

**Greater Rockridge
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes
Thursday, June 9, 2022
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

Introductions

Mike Ubell opened the meeting at about 7:08PM and introduced himself and Karen Ivy, and Officer Meeran Gichki from OPD. People logged in slowly but we eventually had 13 participants, including Chris Jackson from Rockridge District Association.

OPD Status Reports

Beat 12Y

Officer Meeran Gichki introduced himself, he is a 6 year veteran of Oakland Police, currently Community Resource Officer for beats 12 and 9. He provided us with crime statistics for beat 12Y, which he discussed.

Crime Stats Beat 12Y last 60 days	04/10/21 – 06/09/21	04/10/22 – 06/09/22
Assault with Deadly Weapon (Firearm)	01	00
Robbery/Carjacking – A & SA	00	00
Shootings neg manner with buildings or vehicles struck	00	00
Burglary residential/commercial	10	03
Auto Burglary	10	11
Grand Theft	03	09
Petty Theft	15	19
Battery	04	06

The statistics show not much happening. Of incidents with firearms or assault on a person, there were 0 in the last 60 days, and 1 in the same period last year. There were no robberies, carjackings, and shootings reported in 12Y in either year. There were 3 burglaries in 12Y this year, last year in the same period there were 10. We had 11 auto burglaries, against 10 last year. We had 9 grand thefts, last year there were 3. There were 19 reported petty thefts (\$950 in value or less) against 15 last year, and 6 incidents of battery against 4 last year. These were all the items that had police reports, they may not include incidents which weren't reported and

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didn't have a police report filed. Officer Triana isn't here today, he'll return Tuesday and will send along the stats for beat 13. [Ed. Note: I didn't receive them. The monthly statistics I compiled for 13X are at <https://tinyurl.com/26phblb3>.

OPD does have officers assigned to district 2, including Rockridge and College Avenue, who patrol the areas to show a presence. We hope they're making a difference. Auto burglaries are more brazen over last couple of years, sometimes happening close to officers. Thieves know they can get away with it because OPD won't authorize chasing vehicles for a property crime. We know that's frustrating and hope to find a solution. Robberies have similar MO's (*modus operandi*) across the city, there are probably fewer in Rockridge than in other areas. There's usually a spike in crime in the summer when school is out, especially in auto burglaries and robberies. Laptop snatching on College Ave. is still going on, especially when the owner is using a headset; this has now happened *inside Philz Coffee*. It takes them 10-15 seconds to commit the crime and get away. Thieves now use an app which can detect active Apple Bluetooth devices in a parked car, even if the devices aren't visible; they can pick 1 car with an active device out of 20. Turn off Bluetooth if you must leave a device in a car. Be aware of your surroundings, and don't sit around in your car.

Mike Ubell: Any questions?

Chris Jackson: I'm happy to speak up. Just in last few weeks, we've had at least 3 women mugged, one on Chabot Rd., and one in front of Trader Joe's. Most auto break-ins are not being reported, there's broken glass all over the place. I think Officer Gichki's 11 auto break-ins could be tripled. They are more rampant than most people realize.

Karen Ivy: I just did the monthly police stats for our 2 beats and I was amazed at how few reports there were. I emailed the new head of IT to ask if there was something wrong with the database, but from what you're saying, they just aren't being reported.

Officer Gichki: I think that's correct. Looking at the numbers against what I've seen, they're just too low.

Chris Jackson: I see 3-10 broken windows a week. Also, a woman had a cellphone taken while sitting at Ain't Normal café. I don't know if she reported it or not. Thieves go into businesses and steal the staff's purses and wallets, which are not locked up. I don't understand why people don't lock their stuff up.

Mike Ubell: Any more questions? Do we now have walking officers in the business district, along College Avenue? And what happened with the man with the loud music on College Avenue, in front of Safeway?

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2

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Officer Gichki: The walking officers are not on College Avenue. About the homeless man with loud music: his name is Mike. Cole's Coffee originally complained about that, but they said don't want anything done, they just wanted me to talk to him. I also talked to Safeway and Philz Coffee, they weren't interested in taking action either.

Chris Jackson: The businesses can hear that music a block away but don't want to complain. I asked Schaaf if we could put up "don't leave valuables in the car" signs, but nothing happened. The city DOT doesn't want to do it. Some districts like Jack London Square have put up their own signs, but the signs aren't sanctioned by the city, they could come down at any time. People don't want to think about it, they think it'll hurt the business district. I posted the Safeway parking lot right after it opened, when 9 vehicles were stolen, and a woman came through and took all the signage down. I don't know what we can do about this.

Mike Ubell: If the businesses don't want to take action on the man playing loud music, I think we should remove it as a priority. If there are no other comments, let's move on to the presentation by the county. Speakers, please unmute yourselves and go ahead.

Beat 13X

Officer Triana couldn't attend the meeting, so there was no report for beat 13X.

Speakers – Homeless Services Overview

Colleen Budenholzer, Coordinated Entry Program Director, Alameda County's Office of Homeless Care and Coordination, and Lucy Kasdin, Health Care for the Homeless Director for Alameda County.

Lucy Kasdin introduced herself and her colleague Colleen Budenholzer, and said they have a PowerPoint to show if that's OK. [Ed. Note: we have posted a PDF of the PowerPoint they used on the NCPC website, [click here](#) to read it.]

Mike Ubell: I'll make you a co-host so you can share the screen. If you want to take questions, go ahead.

Lucy Kasdin: Colleen will share the screen. We're from Alameda County Health Care Service Agency, and our charge is around health care and housing. For context, we just got most recent point-in-time count of sheltered and unsheltered individuals (2022). This count is normally done every 2 years but was interrupted by the pandemic. We expect to get more in-depth numbers in a couple of months. This is a count where we go out across the county and count all the people who are unsheltered. I'll give a quick overview of Oakland numbers, but unsheltered numbers have increased across the county. We saw a 40% increase in homelessness in the 2019 count, followed by a 20% increase in the 2022 count. We aren't celebrating any of this, but we're hoping

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3

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that the smaller numbers mean what we're doing to move people into shelter and into housing is working. The numbers are worrisome, but the increases are smaller.

Oakland has the highest concentration of homelessness in the county, and of roughly 7,100 homeless people on any night, about 3,300 are in Oakland (47%). We think of homelessness as large encampments and groups of tents, but we're actually seeing a decrease in the tents, and an increase of people living in cars and RVs. We're rethinking our outreach to get to settings we haven't previously served.

In terms of sheltered populations, Oakland has the most shelters and people living in shelters of anywhere in the county. In Rockridge we opened Clifton Hall last year, a former dorm at California College of Arts. It's now permanent housing for seniors above and the bottom floor is a family shelter.

Health Care for the Homeless (HCH), which I oversee, is charged to provide health care and case management services for homeless individuals across the county. We provide access to primary care to individuals in shelter. We also provide dental, optometry, and specialty care. We have about 10,000 patients across the county, and about 60,000 visits. We do a lot of work around overdose prevention due to the opioid crisis. We also provide integrated behavioral health and substance abuse services.

HCH started street medicine teams which go out into encampments: a nurse, a medical provider (MD or nurse practitioner), an outreach worker and a social worker, which go out in their assigned areas. When we began, we had 2 teams for the county; we now have 14 teams, each serving a zone in the county. Zone size is based on homeless density, there are about 500 unsheltered homeless people per zone. There 8 Street Health Zones in Oakland, and Rockridge is in one of those zones (zone 13). We work in very close cooperation with Oakland to maximize resources for who is best to go where.

We've expanded services within shelters. The Rockridge area only has the Clifton Hall shelter but there are numerous other shelters in Oakland. We provide shelter health needs assessments and complex care navigation. We now have a regional coordinator for Oakland to increase coordination. COVID-19 isn't over; we have been providing testing, masks, and vaccinations for COVID to the homeless, including those on the street. We're building a coordinated system for housing and homeless services and building relationships over time. Our outreach is through our Street Medicine teams, who go out to sites and build relationships with people. We get information from citizens and businesses about persons who need help, and what kind of help they need. We acknowledge that progress is slow, because our services are voluntary and can be refused. We are working with several people in the Rockridge area. I'll now turn the presentation over to Colleen.

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4

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Colleen Budenholzer: I'm the coordinated entry program director with the Office of Homeless Care and Coordination (OHCC, created in 2019). It's about building a coordinated system for housing and homeless services and strengthening coordination with non-county organizations, including local cities and community groups. We're one department within the county and one partner in the continuum of care. We work to build and strengthen coordination, consolidation, and expansion of services. We just passed the [Home Together 2026 plan](#) which will guide our work for the next 5 years. All mayors across the county endorsed the plan. In addition to Lucy's team at HCH, other teams in OHCC include the Coordinated Entry team (mainly about connecting people currently experiencing homelessness to services that will end it). The Housing Services team supports providers who are currently providing supportive, interim and bridge housing. Project Roomkey and Project Homekey provide safes places to stay during the COVID pandemic. We also have a Policy And Planning team.

The Coordinated Entry Process provides access to resources, matching people to the resources they need, and prioritizing them for access to the resources we don't have enough of. We provide referral and matching to housing and homeless resources, both permanent housing like Clifton Hall, and transitional housing and things like housing navigation services. There are 12 Housing Resource Centers across county, 4 in Oakland, where people can go for information and services. An additional HRC recently opened in downtown Oakland. Rockridge has no center, but the BOSS (West Oakland) and BACS (downtown Oakland) Housing Resource Centers are closest. Covenant House just opened in Oakland for transitional aged youth, but its services extend beyond Oakland. Street health teams provide the same services as Housing Resource Centers but on the street.

Call 211 to get connected to a Housing Resource Center and other options. The Project Roomkey hotels provided temporary shelter during COVID, to decrease the virus spread and keep the community safe, and allow sheltering in place. They served 2,574 clients, of whom 2,068 exited (some are still in the program), and 1,405 exited to permanent housing. We also provide spaces for isolation and quarantine (IQ sites) if needed for people with COVID exposure.

The federal American Rescue Plan also provided Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV). Alameda County got 875 vouchers. These are available for 3 populations: persons coming out of Safer Ground programs, domestic and gender-based violence victims, and transitional age youth. The Oakland Housing Authority got 515 vouchers (similar to Section 8) of which 429 have been issued. Oakland has 1,924 affordable housing units in development, 876 of which are aimed for people experiencing homelessness.

The community implementation plan is based on a 2019 racial equity analysis, regional and local planning efforts, and updates to System Modeling reflecting changes since 2019. All this built the *Home Together 2026*

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5

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plan. The goals are to prevent homelessness, connect people to resources, increase housing availability, and improve communication and coordination. I know we're out of time. Any questions?

Mike Ubell: If anyone has questions, speak up.

Karen Ivy: You can't ask a question if you're still muted.

Mike Ubell: I have a question. What number should we call if we know a homeless person who has an obvious mental health or crisis issue. We have some chronic problems in Rockridge, and new ones can crop at any time. Where should we direct people?

Lucy Kasdin: If they're in acute crisis, running in the street, or something like that, you might call 911. There's a crisis response team that can come out. Oakland is also developing a model, with people trained in de-escalation. I can get the information for you. If they're just hanging out, with no obvious problems except homelessness, you can call our main number: Alameda County HCH 510-891-8950.

Chris Jackson: Who do you get if you call 510-891-5600?

Colleen Budenholzer: That's the Mobile Crisis Team number.

Chris Jackson: So that's for an immediate crisis, like a psychic break.

Lucy Kasdin: Yes, they've been working on expanding availability of that, I think they're now available until 11 PM. They could place someone on a 5150, but could also find out if the person has an issue that would need a behavioral health team called in. This is very frustrating, because all services are voluntary, people can and do refuse. I have people I've tried to work with for years and they choose not to participate.

Chris Jackson: What the status of the MACRO? They have no phone number, and Fire Department dispatch says they can't contact them!

Lucy Kasdin: I only know second-hand. They're officially in OFD. I did get a flyer on them, but I don't know any current status. The flyer says 911 is supposed to dispatch MACRO. That's a city program so we're not involved.

Jared Spencer: I've seen some presentations, they seem to be in a rollout mode. There's a lot to figure out yet.

Mike Ubell: I understand funding is very limited to a few locations.

Karen Ivy: I saw a car with MACRO on the door driving on the freeway recently.

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6

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Lucy Kasdin: I can give some information to Jared, but the county's behavioral health care system has expanded and we can send those teams out now as needed. It's a different model from MACRO.

Chris Jackson: We now have OPD officers who are trained for crisis intervention as well, I've asked for them.

Neighborhood Discussion and Police Q&A, including priorities

Since the merchants who originally complained aren't interested in taking action, we'll drop the homeless man playing music from priorities. Does anyone have any other priorities? Thank you all for coming, we'll meet again in 2 months.

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for June 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, August 11, 2022** at 7:00 PM
Zoom link is available at <https://rockridgencpc.com>, NEXT NCPC MEETING*

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