

**Greater Rockridge  
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes  
Thursday, February 9, 2023  
Rockridge Library and  
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

Officer Meeran Gichki – Community Resource Officer, beat 12Y

Officer Silvestre Triana - Community Resource Officer, beat 13X

**7:00 – 7:10 PM – Introductions**

Mike Ubell opened the meeting shortly after 7 PM. Attending in person were Mike, Karen Ivy, Eric Neville, and one resident. Attending on Zoom at 7 PM –Sergeant Alain Manguy, Officer Nathanael Estifanos, and three residents. Mike Ubell started recording the Zoom meeting, explaining that we’re trying new technology for a hybrid meeting. Mike introduced the NCPC officers attending. At the beginning of the meeting, the attendees in the room agreed that we would all remove our masks, for ease of communication. Karen Ivy said she was trying to obey the library rules. Just as we started, a resident came in asking if this was the meeting, and Karen Ivy said it was and asked her to sign in, which she did.

*Mike Ubell:* We’ll have a report from the police department, and then comments from the community. If you want to comment just pop in, since we’re a small group.

**7:10 – 7:30 PM – Oakland Police Dept. (OPD) Status Reports, beats 12Y and 13X**

Sergeant Manguy introduced himself as the Community Service sergeant for Area 2. He said until recently he was down to 1 officer for 6 beats (some of which are bisected). He now has more staff for patrol and has 2 new community resource officers, all from a recent academy. He introduced Officer Nathanael Estifanos.

Officer Estifanos said he has worked beat 12 for a little over a year on patrol. He knows the area pretty well and likes it. He knows Chris Jackson well. He looks forward to working with us and helping the community where he can.

*Karen Ivy:* Are you now the official CRO for beat 12?

*Officer Estifanos:* I understand that for now I’m assigned to beat 12, I hope it’ll stay that way.

*Sergeant Manguy:* I’d like to clarify that. There are 6 beats in area 2, and I now have 3 officers who are doubling up on responsibility for 6 beats, so Officer Estifanos will be doing beats 12 and 11. Ofc. Jason Keno will

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take over beats 9 and 10, and Officer Sylvestre Triana will be doing beats 8 and 13. Once we get more resources we can assign officers to single beats.

*Mike Ubell:* Please put Officer Estifanos' contact information in the chat.

*Sergeant Manguy:* Sure, I'll do that.

**7:30 – 8:00 PM – Neighborhood discussion and Oakland Police Q and A, including new priorities**

*Resident:* I've been here 40 years, I've never seen so much crime, I'm scared. I'm scared to go in my car. How can we live without police, it's scary. There's so much crime. I grew up here. I'm 63 years old and I'm scared. I don't live here, I moved to Walnut Creek after the fire, but I own Cuttin' Up on College, I'm MaryAnne Byers. And I'm afraid on the street. It's so sad.

*Eric Neville:* We've lost decades of funding.

*Mike Ubell:* We're getting new officers, but right now the dept. is focused on violent crime.

*Eric Neville:* I'm worried because theft is escalating into violence, like that woman who was injured downtown when they pulled stuff out of her car

*Resident:* She was dragged.

*Mike Ubell:* I assume we don't have a crime stat report.

*Karen Ivy:* Officer Estifano, I forgot to request this. We'd appreciate it for this beat if you'd send me a summary of crime in this beat for the last 60 days and send it to me at [secretary@rockridgencpc.com](mailto:secretary@rockridgencpc.com). This meeting is for people to talk.

*Resident:* The rent in this place is awful, I've been here 40 years and I'm scared. Everything is broken glass. I don't know what beat I'm in. I don't live here, I moved to Walnut Creek after the fire, but I own Cuttin' Up on College next to Zachary's, I'm MaryAnne Byers.

*Karen Ivy:* If your business is next to Zachary's, you're in beat 12. I did the crime stats, and over the last 2 months beat 12 has had more than one stolen vehicle or car break-in per day.

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*Sergeant Manguy:* Telling us your concerns is the first step to address this. We can reach out to patrol to tell them to reach out to this area. If you tell us you don't feel safe, you've been robbed, there's broken glass all over and cars broken into, that's how we know we need to look into it.

*Resident:* They're going after our age group, 60 to 70 year old women, we walk down the street and they jump out of cars and jump us.

*Carol Kasparek:* I didn't catch what your business is.

*Resident:* I'm Cuttin' Up on College.

*Carol Kasparek:* And what is your name, please?

*Resident:* MaryAnne Byers, I've lived here for 40 years, there are so many people on the street, there are no stores anymore, they're all vacant. That sushi place on the corner [Ed. Note: at College and Chabot] is a drug infested place, it's been vacant for 10 years.

*Sergeant Manguy:* I'll give you the officer's email and my email, in the chat. If you can tell us who's selling what, and where, we can set up an operation to look into who's selling narcotics. Can you find some locations where people are selling? I'll see what I can do. [Ed. Note: from the chat, the emails are Ofc. Nathnael Estifanos [nestifanos@oaklandca.gov](mailto:nestifanos@oaklandca.gov), and Sgt. Alain Manguy [amanguy@oaklandca.gov](mailto:amanguy@oaklandca.gov).)

*Resident:* I don't know, I don't go near there, but it's the parking lot behind the dead sushi joint at college and Chabot.

*Karen Ivy:* I thought this was in the parking lot behind Dreyer's, but there's apparently a little parking lot behind the former sushi joint.

*Mike Ubell:* It's at 5097 College and there's a little parking lot behind it.

*Eric Neville:* My concern is, it's a criminogenic situation, it produces crime. A few days ago I saw someone driving erratically down the street, starting and stopping, getting out of the car, before 7 AM. It was 2 guys casing cars on the street, including a pickup with a camper shell. This is the first of 3 concerns. I didn't call OPD, because last year I watched guys casing cars by the BART station, and when I called OPD the dispatcher fluffed me off, because I didn't actually see a crime. So I didn't bother to mention this to OPD, even though I'm the NCPC treasurer, because it's not city policy to dispatch for this. I just notified my neighbors about 2 guys in a compact sedan, dark red Toyota, circa 1990. Then I hear that the same guys had been seen doing this, in the

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same area, in April and then again in December. These guys are comfortable just coming again and again. I yelled at them, they rolled about a block away and just continued doing it. We have a situation that is not effective. I appreciate people's assumption that highly paid city employees will have answers for this. I know that's not true. But we need to go on the record and make the point. Then there's the woman, downtown, whose car was robbed when she was in it. She was pulled out of her car and is unlikely to survive. The inequality here pulls people toward thievery. They know there will be no pursuit.

*Resident:* They're not even trying to hide. They know there's no disincentive. It's out of control. I've been a merchant on College for 40 years, I don't want to get hurt.

*Eric Neville:* That's why it's criminogenic.

*Resident:* I was in my shop and saw a car come up and knock the windows out of 4 parked cars.

*Karen Ivy:* Based on my reading in NextDoor, a lot of people in north Oakland, in Rockridge, have given up on OPD.

*Resident:* Oakland police don't care, and do you know that they make less money than Berkeley, Walnut Creek? I'm really scared.

*Sergeant Manguy:* Thank you for bringing these things up, we appreciate it, and that's why we're here. Eric, I'm sorry you got that from the dispatcher. Can you give us a license plate number?

*Eric Neville:* I can understand the dispatcher, sitting there hearing about gunshot wounds, manslaughter, and so on, and then I call about casing cars. My concern is that this is not an isolated case. It needs to be understood on a broader level. You can't expect officers on the street to compensate for a tax policy that doesn't fund the problem we're addressing.

*Sergeant Manguy:* That should be brought up to the Police Commission and the City Council.

*Eric Neville:* I agree. My city council member doesn't respond to emails from me. The chair of RCPC, our sister organization, doesn't respond to emails. What I've seen is going on and no one is taking responsibility.

*Sergeant Manguy:* Can you at least send us emails? At least a license plate?

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*Eric Neville:* I could have tried to get a plate number but I was barefoot and bare handed. When you're out on the street like that you have to consider your own safety. I wouldn't have even brought this up if I didn't find that other people had seen the same car.

*Sergeant Manguy:* As I was saying, we've been really low, on officers and patrol, but we're starting to get back up to a level where it's more feasible to address these things. We need you to tell us, and we don't want you to endanger yourself.

*Eric Neville:* I'm trying to tell you what I know, there are 2 guys driving around at night in a dark red compact Toyota sedan. I'm encouraged to report this to a higher level.

*Sergeant Manguy:* I'll take that information and give it to Officer Estifanos and the others, we'll try to have them be in that area around that time. We've watched these guys, they're really organized. We've had a helicopter follow them, and they go under an overpass where they can't be seen and switch cars. We're doing the best we can. I'm not a higher level, I'm here with everyone else. We need you to report this so we have statistics to give to the city. If they ask you to report online it's so we have statistics we can use.

*Resident:* We know this must be reported. Karen has said for *years*, if you don't report it, it didn't happen.

*Eric Neville:* To keep trying to use a system that always fails you is eerie, it's discouraging.

*Resident:* If I could just get in for one moment: it sounds like the best thing to do, Officer, is to use the email you've provided. The optimal thing is fill out a form online, but what else is faster?

*Eric Neville:* You can do that, but it's a failure to respect the situation.

*Sergeant Manguy:* At a minimum, call the non-emergency number. If you can't wait because it's too long, you can email me, or Officer Estifanos, and let us know.

*Resident:* Can I put your email into the article I'm writing? And Officer Estifanos?

*Sergeant Manguy:* Mine, yes. Officer Estifanos is on temporary loan right now so don't use his. I can direct resources as needed.

*Resident:* Don't you have a number we can call? When something bad happens, I want someone to be *there*. I don't want to get hurt.

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*Sergeant Manguy:* We don't want you to get hurt either. But we don't want to give a personal cell number because we don't work all the time, and you may lose time. Call non-emergency. I can give you a work cell phone number.

*Resident:* We used to have a beat cop on the street, or a bicycle cop. We need the presence.

*Sergeant Manguy:* We're a getting walking patrol back, 4 officers to begin with, hopefully more. We're hoping to make things better. 23 and Valdez has been very vocal about their businesses, rampant auto burglaries, and what we're hearing is getting the attention of our captain, and one city council member. We've put resources on that, but if we leave it without hardening the target, it'll just get right back up again. We're working on environmental design to make things harder for suspects.

*Resident:* The best thing to do when you see something, is to use the email and send it to the officer. Other than posting it online.

*Mike Ubell:* Does anyone on zoom have comments or questions?

*Resident:* Yes, this is my first time in a meeting. The few police seem to be doing the best they can, there aren't enough of them, the people on the call are just griping there aren't enough police and that's why they don't come. And someone keeps interrupting and repeating themselves, please stop. We need to figure out how to get more police. How do we get the system working to help them protect us? We as a neighborhood need more police and more prosecution. We need a crowd response. I'm worried that we have a new District Attorney whose chief lieutenant says his goal is to prosecute police. We've got to get organized and try to help them, not just say it's bad and don't bother to report things.

*Mike Ubell:* If you file a formal report, it brings more resources here. Sergeant Manguy and his officers can watch out for some things, but the general problem of police staffing is beyond this meeting. It's partly funding, it's the age of the police force, we have a lot of retirements. City council is now funding more police academies, after funding none for a while.

*Resident:* Should we email the mayor? Email City Council members? Should we picket? I'm really worried that the new DA doesn't believe in prosecution.

*Resident:* I have a general question for the 2 officers. Everyone here thinks we don't have enough police. I'm thinking about Memphis where the community worried that the police overreacted. How do you police folks deal with that contradiction?

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*Sergeant Manguy:* I've been here for 16 years now. OPD is unique nationwide. We've been investigated for 20 years; we have fail-safes so ensure Memphis won't happen here. We have rules so people know what can and can't be done. The department has rules and has held people accountable. If we get complaints, we listen, and get back to them. Our complaint process is good, we investigate complaints.

*Resident:* Thank you.

*Mike Ubell:* In April we'll have a speaker from the Office of the Inspector General, whose job is to make sure police follow procedures. We have a very strong Police Commission but that's not up to us. I think it's time for the Negotiated Settlement to go away but that takes a federal court. Any more questions or comments?

*Sergeant Manguy:* I'll get back to Karen and let you know what we can do about the drug dealing.

Meeting ended 7:45PM.

## **Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for December 2022**

### **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, April 13, 2023** at 7:00 PM*

*Rockridge Library and virtual meeting*

*Zoom link is available at <https://rockridgencpc.com>, NEXT NCPC MEETING*

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