

**Greater Rockridge  
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) - Agenda  
Thursday, October 8, 2020  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM**

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

Michael Ubell – Chair  
Jon Travis – Interim Vice Chair  
Eric Neville - Treasurer  
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer  
Angela Moore – Neighborhood Services Coordinator  
Officer Josiah Ladd – Community Resource Officer, beat 12Y  
Officer Kristine Jurgens-Duenas - Community Resource Officer, beat 13X

**Introductions and Election Announcement**

Mike Ubell opened the meeting at 7:07PM with 14 people in attendance. Mike introduced the NCPC officers, our Neighborhood Services Coordinator, and both Community Resource Officers. He asked people to mute themselves and unmute if they want to talk. Lisa Jacobs from Dan Kalb’s office attended. Mike announced that we’re postponing the announced election, since we have no contested seats. We will record this session, turn your video off if you don’t want to be recorded.

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

*Officer Josiah Ladd, beat 12Y*

Officer Ladd provided statistics for beat 12Y for the last 60 days this year, and the same period in 2019. Thefts generally are down from last year, while auto and catalytic converter thefts are up; auto thefts have more than doubled from last year. The pandemic outbreak in jails has reduced bail amounts for property crimes, to avoid putting more people in the jails. He knows three individuals in a recent 30-day period who were arrested for vehicle theft and got right back out. The same goes for most cases of theft.

<b>Beat 12Y</b>		
<i>Crimes</i>	<b>8/08/2020 – 10/07/2020</b>	<b>8/08/2019 – 10/07/2019</b>
Robbery Firearm	0	7
Robbery Strongarm	0	7
Carjacking	1	1
Auto Burglary	10	77

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<b>Beat 12Y</b>		
Residential Burglary	5	10
Theft	14	44
Vehicle Theft	18	4
Commercial Burglary	3	3

The NCPC priority from the last meeting was Melvin Scott, the homeless man at 63<sup>rd</sup> & College. He was put into a hotel room for 2 weeks, which helped him, but the nonprofit couldn't keep paying for it, he's now back on the corner. We've had no more complaints. People are still working with him to get him into permanent housing. We will close this priority.

There are new stop signs on Hudson, the old ones were too faded to read. We've had no trouble reports for the intersection since then.

*Jon Travis:* About the re-offenders, why re-release them? Is the bail not enough?

*Officer Ladd:* Because of COVID in the jails, people are now released on \$1 bail, for property crimes. Bail amounts are slowly rising, because of increased thefts. We also now have faster COVID testing for jail inhabitants.

*Megan Steffen:* This is my first time at a meeting. It looks like crime is down, and I understand the low bail and keeping people out of jail.

*Officer Ladd:* I agree. Property crimes are down, but assaults and shootings are on the rise.

*Megan Steffen:* But not here, right?

*Officer Ladd:* Right, but the city is a different story.

*Jon Travis:* Stealing a car is a property crime, but aren't stolen cars typically used to commit more serious crimes?

*Officer Ladd:* Yes, and we see the stolen cars used in various crimes; in many cases the thieves are living in the car. Last week we found 2 stolen cars at the end of a cul-de-sac with people living in them.

*Lisa Jacobs:* Many neighbors have complained of crime and campers in Frog Park; should this become a priority?

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*Officer Ladd:* Let's let Officer Jurgens give her statistics and then we can discuss it.

***Officer Kristine Jurgens-Duenas, beat 13X***

Beat 13X had 10 auto burglaries, mostly on Golden Gate Avenue near Broadway, 5 residential burglaries, and 1 vehicle theft/carjacking. The strong-armed carjacking occurred on 9/18/20 at 0700 hours in the 4900 block of Cochrane Ave. The suspect entered the victim's unlocked front door and took the keys off the counter. The victim noticed the front door open and saw the suspect running towards the vehicle. The suspect got in, the victim tried to open the door but the suspect took off in the victim's vehicle. We have no one in custody at this time.

There are people meeting on upper Broadway for sexual activity. There are no other issues. Have we had any complaints?

*Karen Ivy:* Not that I've heard.

<b>Beat 13X</b>		
<i>Crimes</i>	<b>8/08/2020 – 10/07/2020</b>	<b>8/08/2019 – 10/07/2019</b>
Carjacking	1	0
Residential Burglary	5	2
Auto Burglary	10	7
Robberies	1	1

**Neighborhood issues discussion, including new priorities**

*Mike Ubell:* There's a camp at Frog Park, plus all the people who hang around there.

*Officer Ladd:* There've been complaints, there are 2-3 tents actually in the park. He talked to one man, who was responsive, but the female partner was very standoffish. He got their names and gave them to the Emergency Homelessness Taskforce. He's waiting for a response, and doesn't know if the Taskforce has been there yet. Can we move the tents without running into case law?

*Karen Ivy:* I see many SeeClickFix complaints about Frog Park.

*Lisa Jacobs:* Dan Kalb's office gets complaints about drugs there. The City can't currently close camps unless there are severe health issues or fire issues. The City is considering setting up a policy that would make some

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specified areas off limits to camps. We can't move camps now because of the pandemic. Maybe if the council changes the policy we can look into it. The police can ask people to leave a spot if they can suggest another place to go.

*Mike Ubell:* I walk there with my dog and see a lot of trash around. We could list it as a priority, since 63<sup>rd</sup> and College has settled down. The guy living in the greenway has been there for years, he's out every Sunday sweeping up.

*Angela Moore:* We're keeping an eye out, that camp is on the list for the Homelessness Task Force, they are working on it.

*Officer Ladd:* I'm happy to make it a priority, especially for trash. We can work on cleaning it up and then offer resources.

Mike Ubell introduced Ricardo Garcia-Acosta from Youth Alive!

### **Ricardo Garcia- Acosta, Youth Alive Virtual Tour**

Ricardo Garcia-Acosta thanked the NCPC for the invitation and promised to show a short virtual tour of [Youth Alive](#)'s programs to make Oakland a safer place for all. He will offer a truncated version of the virtual tour they offer. He said he grew up in a rough neighborhood, at 35<sup>th</sup> & School St., which is less rough now. Mentorship and opportunity saved his life. He stayed off the streets, he played hoops. There were OGs ("original gangstas") on the block, which is very different today. The OGs would warn kids not to do the things they had done; we're now missing the street mentorship. He saw an altar on the street for an OG who was killed. He wondered, what if this guy had had an outlet other than gangs? What if his family had services and financial help? [Youth Alive](#) tries to point kids in a better direction. We see the violence, and heal the trauma that it leaves.

The prevention work goes on every day, trying to break the cycle of violence. Prevention programs include:

- *Teens on Target* – Trains high school students and young adults dealing with high levels of violence to be Peer Educators
- *Stand Up, Speak Out* – A speaker's bureau, training youth and adults impacted by violence to share their stories and ideas
- *Advocacy for Change* – Staff and youth leaders work with local, state and national leaders to support policies reducing gun, gang, family and dating violence

An independent evaluation found that 77% of their youth leaders have solved a conflict this year. And 48% have talked to friends about it.

Youth Alive Intervention programs include:

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- *Pathways to Success* – identify and work with kids either already in the juvenile justice system, or considered likely to be, to develop pathways to success for them
- *Caught in the Crossfire* - visit kids in the hospital, talk to them about how they were hurt, help them and their families recover from trauma and find new paths in life
- *Violence Interruption* – Youth Alive mentors go out on the streets at night to engage young people, diffuse tensions, mediate conflicts, and encourage alternatives to violence
- Emergency Relocation – in cases of conflicts that could cause retaliation, and possibly spread to multiple groups, Youth Alive works with the city of Oakland and Operation Ceasefire to find solutions

Youth Alive healing services help trauma victims recover and find new pathways in life. Mass shootings make the news; many people think mass shootings cause the majority of fatal shootings in the U.S. Oakland has the equivalent of a mass shooting every 2 weeks, and it doesn't make the news. Youth Alive has a US Department of Justice training contract lasting 10 years, providing technical assistance to other communities who are using their hospital based intervention models. They've had 12 national demonstration sites across the country.

Healing services:

- *Oakland Homicide Response* – Youth Alive works with OPD on homicide response, and supports families of victims. This includes basic practical support to pay bills, etc. Youth Alive's contract with Oakland PD dates to 2009, they contact relatives of victims within 24 hours.
- *Counseling Department* – tries to help youth and their families deal with the stigmas around mental health, and with multiple compound traumas
- *Participant and Staff Support Groups* – give staff and participants a place to discuss their issues

Mr. Garcia-Acosta shared a short video on implicit bias, and how we perceive victims and survivors of violence, especially young men of color. Youth Alive feels we need to shift from the idea of young men *causing* violence to perceiving young men as *survivors* of violence, who need resources. Boys and men of color can be victims of violence, whether they've caused violence themselves, or not; they can be innocent bystanders. Trauma is a common shared experience. Service providers need to change the concept of violence. Trauma is not necessarily one large awful experience; homelessness and food insecurity also cause trauma. Youth Alive goes out to the community to provide service. They must earn the trust of people who may have been let down by services before. They try to provide help from people with shared experiences, and teach people to ask for help. Once trust is established, helpers *must* stay engaged, and do what they say they will.

Young men of color are affected by crime and violence, and often don't get the help they need. People who create violence have often experienced violence. The *Cure Violence* model, used across the country, assumes

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that violence is a public health issue; people and communities can change for the better. They need to know their limitations and understand where people want to be helped. They need a city-community partnership.

Locally Youth Alive works with the police on the Ceasefire model, used across the country. Oakland is a national leader in Ceasefire, providing intelligence-informed, principled policing efforts to reduce violence. Youth Alive works in partnership with the city of Oakland, especially with the new Dept. of Violence Prevention. Oakland Unite is a funding agency, which is slowly becoming the Dept. of Violence Prevention. They're using a combination of outreach intervention, service connection, and community mobilization.

Recently we've seen an increase in shootings and homicides; Oakland had more homicides in August than we've had for some time. We need a new city-wide model. The new bail rules are bringing more people into the community. People are now wearing COVID masks to commit crimes, so they'll be hard to recognize.

There's beauty in Oakland, and in its young people.

## **Q and A**

*Jon Travis:* Thank you for presentation. It takes special people to get involved with the streets. The video has a segment on a guy with \$200 in his pocket for his college session, picking up a prescription for his grandmother, and he becomes a victim of a shooting. He's a good kid. But people's perception is that kids are doing crime, are in gangs, own guns – what do the data say? How many people are innocent bystanders? How many people have been involved in criminality?

*Ricardo Garcia-Acosta:* We don't collect that data. Most of the youth we work with are involved in some way with criminality. They grow up in a tough area, East or West Oakland, surrounded by criminality. Criminality is celebrated in the media. It's a mixed message for young people. Some families have multiple generations of incarceration, or parents lost to gun violence. It's hard to understand from the outside. What if you have no positive role models? We do have hard statistics on who's driving the violence – half of 1% of the population is driving violence. Kids get into bad situations just because of where they grow up. How do we keep them out of that .5%? Most of the people killed in Oakland are over 28 years old – a large group is from 35-50. Ten out of ten of my friends from youth were involved in some criminal activity.

*Jon Travis:* I'll yield if someone else has questions. (No response.) I hear people argue that we must focus on systemic racism; that kids are doomed to live under the specter of systemic racism and have no agency. How do we teach kids how to take personal agency, in spite of the system?

*Ricardo Garcia-Acosta:* We have to convince them that they can become part of the system, and can work to change it. We can't just forbid them doing illegal stuff. We must replace it with something positive; we must be consistent, check on the kids regularly. We must do what we say we will, when we say we will. They need love; a lot of these kids have no love from adults. It's impossible to measure the fact that they don't know if they'll

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die tomorrow. And they don't know whether anyone will care if they do. We need to convince them they have something to live for – even as simple as a camping trip in a month. We need to connect them to their own humanity, and their own history.

Our current president doesn't follow rules, and has no respect for anyone; how do we persuade kids not to do that? We must show them how they can have an influence. The biggest change has to happen within the system. We need to show the kids how to work the system, and how to understand their rights and advocate for them. We're making sure our systems work for vulnerable populations; we try to show kids how to work within system safely. We support all these issues; the biggest change has to be within the system.

I will be available if someone wants to talk to me, Mike has my contact information.

*Jon Travis:* This is great information. As to working with the police: your site says you understand that riots occur, but I don't see your web site condemning violence. Why not? And you work with the police, but defunding the police is a hot subject now. The police seem to be very important resources for this work; how do you deal with the defund movement?

*Ricardo Garcia-Acosta:* We are definitely opposed to any destruction of our community, we don't like riots and violence. The folks we work with won't go to protests, they're too afraid of being arrested, especially since people can and do start agitation. Youth Alive wants to support young people and make their voices heard.

As for defunding the police – we have mixed emotions. A lot of our work depends on police partnerships. We must hold each other accountable. "Defund the police" makes us cringe. Violence prevention workers on the front line feel they need the police. It makes our job harder to discuss reallocating resources. Sometimes you need to apply pressure to get the conversation moving. I agree we should look for waste, and for other ways to do things, we don't want to defund the police.

*Jon Travis:* We all want more efficient government, including police. What would make you more successful? More people? Is Oakland Unite a 501(c)(3)? How do you do fundraising?

*Ricardo Garcia-Acosta:* Financially we're in pretty good shape, with state and local and some federal grants. We're trying to build an individual donor base, for unrestricted funds. It's hard to care for the community if your cup is empty. We try to do creative pampering: take care of our staff, encourage access to good health habits such as gym memberships and regular exercise. Our workers spread themselves very thin. Food scarcity is huge now; the kids stay home all day and eat the fridge empty. COVID makes everything harder. The frustrating thing is, although we're really good at individual crisis response and intervention, we don't have the capacity to do a robust violence prevention program for Oakland. That's what it'll take. We're raising money however we can. Our main partners are OPD and Highland Hospital.

*Mike Ubell:* Youth Alive is a 501(c)(3). Oakland United is a department of the city of Oakland.

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*Jon Travis:* I thought Oakland Unite funded Youth Alive.

*Mike Ubell:* Oakland Unite funds various local groups from Measure Z, the parcel tax.

*Jon Travis:* if we ever get street fairs back, we should include Youth Alive, and similar groups.

*Mike Ubell:* They do really good work.

*Jon Travis:* Do you folks work with the Bob Woodson foundation?

*Ricardo Garcia-Acosta:* I'll add them to my prospecting list, are they based here locally? I'm open to have conversations like this one, there are no easy answers. We often present live testimonials; we could arrange a tour with one.

*Angela Moore:* Do you know about the Department of Violence Prevention mini-grants?

*Ricardo Garcia-Acosta:* I know about them but I don't know the details of applying. Oakland Unite grants funds for violence prevention and intervention services – one strategy is “healing & organizing” funds to people doing community events for peace, and distributing mini-grants to neighborhoods. I'm not sure of the timeline for distributing mini-grants.

*Angela Moore:* I'll forward the grant information to you in case your program would like to apply.

*Ricardo Garcia-Acosta:* We get a lot of money from the city. We' the mini-grants to go out on the streets.

Mike Ubell closed the meeting at 8:27PM.

## **Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for August 2020**

### **Beat 12Y:**

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Trash around homeless camp in Frog Park.

### **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, December 10, 2020** at 7:00 PM  
Location TBA pending the course of the pandemic*

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