct. Police Commission regular meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at City Hall. They also plan to have public meetings on various subjects including police policy.

Q: The *S.F. Chronicle* says violent crime is down overall, but auto burglaries are up 25%. What are we doing right?

Ms. Dooley: Changes in officer training are having an effect. Oakland has seen an 18% decrease in the number of African American citizens who are stopped, with no decrease in overall arrests. Targeted stops correlate better to reducing crime. Crime is definitely down.

Mike suggested Ms. Dooley could give a presentation on the Police Commission at a future meeting. She agreed she would be happy to come back. She also left business cards; she is willing to answer questions about policies and other items related to the Commission.

[*Ed. Note:* Ms. Dooley tells me the Commission has voted to move its regular meetings to the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. This makes it unlikely that she'll be able to talk to a later NCPC meeting.]

Oakland Police Department Status Report, Beat 12Y

Officer Mac summarized the area crime statistics for the past 2 months, and the same period last year.

Robberies are down, there were 13 during the period last year, this year only 4. Burglaries are also down, 22 last year and 16 this year. Auto thefts dropped from 20 to 9. Oakland Police Department has saturated the Rockridge/Temescal/Piedmont area, and it seems to be reducing crime. Criminals are avoiding the area. Chris Jackson noted that auto burglaries are down in the College Avenue Area.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

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

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

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Oakland Police Department Status Report, Beat 13X

Officer Jurgen-Duenas was unable to attend, but she emailed statistics to the NCPC Secretary, Karen Ivy, who repeated them to the audience.

For the period 12/14/17 to 2/8/18:

	12/14/17 to 2/8/18	12/14/16 to 2/8/17
Auto burglaries	3	4
Residential burglaries	2	9
Stolen vehicles	5	4
Robberies	0	0

Karen also repeated Officer Jurgens-Duenas' summary of the outstanding priority for Beat 13X, the traffic problems just before school at the intersection of Broadway Terrace and Hermosa Avenue. There has been no action on the request for new striping in the crosswalk. However, officers have frequently been in the area monitoring that intersection and issuing citations when needed.

Q: Do you have statistics on auto break-ins in my neighborhood? They seem to be up.

Mike Ubell: You may have seen incidents on NextDoor that weren't reported. If the break-in isn't reported, it won't show in the stats. Officer Mac confirmed that his statistics only include reported crimes.

Q: I read about a laptop stolen from a coffee shop, how often does that happen?

Chris Jackson: That's way down in our area, it never happens inside the coffee shop in this area. These are crimes of opportunity; the thieves usually have a getaway car waiting.

A resident thanked Officer Mac for his help dealing with wrong-way drivers on Coronado Avenue, the 1-way street (toward Broadway) next to Merrill Gardens. Wrong way drivers are usually people trying to get out of Wendy's, but may also be people crossing Broadway from the new shopping center. The resident asked the meeting how to deal with it. The meeting agreed that Dan Kalb's office isn't very responsive. Chris Jackson suggested that until there are accidents, the city won't act on it.

Karen Ivy said she thought she heard a priority for beat 12Y: stop 1-way driving on Coronado Avenue. Officer Mac confirmed that we now have a traffic division again. The NCPC agreed this will be a priority.

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Chris Jackson asked for a beat 12Y priority: a woman on College Avenue, first name Gretchen, is very aggressive. She regularly assaults people, and invades stores. She also acts out on AC Transit buses. He asked the police department to identify her, including last name and date of birth, so he can request a Stay Away order for her. He knows she's from Carmichael, CA, and has been here at least a year.

A resident mentioned that he's opening a cider-focused bar at 5815 College Avenue, near Oak Grove. He wanted to be available to answer community questions; he is not quite ready to apply for alcoholic beverage license. No one raised any questions.

Neighbors for Racial Justice Presentation

Joan Lohman, Shikira Porter, and Monica Bien are members of *Neighbors for Racial Justice*. They jointly discussed their Power Point and Video presentation on *Creating Safer and Welcoming Neighborhoods*.

Joan Lohman explained that [*Neighbors for Racial Justice*](#) (N4RJ) started in 2013 in the Dimond, after the Trayvon Martin murder. The members noticed racial profiling in their area, especially on NextDoor and similar listservs, and developed this presentation on the subject. They've shown the racial profiling presentation all over Oakland, including twice at City Hall, to highlight issues of racial profiling. They intend to honor black lives lost to police violence. Shikira Porter and Monica Bien are also on the Dimond NCPC.

Shikira: This is all storytelling, with some video. Some of it may be emotionally disturbing.

Our *unconscious biases* govern what we perceive as suspicious. We define racial profiling as it shows up on message boards and listservs. People often feel victimized by crime, but some posts can harm people of color. Safety is a privilege, but not everyone has the privilege.

Have you ever been watched or stopped by a private security patrol? Do you feel safe calling the police? Do you fear you'd be mistaken for the suspect if you call? People of color have been watched and stopped, and don't feel safe calling the police, and do fear they may be mistaken for the suspect. People want to be accepted, respected, and valued.

They showed a video on *implicit bias*. Having implicit bias doesn't mean you are a racist. It's how people think. Peanut butter = jelly. Black men = violence. You can't really trust your gut on some issues.

How do we examine our biases? Pause, question your reaction. Admit that you have implicit biases. Ask yourself, are race and/or skin color really criminal predictors? Do you make excuses for white people? Are you missing details suggesting non-criminal daily activity for people of color? We must work to un-see our biases.

Profiling is the practice of considering race, among other variables, as a predictor of criminal behavior. Vague and general descriptions can also be profiling.

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We routinely see cultural profiling in media, on TV, and in movies. The president’s travel ban and ICE raids are based on cultural profiling. The US Department of Justice thinks that Oakland (among other cities) uses unconstitutional policing practices, such as stop & frisk, which impact people of color.

Profiling causes harm to innocent neighbors of color, and destroys the relationship between law enforcement and community.

Shikira Porter told a personal story of being profiled while taking her kids to school. She was in work clothes, putting kids into her Prius, when a white man with a very large dog stood and stared at her from top of her driveway. After a few minutes she said, “You know, I live here.” After which he said, “Oh, OK” and waved her on, as if he had the right to allow her to go to work.

Being arrested because someone is suspicious can cause real harm. Code words for profiling suspicions include “AA”, hoodie, ghetto, thug, sketchy. No one person is responsible – it's an entire system that works to make all this happens, which is harmful to people of color. They showed a video on systemic racism – we can't discuss racism without considering the whole system. Implicit bias can kill the wrong people. If you must describe someone on NextDoor, it is very important to be precise, don't just say “black male.” All of the following are important *in addition* to skin color: height, weight or general build, all clothing items including glasses and hats, hair style if you can see it. Shoes are particularly important as people can change a jacket but are unlikely to change shoes. The NCPC web site provides a copy, which you can download or print, of the police department’s [Reporting Suspicious Activity](#) form, which includes a detailed explanation of how to describe a suspicious person or car precisely.

Neighbors for Racial Justice worked with NextDoor to create the crime and safety form which you will now see on NextDoor if you want to post a crime. They're also working on tips on how to post without profiling, and also on training Nextdoor leads to watch for and challenge profiling.

Neighbors for Racial Justice invited the audience to follow them on Facebook.

Resident: Check out the documentary *The Long Shadow*. It will be at shown at the Grand Lake Theatre on April 11. It is a cultural history of slavery and racism in the United States.

Meeting ended a little before 9 PM.

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Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for February 2018

Beat 12Y:

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Wrong way drivers on Coronado Avenue near Broadway.
2. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Identify the last name and date of birth of aggressive homeless woman named Gretchen, to support a Stay Away order.

Beat 13X:

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Children going to school, crossing Broadway Terrace at Hermosa, are in danger from traffic between 8:00 and 8:20 AM.

*Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council meetings
are normally the SECOND Thursday of even-numbered months.
Next meeting **Thursday, April 12, 2018** at 7:30 PM
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See you there and stay safe!*

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