

**Greater Rockridge  
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Agenda  
Thursday, February 8, 2024  
Rockridge Library and  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM**

**Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):**

Michael Ubell – Chair

Lisa Hingley - 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 – 7:05 PM – Introductions**

Mike Ubell opened the meeting at 7:05 PM. Karen Ivy attended; Lisa Hingley was unable to attend; Eric Neville attended remotely. OPD Officers Meeran Gichki and Sylvestre Triana attended. Mike suggested the CROs identify themselves to the audience, and also mentioned John Sebastian, the evening’s speaker, from 1<sup>st</sup> Defense. 18 people attended in person, and 8 on Zoom.

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

Officer Gichki said he is again the CRO for beat 12.

*Officer Gichki:* I have no crime statistics to give the meeting, I was on an operation yesterday and didn’t have time. [Ed. Note: I just published my [crime statistics](#) for December and January.] The CROs originally worked with the Crime Reduction Teams (CRT); Chief Armstrong changed that to the Violent Crimes Operation Center (VCOC), but now we are back working with the Crime Reduction Teams. We have more work with CRT because we help them; they go after suspects with warrants, and outstanding issues.

We saw 40 robberies at the beginning of 2024, mostly in district 2: Piedmont, College Ave., Temescal. A group of little terrorizing kids were involved. On January 31 we spotted the robbery car and arrested 4 juveniles, who were involved in at least 10 robberies. One person we arrested that day was released by the judge and was arrested again the next day during a carjacking. Since those arrests, those robberies are down by 90% or more in February.

*Resident:* What were their ages?

*Officer Gichki:* 14 to 17. We have to follow county protocol when dealing with juveniles in custody. Once we book them, we take them to juvenile hall for violent crimes – the juvenile hall decides what to do then, and often releases them to their parents.

We recently had another project, in plain clothes, driving around at night, from here to west of the lake. In part of that operation, an officer was shot and killed; we were there. [Ed. Note: Officer Tuan Le was killed.]

**IMPORTANT RESOURCES:**

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

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*Officer Triana:* We all share an office now, we work together as a dedicated team.

*Officer Gichki:* We used to walk around and meet people. We have more people on the team now but less time to walk around and meet the neighbors.

*Resident:* What else do you need from people? Is it mainly to report the crimes?

*Officer Triana:* Yes, report the crimes.

*Resident:* What happens when we report crimes? We give you the information, then what?

*Officer Gichki:* The criminal investigation department (CID) is the busiest department we have. They get hundreds of files. They can only give so much attention to a given file, depending on what evidence they have to work on. If you've reported and no one has reached out to you, there's a number for the CID. [Ed. Note: the number is [\(510\) 238-3744](tel:5102383744)]

*Resident:* How much do cameras help?

*Officer Gichki:* They help a lot, we can get people in a couple of days with good camera stuff.

*Officer Triana:* It's hard to charge a case with no evidence.

*Officer Gichki:* Even a face helps.

*Resident:* If you could have anything to make this better, what would it be?

*Officer Gichki:* Ask my chief! No, seriously - give input to your representatives. OPD doesn't write policies. We have bureaucracies to deal with, multiple commissions that set policy (on privacy, on police actions). They are empowered by your elected representatives.

*Resident:* You're kind of saying it isn't the number of police, it's the various commissions that make you do and not do stuff.

*Mike Ubell:* It's like, can they chase thieves in a car? That's a policy, they can't do it because it's dangerous.

*Officer Gichki:* When officers respond to a call, they have long checklists of stuff they have to do. And the folks on the street know what the officer is supposed to do, and they threaten to complain that he's not following the rules, and then he's worried about his job. I grew up in a country where there was a dictatorship, this isn't one. But we have to work within certain constraints.

*Resident:* Where?

*Officer Gichki:* Pakistan.

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*Resident:* I've had several talks with officers. What steps do we have to take to get those obstacles out of the way.

*Officer Gichki:* Policy dictates what we can and can't do.

*Mike Ubell:* The city council sets a lot of policy. The Police Commission sets policies around police behavior. The police take flack for stopping people of color more than they stop white people; that would be because of the police commission's policy.

*Officer Triana:* You could apply to be part of the police commission.

*Mike Ubell:* That's a very complex thing to do. There's a subset of people, a citizen's board, who vet the applicants for the Police Commission. Also, the Police Commission can only deal with constitutional policing issues. You might have better luck taking public safety issues to the Public Safety committee of the City Council.

*Resident:* Are the CHP bound by these policies?

*Officer Gichki:* No, they aren't.

*Resident:* Do you know what those CHP officers are doing?

*Officer Gichki:* They're mostly on the east side.

### **7:20 – 7:40 PM – Discuss neighborhood issues and problems**

*Mike Ubell:* Does anyone have any questions about issues in the local neighborhood?

*Resident:* What about Eddie's Liquor? It's been busted into 4 times?

*Officer Gichki:* We're not working on it but the CID is, once we find some evidence we'll hand it over.

*Resident:* What happens to the stuff the kids steal? Are they fencing it?

*Officer Gichki:* We don't really know. There was one operation where the CHP took 6 months and recovered huge amounts of fenced stuff. In Oakland we don't have the resources to do that.

*Resident:* What kind of weapons are people using to attack?

*Officer Gichki:* They're targeting single people, particularly single women, and it's mostly strong-arm robberies. There were about 40 of those in January but after we arrested that group at the end of the month, in Feb. there have been 3. Our job was to stop this and we did. We don't have any input into how those people were charged.

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*Resident:* It's the legislature. They made a law not to incarcerate young people. It's not a local policy.

*Officer Gichki:* I'm not telling you not to walk alone. Just be aware, be in groups. Pay attention.

*Officer Triana:* Don't stare at your phone while you walk.

*Officer Gichki:* Cameras are helpful. These people are very smart, they switch cars so they can't be followed.

*Resident:* What decides where officers are assigned for patrols?

*Officer Gichki:* Beat patrol officers are assigned one officer per beat, per shift, 24/7 coverage. At any one time, 35 officers are patrolling the entire city. If somebody in East Oakland is shot, while the beat 12 officer isn't busy, he'll get pulled off beat 12 to go to East Oakland and work on the shooting.

**7:40 – 8:00 PM – John Sebastian of 1<sup>st</sup> Defense Patrol will discuss the services his firm offers and answer questions**

John Sebastian of 1<sup>st</sup> Defense Patrol introduced himself at 7:47 PM.

*John Sebastian:* We offer professional overnight patrols in the College Avenue area, and to the residential areas. There were over 50 criminal incidents on College Avenue alone in December, and there are more incidents which are unreported for whatever reason. Here are OPD crime trends for 2020 to 2022.

Oakland Reported Crime Numbers, 2020-2022					
Year	Homicide	Aggravated Assault	Robbery	Burglary	Motor Vehicle Theft
2020	102	3,318	2,420	8,706	8,737
2021	123	3,609	2,727	10,580	9,349
2022	120	3,177	2,653	11,687	9,859
Oakland Reported Crime Trends to 11/5/23, Compared to Same Year-to-Date in 2022 (% Change)					
To 11/5/23	0%	12% ↑	35% ↑	32% ↑	51% ↑
Source: Oakland Police Department					

Car thefts are up 51%. Oakland didn't have great numbers in 2023 either. The FBI ranks Oakland as the 11<sup>th</sup> most dangerous city in the US. Property crime clearance was 7.2% (percentage of perps caught and charged).

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We want to be the best private patrol service available. We want to have real world defined goals for our clients, good training and dedication, the latest patrol cars and technology. We use body worn cameras. We use custom made patrol signs and LED message boards. We use thermal imaging – we can tell if a car has been driven recently by the heat signature. We were the first security company to be authorized (in 1992) by the City of Oakland to monitor fire and police radio channels. We’re adding neighborhoods to our patrol now. We provide security for the DMV offices all over the state. We encourage you to sign up now, especially if you live near College Ave.

Our program is geared toward prevention. Sometimes we have to make citizens arrests; we prefer to have the police make arrests. We want to protect human life, so we won’t follow a car down College Ave. We have marked cars, we’re uniformed, and we know the area intimately. We make it clear that we’re on patrol. College Ave. has asked us to patrol their street. We’ve signed other people up. If you have a service in mind, as a neighborhood or a group, contact us to talk.

*Mike Ubell:* You’re asking people to sign up.

*John Sebastian:* We’re not signing up individual homes. We might sign up a block or an area, or a group.

*Resident:* So, what do you do? If we sign up, will you be there every night? If I sign you up, how often will your cars come by?

*John Sebastian:* Yes, every night. Our most popular ‘package’ is random patrol, which is overnight. You can negotiate what you want. Standard practice would be random patrols at night, usually one person in the car. Email me and I can give you a quote.

*Resident:* I’m trying to figure out what you do.

*Mike Ubell:* You said you’ve been asked to patrol College Ave. Does that mean you’ll have a car on College Ave. all night?

*John Sebastian:* If you want that, we can do it. We aren’t cheap.

*Resident:* What kind of training do your people have?

*John Sebastian:* We use the training recommended by Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (Bureau or BSIS), part of the California Department of Consumer Affairs. We hire local residents. When you leave, please give us your name and email address.

*Mike Ubell:* If you have a topic you’d like the NCPC to discuss, let us know, we’ll try to get a speaker.

*Resident:* What about the Police Commission?

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*Mike Ubell:* We can try to get a speaker from them.

Mike Ubell closed the meeting at 8:10PM.

## **Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for December 2023**

### **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 11, 2024** at 7:00 PM*

*Rockridge Library and virtual meeting*

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

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