

**Greater Rockridge
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Agenda
Thursday, February 13, 2020
Rockridge Library, College and Manila
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM**

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):

Michael Ubell – Chair
Vice Chair <position open, volunteers requested>
Eric Neville - Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

Introductions and Election Announcement

Mike Ubell opened the meeting at 7:05 PM. He introduced the NCPC officers and Jon Travis, who is running for Vice Chair. The election will happen at the April meeting. He also introduced the new Community Resource Officer (CRO) for beat 12Y, Officer Josiah Ladd. Officer Kristine Jurgens-Duenas was unable to attend. Twenty people signed in to the meeting.

Oakland Police Dept. (OPD) Status Reports, beats 12Y and 13X

Officer Ladd introduced himself and gave some background on his experience and training. He is new to the CRO position, and Officer Mac, our former CRO, is training him. Officer Jurgens-Duenas was unable to attend so he gave the statistics for both beats.

Beat 12Y		
Crimes	12/11/2019 – 2/11/2020	12/11/2018 – 2/11/2019
Robbery Firearm	4	1
Robbery Strongarm	4	1
Carjacking	0	0
Auto Burglary	133	80
Residential Burglary	18	12
Commercial Burglary	2	3

Officer Ladd emphasized that auto burglaries are known to be a major issue, although some of the reports are just vandalism (car window broken, nothing stolen).

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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Beat 13X		
Crimes	10/10/2019 – 12/12/2019	10/10/2018 – 12/12/2018
Grand theft person	0	0
Robbery	0	1
Auto Burglary	9	11
Residential Burglary	1	6
Commercial Burglary	0	0

Officer Ladd mentioned that in 13X, the hot spot for auto break-ins is the 5800 – 5900 block of Margarido, although the times of the incidents vary.

He explained that the city has formed an auto burglary task force with 5-6 nearby cities including Piedmont, Berkeley, Alameda, Emeryville, and possibly Hayward, as this isn't just an Oakland problem. The task force recently did an early morning operation and arrested a couple of people. The intent is to repeat such an operation at least once a month, in one of the cities. Part of operation is finding where the thieves sell the stolen goods, so they can go after the fences. There are known groups who work together on these burglaries, there are also individuals. There are several other inter-city task forces, including possibly one on drugs.

Neighborhood Issues Discussion

Q: How do we know if someone was arrested for any particular incident? I'd like to know how many people have been arrested.

A: A blue van on College Ave recently did a laptop snatch and a robbery. OPD caught 3 of the 5 people in that van last week and 2 of the victims have identified them. OPD also arrested people for restaurant robberies later the same week.

Q: What about arrests for residential burglaries?

A: He'd have to look that up.

Q: What are College Avenue merchants doing about this, to protect their customers?

A: Some of them pay for private security. There's one private security officer who walks around. Most businesses just post signs. Chabot and College is a very hot spot for car break-ins and there's no security there at all. Officer Ladd has only been on the beat a short time and hasn't yet been able to meet with owners of the Beer Baron.

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Q: Why isn't there more security?

A: We're talking about private security. OPD Officers who work the streets must respond to 911 calls, and have to work the whole city.

Q: Do we have a list of “hot spots” in the city?

Mike Ubell suggested citizens try OakCrime.org (<https://oakcrime.org>). That site maintains maps that show hot spots, based on the police data feed. That specific police data feed isn't available to the public. You have to create an account on the site and log in. The site is supported by OpenOakland, the local branch of Code for America.

Officer Ladd commented that the entire stretch of College Ave is a hot spot for car break-ins!

Q: How effective are security cameras, to deter crime, and to catch perps?

A: Cameras have some deterrent effect, less for auto burglaries than for some other crimes. Surveillance cameras really help – the police need license plate numbers, car descriptions, and descriptions of person.

Q: What if people don't report the incident? 5 cars were broken into on my short cul-de-sac, and nobody called the police.

A: The majority of reports for auto break-ins are online, your incidents may have been reported that way. But yes, a lot of people don't report. There just aren't enough police to respond to every property crime incident.

Q: Can you use bait cars? 133 in 60 days is a lot.

A: Those numbers were over the Christmas holidays. He'd have to look into whether bait cars are used.

Mike Ubell noted that OPD had a problem with a sting operation. The perps were willing to cause bodily harm to the police to avoid arrest. Police have pulled back a little, to protect their officers.

Officer Mac said OPD has arrested the same guy 3 times for car burglary. The police can't chase the thieves, so they lurk on foot to try to intercept, and try to get license plates to follow up.

Officer Ladd added that the police prefer to use chases only on people who are a threat to the public. Property crimes are not a threat to the public.

Q: What happens after you arrest them? We hear that nobody follows up on car burglars. Can't they be made to do community service? It's terrifying to live in Oakland today, and nobody's doing anything, except reporting on NextDoor.

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Officer Ladd: When someone is arrested, we either give them the Miranda warning or take them to the Criminal Investigation Division. They're asked if they're working alone or in a group, where they target, where they sell stolen items and any other information we may want to know. After questioning we take them to jail, where they're booked. Depending on the arrest, they may bail out or may have to wait to speak to judge to get out. The judge decides if they'll be held in jail; the DA decides whether to charge them. Once out they will have a court date. Attorneys will either take it to trial or plead out the case. In a trial, everyone goes to court to testify and the jury decides. Pleading can either be probation, time in jail, community service or other options.

Q: If you arrest someone and it goes to trial, how will the victim know?

A: Victims are always notified in that case, due to Marsy's Law.

Q: How does OPD allocate resources? The resident has found the online police reports, but why don't we know where the resources are?

Mike Ubell: There are 35 beats in Oakland. Each beat has 1 patrol officer per shift. Beats are quite large. Beat 12Y, for instance, goes from Telegraph Avenue on the west to Broadway on the east, and from Woolsey on the edge of Berkeley to 51st Street/Pleasant Valley north to south. (You can look at the beat maps in area 2, North Oakland, at <http://gisapps1.mapoakland.com/policedistricts/>.) OPD's crime reduction teams are called in for special problems. OPD's resources are very thinly spread.

Daryel Dunston, Oakland Human Services

Mr. Dunston explained his role in the city's Human Services department. He's currently pinch-hitting for Joe DeVries, but they have different roles. Mr. Dunston is from the east coast; he went to school in Philadelphia, then settled in D.C. where he was a fire marshal. He later went to grad school at Berkeley, and lived 63rd and Colby! He now lives near the Oakland Zoo. His graduate thesis was on the Oakland response to the homeless crisis.

Oakland is doing a lot, but residents think the city is ignoring the crisis, largely because of poor communications. This is a regional and statewide crisis, and local response is limited by local resources. People are becoming homeless faster than we can house them, 2 or even 3 losing housing for every 1 housed. How do we decide what to fund, what camps to deal with? This is the same problem OPD has, a lot of available resources have to go to the worst problem sites. It's not just OPD, the whole city is understaffed. Mr. Dunston is a program manager in Human Services. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) has gotten an \$8 million grant plus another \$3 million, just for homeless services. The Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP) is trying to get another \$19 million. HEAP is running out of funds, and will be replaced by HHAP. Between 2015 and 2017, homelessness in Oakland increased 26%; between 2017 and 2019 it increased by 47%.

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Q: Are these people who lived here and have lost housing? Should we be looking at housing policy?

A: Yes but housing policy is only one facet. Yes, the majority of unsheltered people (over 80%) are native Oaklanders.

Q: Do most homeless have mental health issues? They seem to have them.

A: Data shows that unsheltered people who are mentally ill, or have substance abuse, are about 15% of the total. 40-50% of unsheltered people who aren't mentally ill are couch surfing.

Q: Do we know how many homeless people are employed?

A: We don't have a number, but we know there are people who don't have housing, who are working, or have some type of income. They could be on social security, and living in an RV; they don't have enough income to afford an apartment. We're trying to quantify this. Point in time counts say the homeless population has increased by 47%, which is about 4,000 homeless in Oakland. We know that's an undercount, the number is probably closer to 6,000. We know there are 100-200 families that are housing insecure; many parents don't ask for help because they are afraid of Child Protective Services.

Oakland has adopted the HUD description of "literally homeless:" living in a place not suitable for housing, or in a shelter. This doesn't include couch surfers or people in RVs.

Mike Ubell suggested people go to everyonehome.org (<https://everyonehome.org>) for detailed stats on this.

Jon Travis asked, are we just focusing on the visible people? Does that affect our priorities?

A: The main priority driver is funding. Do you provide for a person who has no resources or one who only has a few? A couch surfer is more stable than a person in a tent under the freeway.

Q: But we don't even have enough money to serve the people under the freeway.

A: That's when the conversations get really hard; how do you prioritize with very limited funds? How do you start?

Q: What resources does OPD have for homeless issues?

A: All city departments are at the encampment management team table.

Officer Ladd said that OPD has 1 sergeant and 2 officers assigned to homeless issues, and 2 more officers assigned to mental health.

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Mr. Dunston: It's now a crime to criminalize homelessness (after Martin vs. City of Boise court decision <http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2018/09/04/15-35845.pdf>). Sleeping on a bench is not a crime if there is no available housing to offer. Police officers can offer help but they can't arrest rough sleepers.

Q: Where can we see the policy that allows camps to exist, and expand? How do citizens get input into this?

A: We are grappling with that now. We don't yet have a policy in place but we're working on it. You can contribute through your city council member. Look for council meetings on the subject, and show up. On Feb 25 the Life Enrichment Committee will meet on this subject. It meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, from 4:00 – 5:30 PM, in the Sgt. Mark Dunakin room, on the first floor of City Hall. This committee discusses homelessness issues and ultimately forwards any action items on homelessness to the full City Council.

Q: Is there separate money for help for homeless veterans?

A: Yes, we collaborate with the VA and DOD, but all we can do is refer people to them. We don't get any funding from them.

We have camps popping up all over city. It's very hard for us to shut down camps because we can't offer them any alternatives. We feel that policy should be driven by public safety and public health. We couldn't enforce a ban on camps.

Mike Ubell asked, how do people find out if the city knows about a camp and is doing something about it?

A: Joe DeVries gets those emails. We've asked people to tell their council members and ask them to pass on the information.

A resident mentioned oaklandhomelessresponse.com (<https://www.oaklandhomelessresponse.com/>), which provides a list of camps, a map of services, and where we are getting calls. 311 doesn't have a category for reporting homeless encampments.

[*Ed. Note:* I looked at the Oakland Homeless Response site and I don't see any of the maps or lists the resident mentioned. The site has a lot of information on homelessness in Oakland, but the only location information is the location of several Oakland-provided sites for RV parking and for Community Cabin sites. It's still worth looking at.]

Danny Marquez, Oakland Community Affairs Manager, Revel

Mr. Marquez handed out printed flyers about Revel instead of showing a slide a presentation. He is general manager for Revel in Oakland. The document he passed out has a lot of information. The NCPC has offered to post his presentation on our web site, <http://rockridgencpc.com>.

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Revel is now active in 5 cities across the U.S. Oakland is the first in California. They have 1000 electric mopeds available over the entire city. The mopeds cost \$1 per person to unlock, \$.25 per minute to ride, and \$.10 per minute to park and pause. Riders need a California driver's license, and they want a picture. Mopeds weigh about 200 lb., and 2 people can ride one. They will go up to 30 mph, and they are registered vehicles with individual license plates, DMV approved. They employ local residents at their warehouse, who are full time employees with health insurance and benefits. They are working with Oakland's Workforce Development Board to recruit employees. They want to engage the community, and be a good partner. Any questions?

Jon Travis: Do you sell data on riders?

A: We don't sell data to any organizations. We do provide some scrubbed data to the City and/or DOT on ride information and user trends.

Q: How long does a moped sit in front of a house before it's picked up?

A: Revel has a 24x7 contact number; you can call any time for pickup. Pickups weren't too good for the first couple of weeks, we were a little shorthanded. We've pulled in more people now.

Q: What's the advantage of 1000 mopeds on top of thousands of scooters?

A: The average trip length is about 3 mi., usually about 18 minutes. That replaces a car trip, not a scooter ride or a walk. In beginning it's been tough, we don't have enough users, but the numbers keep improving. There's no issue about riding on the sidewalk, and insurance is included in the fees.

Q: What if someone goes crazy and hits someone?

A: We have liability insurance, I'm not sure of the limits, but I can provide the information on request.

Mike Ubell has heard that the majority of scooter users use them instead of a car.

Q: What about street sweeping?

A: We're working on getting Oakland street sweeping maps. The app has parking instructions. You can send a photo of a bad park, with the license number, to customer service (support@gorevel.com). They will notify the user that they caused a problem.

Mike Ubell commented that an issue with the scooters was that adults were letting kids use their license, even when the kids were too young to rent the scooter themselves. How do you keep kids from using the moped?

A: We require a photo of a driver's license, and a photo of the renter, so we can make sure there's a match. You have to be 21 to ride the moped, too.

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Revel has a team that goes around the city and deals with batteries. Mopeds can park in 2 hour residential areas as if they were residents of area; the company pays the city for that. Mopeds are subject to the 72 hour parking limit except on street sweeping days.

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for February 2020

No new priorities were mentioned during the meeting. The existing priorities are listed below.

Beat 12Y:

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

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 9, 2020** at 7:00 PM
College Preparatory School, 6100 Broadway (at Brookside) –
Please note the location!
See you there and stay safe!*

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