

**Rockridge Community Planning Council and
Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X)
Joint Town Hall – Agenda
Thursday, August 19, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM**

Rockridge Community Planning Council

Leonora Sea - Chair
Robin McDonnell - Vice Chair
Michelle Boyd, Casey Farmer - Co-Secretaries
Ronnie Spitzer - Treasurer

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):

Michael Ubell – Chair
Jon Travis –Vice Chair
Eric Neville - Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

Angela Moore – Neighborhood Services Coordinator
Officer Meeran Gichki – Community Resource Officer, beat 12Y
Officer Aaron Johnson - Community Resource Officer, beat 13X

Welcome and introductions (Leonora Sea, Mike Ubell) - 7:00 – 7:05 PM

The Zoom said we had 25 people logged in as the meeting began. Leonora Sea welcomed the attendees. Most of California seems to be on fire, so this town hall is very timely. Mike Ubell introduced himself and Officer Gichki. Officer Johnson will join a little later.

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

Officer Gichki noted that he has to leave early. He introduced himself as CRO for beat 12, also beat 9 recently (we lost 2 CROs to patrol). He has crime statistics for beat 12Y. Beat 12 has had no homicides in 3 years. There's been a big uptick in battery in the past 90 days (almost 100%) 14 in last 90 days, against 8 in the same period in 2020 and 7 in the same period in 2019. He's now comparing statistics to both 2019 and 2020 because of the unusual effects of the pandemic. There were 4 incidents of grand theft (over \$950). This is well down from the last 2 years. Auto burglaries in beat 12 (21) are well down, especially compared to 2019 (when there were 98), but the city has auto burglaries all over the city. OPD is trying to figure out how to deal with that. Residential/commercial burglaries are well down from last 2 years, only 12 in last 90 days.

Beat 12 has very low crime from District 2 perspective, which has had 2 homicides last 90 days, against 1 in 2020 and zero in 2019. Shootings 31 were reported in district 2 against 18 in 2020 and 6 in 2019. Happy to answer questions.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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Beat 12	05/21/19 – 08/19/19	05/21/20 – 08/19/20	05/21/21 – 08/19/21
Homicide	00	00	00
Homicides in district 2	00	01	02
Assault with Deadly Weapon	01	01	02
Robbery/Carjacking – A & SA	15	04	06
Shootings neg manner with buildings or vehicles struck	01	00	00
Shootings neg manner with buildings or vehicles struck in district 2	06	18	31
Burglary residential/commercial	30	21	12
Auto Burglary	98	15	21
Grand Theft	21	12	04
Petty Theft	39	15	20
Battery	07	08	14

Officer Johnson reporting on beat 13: I usually only do statistics that have changed, and I only do 60 days over 2 years, not 90 days over 3. Auto burglaries are up somewhat, from 3 in 2020 to 8 in 2021. Stolen vehicles are down from 7 in 2020 to 3 in 2021. All other crime is essentially flat – there was one grand theft, one petty theft, no assaults/robberies in either year. The Rockridge area is always a very safe part of beats 12 and 13 for crime. Beat 13Z (above highway 13) has a little more crime, sometimes more auto burglaries and robberies, but not much more, maybe 12-13 auto burglaries. It’s easier to break into a car in a parking structure.

Q: I live in the Harwood/Auburn corridor. I hear good news but it’s not what I see on NextDoor. We’ve had a huge number of catalytic converter thefts and those cost over \$950, at least mine did. Why are the grand theft numbers so low?

Officer Johnson: Catalytic converter thefts across the city are very high. Maybe the catalytic converter thefts are not reported? You can call to report or do an online report. People call, and we get there, and there’s no contact. It’s hard to tell. I had a problem on 13Z with posts on NextDoor, people think posting on NextDoor is reporting to the police.

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Q: We had 4 catalytic converter thefts from Audis just on Harwood.

Karen Ivy: I regularly tell people on NextDoor that posting on NextDoor is *not* reporting to the police, they have to file a report. The police cannot see what you post on NextDoor.

Officer Gichki: College Avenue is a big business district. People email me with videos of auto burglaries with a description of the car, but they're not the victim, just an observer, and there's no police report. The same car may be listed in multiple auto burglaries, but half the time or more, there's no police report and no official victim. Without official reports they can't charge members of burglary rings even if OPD catches the burglars. OPD often finds cars that they know are doing multiple burglaries and try to stop them. But officers are prohibited from pursuing cars except in special circumstances, and the auto burglars seem to know this and just speed away. Without a report number officers can't act on the video evidence people send. Help us and help yourself by making a report, and if you send a video, reference the official report number, then we can use it in evidence.

Mike Ubell: If a citizen sees someone else's car burglarized, can they file a report? Does it have to be the car's owner?

Officer Gichki: No, the victim has to file the report for OPD and the DA to use it to charge a crime. Also, the owner of a burgled car has to be willing to press charges.

Q: There was an arson on Alcatraz in May, there was video of the crime, can you give us an update on the status of that case?

Officer Gichki: The beat officer looked into that. There was no official report. I got emails from beat 12 people who had spoken to the victim, but they didn't have a direct connection, and they didn't directly witness the crime. The video showed a person of interest but they never got a positive identification so there was no way to follow up.

Mike Ubell: It's time to move on to the next agenda item.

Oakland Firesafe Council Community Preparedness & Response - 7:20 – 8:20 PM

Leonora Sea introduced Doug Mosher, the program manager from the Oakland Community Preparedness & Response Program (OCP&R) which is associated with the Oakland Firesafe Council. He has been doing this for nearly 20 years. The Firesafe Council is a community-based org dedicated to helping people of Oakland and Alameda County reduce the risk of disasters like wildfire and earthquakes; the subject is unbelievably timely.

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Doug Mosher: Thank you. There's a lot of information, and we'll go through it fast. Don't worry about missing things, we will make the slides available, and most of this is on our web site.

Oakland Community Preparedness & Response Program is part of the Oakland Firesafe Council, a private volunteer organization which covers all Alameda Co. OCP&R is an educational program, created with grants from CalFire and City of Oakland. Complement CERT training which the city also provides, replacing CORE training.

- Organized neighborhoods
- Alerts & notifications
- Evacuation plans, go-bags/stay-boxes
- Power outages
- Hardening against earthquake/wildfire
- Responding during a disaster
- Safety after disaster

Everything we have is online at <https://www.oaklandcpandr.org>. They also have created a 2-way radio program for Oakland, won't discuss tonight. They worked with multiple agencies to develop their programs.

This workshop will focus on preparing for disaster, both your home and your neighborhood, and how best to respond and recover. The process is simple: organize and prepare before the emergency, respond during the emergency, and recover after the emergency.

You really must prepare *before* an emergency. Oakland has some high severity fire hazard zones (Oakland is ranked 7th in the state) extending almost to Rockridge. The map he showed is a couple years old and will probably expand the areas over time. We also have a major earthquake fault cutting right through Oakland. On average over 700 years, the Hayward fault has a big one about every 140 years. It has now been 153 plus years since the last one. Statistically we're overdue, but who knows?

We respond first until help arrives. We must be able to care for ourselves, our families, and our neighbors, as the first responders will probably be busy elsewhere.

Preparing for an emergency

Be organized, be ready. There are advantages to being an organized neighborhood group – build a trusted support network, plan to respond to emergencies together. Neighborhood Watch reduces crime and improves the neighborhood. We should build a more connected community.

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Figure out the issues – parking? Traffic? Identify neighborhood boundaries, create a map. Arrange to meet your neighbors. Build a roster (keep it confidential), get contact information, poll neighbors for their priorities. Identify projects to work on, increase readiness for earthquake/wildfire. Socializing is good, have parties.

They have a lot of guides on their web site, <https://www.oaklandcpandr.org> They have a lot of one-page guides for download or they will supply printed material. Guide #1 is on Neighborhood Organization. You can sign up for their weekly newsletter, to learn about things that are going on.

Alerts and notifications

The main local mechanism is the **ACAlert** www.acgov.org/emergencysite. It sends notices by home phone, cell phone, and/or email. There are also cell wireless emergency alerts, also there's Nixle (used by police), Twitter, Citizen, Nextdoor, and GENOAK (local 2 way radio network). Radio stations that broadcast alerts include KQED FM 88.5 does radio alerts, also KCBS (740 AM) and KGO (810 AM). 530 AM is for emergencies only. Battery operated radios are good.

Follow all instructions from the authorities.

Types of notifications and warnings

- *Fire weather watch* – prepare for wildfire.
- *Red flag warning* – exercise caution, be ready to evacuate. A red flag warning is very serious – conditions are right for a wildfire (low humidity, dry vegetation, wind). Check their guides for what to do.
- *Evacuation warning* – prepare to evacuate.
- *Evacuation order* – leave NOW.
- May get a *Shelter-in-place* order – stay put, maybe close windows. This may change.
- *Oakland emergency siren system* – monitor your radio if you hear this. The sirens all go off at once. They're tested once a month, 1st Wednesday at noon.

OCP&R guide #2 covers alerts.

Create evacuation plan

Know where you'd go. Nobody knows what the emergency will be or where – study *all* possible routes out of your area. Also identify possible shelter sites (sports fields, schools) nearby. OCP&R Site has a guide (#5) on *Evacuation Planning*.

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Know your ZoneHaven Zone Name – you have one. Go to <https://community.zonehaven.com> and enter your address. Evacuations in Oakland will be based on your Zone numbers. Consult OCP&R Guide #23 on ZoneHaven.

Have Go-Bags and Stay-Boxes packed and accessible. OCP&R Guide #7 covers *Evacuation and Go-Bag Checklists*. You need to build a Go-Bag to sustain you for a couple of days, and a Stay-Box. Refresh these items regularly. Build a checklist of what you'd want to take and what you need if you stay. You need an out of area contact, a relay people can call. Also identify meeting locations in case family members are separated. Know which neighbors may help. And you need to *practice* your evacuation plan!

Power Outages

These can happen at any time, especially on Red Flag Warning days. Be sure to sign up for PG&E notices and information. Prepare for medical needs if you need refrigeration or have electrical medical devices. Charge devices and backup batteries. Consider an alternate power source – generator or solar. Know how to open the garage door manually. You can't rely on cell service in a power outage. OCP&R Guide #8 covers this.

Harden home against earthquake

Secure your appliances, bookshelves, water heater, etc. Ensure porches and decks are secured to the house. Have safety latches on cabinets. Clean and inspect chimneys. Label your utility shutoffs, consider installing an Auto (Seismic) Gas Shutoff Valve. Have your older home inspected and consider upgrading it if needed. Details are in OCP&R Guide #10.

Harden Home against Wildfires

He showed a short video on what flying embers may do to a house. Flying embers from wildfires are what mostly start fires, more often than radiant heat or direct flame. Embers can blow a mile or more in front of fire. Have 5' of no combustibles around home (no bark mulch). Tree branches should be 6' or more from ground. Have no tree limbs within 10' above roof. Install vent screens (1/8" mesh or less) to keep flying embers out. Don't store flammables under porches or decks. Wood fences can catch fire – fences should be non-combustible material near a house (metal, brick, etc.). Keep roofs and gutters free of debris. Ensure you have a Class A rated roof (which is basic code). Tempered double-pane windows are better in fires. OCP&R Guide #9

"I don't live in the hills" – they hear this a lot. He showed a photo of the Tubbs Fire in Coffey Park, Santa Rosa. The Wildland Urban Interface isn't where you think it is. In the 1991 Oakland firestorm – he was not there but spoke to firemen – had the wind not died down, the fire could have burned down to the bay through Temescal and West Oakland.

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Also, big earthquakes can cause fires because of broken gas lines and downed power lines. An earthquake on a windy day can cause a fire.

Get additional training. The old CORE program is now replaced by CERT (a national program through FEMA). Oakland now does CERT training. This is recommended.

Respond During an Emergency

Earthquake – drop/cover/hold till the shaking stops. Standing in open doorways is no longer recommended. If the home is damaged, go outside. Check things out, watch for fires. Help your neighbors. You may or may not need to evacuate.

Wildfire – monitor AC Alert or other alert systems. If in doubt, get out. If you evacuate, it's best to stay in vehicle.

When evacuating - Follow all orders and follow your plan. Bring animals. Take 1 vehicle. You may have to seek refuge if all routes are blocked. Schools will protect children. Stay as calm as you can. OCP&R Guide #6

Recover after emergency

Be aware, be helpful. First, evaluate your family and home. Breathe, recompose, check yourself (including emotional and mental state). Evaluate the family's health and wellbeing. Wear protective clothing – mask, gloves, eye protection, hard-soled shoes, long sleeves and pants. Don't consume water, food, or medicines that were exposed to fire or smoke. OCP&R Guide #4.

Help neighbors as best you can. Check in with your neighbors and your out-of-area contacts. Text messages are better than phoning, they use less bandwidth. Post your status on social media if you have time. The City of Oakland or the Red Cross may open shelters. No one knows what areas will be safe. Notify your insurance company. OCP&R Guide #11 covers home insurance.

Next Steps

Register for AC Alert

Create an evacuation plan

Create your Go-bags and Stay-Box

Prepare for power outages

Harden home against earthquakes and wildfires

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Help organize neighborhood

Take CERT training

Do these steps one at a time. It looks overwhelming, but anything you do is better off than you were. Use the OCP&R website and guides, also check LISTOS California and Ready.gov. Encourage your friends and family to prepare. Reach out to them with questions: ocpr@oaklandfiresafecouncil.org, 510-575-0916. Other options: www.oaklandcpandr.org, www.oaklandfiresafecouncil.org, www.genoak.org

He will send the slides to Karen. (He didn't.)

Questions and Answers – 8:20 – 8:30 PM

Eric Neville: (commenting in Zoom chat) Wow, those esoteric ZoneHaven zone names won't work in an emergency.

A: About ZoneHaven names – you really only need to know the 3 digit number.

Q: Should we shut off the gas?

A: That's open for debate – if you smell gas in the house, shut it off. Keep a gas shutoff wrench next to the valve. If you don't smell gas and your appliances seem OK, you may not need to shut it off. In a major quake, the gas utility will shut off the gas. It may take a long time before they'll turn the gas back on. A gas fire in one home could spread to neighbors.

Q: Is there help preparing items for Go-Bags/Stay-Boxes?

A: City not helping with that right now, they did at one time. You can buy pre-built Go-Bags, he prefers to buy all his own stuff, and get a good flashlight or other tools. Some neighborhood groups collaborate to buy the items in bulk.

Thanks for your attention. I'll stay as long as anyone wants to talk. Check the web site for guides and info.

Q: Are there resources for radio on your web site?

A: Yes, the web site has a tab for GENOAK and a link to a web site on GENOAK. Cell phones are great but the service may be down. 2-way radios are a way to connect and communicate when cell systems are down. Every neighborhood should have at least 1 person with a GENOAK radio to share status and communicate.

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Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for June 2021

Beat 12Y:

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* No current priority.

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, October 14, 2021** at 7:00 PM
Location TBA pending the course of the pandemic*

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