

**Greater Rockridge  
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes  
Thursday, October 10, 2019  
Rockridge Library, College and Manila  
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

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

Michael Ubell – Chair

Vice Chair <position open, volunteers requested>

Eric Neville - Treasurer

Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

1. 7:30 – 7:35 PM – Introductions
2. 7:35 – 7:50 PM – Oakland Police Dept. (OPD) Status Reports, beats 12Y and 13X
3. 7:50 – 8:10 PM - Neighborhood issues discussion, including new priorities
4. 8:10 – 8:40PM – Courtney Ruby, City Auditor, will discuss auditing Oakland, particularly Oakland Police, followed by Q and

\*Note: The agenda was moved around to allow the Auditor to speak first.

Mike Ubell called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. He called for the NCPC officers and Oakland Police representatives present to introduce themselves. He called for volunteers to the vacant NCPC position of vice-chair. Eleven people were present. Oakland Police were represented by Community Resource Officer (CRO) Kristine Jurgens-Duenas (beat 13) and Officer Andre Volyvets (beat 9). Karen Ivy was unable to attend.

### **Presentation by Courtney Ruby, City of Oakland Auditor**

Courtney Ruby, City of Oakland Auditor, introduced herself. She was sworn in to this term on January 7, 2019. She previously served as auditor from 2007-2014. Her term of office is 4 years. The auditor's office is independent, and has the authority to audit anything and everything. There are 10 full time employees: 8 auditors and 2 administrative personnel. The office budget is \$2.3 million per year, out of a city budget of \$1.6 billion per year.

The auditor's office tries to ensure transparency, accountability, protect against fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, and increase revenue and decrease costs. Homelessness is currently a top concern, overtaking crime. The auditor's office is looking into homeless services, including encampments.

The auditor aims for the highest standards in office. Her office when deciding what to audit is constantly assessing what are the most critical issues facing Oakland as well as looking across the nation to see what other cities are grappling with. Her audits also identify best practices and ways to increase value to the residents of Oakland. Performance audits review economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. They audited the Fox Theatre when the costs ballooned from \$30 million to over \$90 million; her audit revealed how this had happened, and that no one party was responsible for specifying and authorizing the expanded scope of the work. Everyone pointed their fingers at someone else from the Councilmembers to the contractor to the project manager.

#### **IMPORTANT RESOURCES:**

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

1

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

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

**Greater Rockridge  
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes  
Thursday, October 10, 2019  
Rockridge Library, College and Manila  
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

After a cloud of perceived corruption in 2007, the auditor created a hotline, after urging the governor to sign a whistleblower protection act. 50% of hotline reporting came from employees. The audit of non-interference by the City Council with administrative staff received 67 tips; the Council is not allowed to interfere in day-to-day operations. The audit hotline receives approximately 150 tips per year, and the hotline has the capacity to translate callers reports in over 150 languages. The hotline is being rebooted, it was less active under her predecessor.

The auditor's office wants to create a clearer picture of the City's financial picture and will be issuing a financial conditions report in the next couple of months. Among other things they are currently auditing fire inspections.

Q: How granular is the picture?

A: Mike Ubell referred to 600 pages of spreadsheets at Open Budget Oakland, an app created by Open Oakland, which allows drilling down. Ms. Ruby called it a "game changer"; she noted that the city doesn't release actual expenses.

Q: Do you audit the schools?

A: The auditor has no authority over OUSD. Mike Ubell asked if they have their own auditor; Ms. Ruby said they did once, she isn't sure about now.

The auditor's office budget is half that of other cities of comparable size. The budget is set by Mayor and City Council, which is conflict of interest. The Council now seems more receptive to Auditor's reporting; she has seen a change in culture including responsiveness to audits. The current City Administrator is very receptive to audits and transparency. Many audits are mandated, such as audits for Measure D, but not funded, which constrains the office's independence. The Auditor's operation is technical, and follows government audit standards; the office is peer-reviewed every 3 years. The local whistleblower ordinance was a big step forward, every council member but one voted to pass it.

The police overtime audit found that three officers had worked 70 days straight; lack of proper rest is a dangerous performance liability. The second-highest paid person was self-scheduling for special events; that's a conflict of interest. The city budget is not realistic about police overtime, that budget is always overspent. It repeatedly under-estimates police overtime expenses, and is not transparent. The police department did a great job reducing overtime, but costs are going up due to pensions, higher personnel benefits, etc. That's a structural government issue.

Everyone appreciates auditor's reports. In general, costs are rising faster than revenues. Reports are available at <http://oaklandauditor.com>.

Mike Ubell asked, how does the funding for OPD vacancies compare with funding for overtime?

A: We need transparency on how they handle overtime.

**IMPORTANT RESOURCES:**

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

2

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

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

**Greater Rockridge  
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes  
Thursday, October 10, 2019  
Rockridge Library, College and Manila  
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

Q: We have a \$25M deficit, what about worse times?

A: We need a structural discussion. Pensions are a challenging issue. This isn't unique to Oakland; the government funding model is broken. We're in a boom and still running a deficit. How will we move forward?

Q: What about homelessness?

A: The office is currently scoping an audit, to look at costs, tracking, services, cooperation with the County, and performance of contractors. Homelessness is up 47% in 2 years.

**Oakland Police Department Status Reports, Beats 12Y and 13X**

CRO Kristine Jurgens-Duenas (beat 13X) and Officer Andre Volynets (beat 9), presented statistics from the previous 60 days versus the same period in the prior year. CRO Officer Mac (beat 12Y) was unable to attend.

<b>Beat 12Y</b>		
<b>Crimes</b>	<b>8/12/2019 – 10/11/2019</b>	<b>8/12/2018 – 10/11/2018</b>
Auto Burglary	44	45
Grand theft person	6	0
Robbery	14	7
Residential Burglary	4	6
Commercial Burglary	3	5

Hot spots for auto burglaries are the College Avenue Safeway parking lot and Trader Joe's; peak days are Friday 1:00 PM – midnight. Grand theft person (basically stolen laptops and phones) incidents center around Cole's, and Bica, from 1:00 PM to midnight. Robberies center around Cole's, around 57th & Ayala, and near the BART station, between noon and 10:00 PM.

In answer to a question, Officer Jurgens-Duenas said that force or fear can quickly turn a grand theft person into a robbery.

<b>Beat 13X</b>		
<b>Crimes</b>	<b>8/12/2019 – 10/11/2019</b>	<b>8/12/2018 – 10/11/2018</b>
Auto Burglary	5	7
Grand theft person	0	0
Robbery	1	0
Residential Burglary	0	2

**IMPORTANT RESOURCES:**

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

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

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

**Greater Rockridge  
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) – Minutes  
Thursday, October 10, 2019  
Rockridge Library, College and Manila  
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

Commercial Burglary	1	1
---------------------	---	---

Q: How can we stop grand thefts person and robberies?

A: It's hard to do. Events happen fast. Cameras and good lighting can help. These are often done by juveniles, and they frequently use rental cars or stolen license plates. The police Crime Reduction Teams work on these, and do a lot of undercover work.

Mike Ubell asked if OPD crime clearance rates are published, he hasn't seen them except for murders.

Mike Ubell asked about the homeless man yelling at night at 63rd & College? We've asked if Patrol can come by at night, but they may not be able to. In Officer Mac's absence we can't ask what he's done.

Officer Jurgens asked if Shane was still around; Chris Jackson from Rockridge District Association said Shane is now in housing, no longer living under freeway at Forest and Locksley.

Mike Ubell closed the meeting at 8:36 PM.

## **Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for October 2018**

### **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, December 12, 2019** at 7:30 PM  
Rockridge Library, College and Manila –  
See you there and stay safe!*

### **IMPORTANT RESOURCES:**

RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com

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

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