

**Laurel/Redwood/Leona Heights (Beat 25X)**  
**Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 10, 2013**  
**7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**  
**Redwood Heights Recreation Center**

**Meeting Purpose:**

To provide updated information to area residents and others about activity occurring in the area from the Problem Solving Officer, other City personnel and community residents.

**Meeting Outcome:**

To encourage residents to work with various city and county agencies to address various issues in the area and in their neighborhoods.

**Facilitator:** Bobbie Bond, NCPC Chair

**Timekeeper:** Gerri Wong, NCPC Co-Chair

**Minutes scribe:** Danny Cieloha, NCPC Secretary

**Neighborhood Services Coordinator:** Renee Sykes

**Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review**

Chair Bonds called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. The 27 neighbors in attendance introduced themselves. Streets/places represented included: Vale St., Lincoln Square, 39th Ave., Mattis Court., Davenport Ave., Geranium, Anderson, Masterson, Jordan Rd., Davis St., Reinhardt Dr., Fair Ave., Steele St., Patterson Ave, and Laurel Village Association.

**Announcements**

April 20<sup>th</sup> Earth Day Events

- Neighborhood cleanup and recycled materials activities at the Laurel Art Garden (35<sup>th</sup>/Delaware, 10-1 pm)
- Peralta Creek cleanup—Rettig and Wisconsin at 9 a.m.
- April 24<sup>th</sup>-Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee presents Crime Prevention Tactics. This presentation will be done at City Hall
- May 6 & 7-Police oral boards. The police department is seeking volunteers from the community to serve on this board. Interested residents should contact Officer Wendy Rae at [wrae@oaklandnet.com](mailto:wrae@oaklandnet.com).
- May 10<sup>th</sup>-Oakland Police Open House from 4-7 p.m. at 455 Seventh St

**Police District IV Commander Captain Steve Tull**

- Has been with OPD for 24 years.
- His pledge is to keep a beat officer on Beat 25 all the time—no matter what. Wants to make sure there's high police visibility here.
- Frazier, Wasserman, Bratton recommended the department return to Community Policing. The most recent administrative configuration showed the area was too large (e.g., Capt. Ersie Joyner was at one time in charge of both police districts 4 & 5). With the new configuration which is part of a pilot

restructuring project, Tull has more direct control. The project started in March. If this pilot works, it will be implemented throughout the city.

- Tull wants his officers to conduct themselves legally, transparently, and fairly. Community Policing has been tried for years. Tull now wants to fully embrace the concept and include the community in problem solving efforts.
- Tull will bring in other agencies (Sheriff's, CHP. etc.) but the community is the most important piece.
- Tull provided a brief update on the shooting of the paramedic at Keller & Hansom. There was a carjacking the day before near Frick Middle School. The car taken in the carjacking was the same vehicle involved in the incident at Keller & Hansom. Captains in both Districts 4 & 5 are working together to try and solve this crime which appears random.
- District 4 is a police district not a Council district.
- The complaints are the same in all the beats which are Human Trafficking, illegal dumping and graffiti. Quality of life issues should be addressed; if they are not addressed it gives the impression no one cares.
- District 4 is now like a mini-city with its own police department. PSOs, school police, NSCs, etc...
- Tull expects officers to always be civil and courteous.
- Wants to hear directly from citizens. He prefers text or e-mail.
- He's responsible for this District 24/7.

#### **Q & A with Captain Tull**

- Q. How does the department work with Code Compliance? It directly impacts quality of life here. A. Officers are tasked to contact Code Compliance whenever they see violations (e.g., dumped trash, furniture). Tull speaks directly to City officials who can assist in solving the problem. Tull would like to see Code Compliance in the neighborhoods looking for problems (proactive) and not have staff wait until people call in with observed violations. The City needs to change the way it thinks and acts for citizens. Change in their process will benefit the community.
- Council aide Middleton stated that when residents call Code Compliance, they should also call Councilmember Schaff's office (Shereda's number at 238.7042) or [nmiddleton@oaklandnet.com](mailto:nmiddleton@oaklandnet.com)).
- NSC Sykes stated the City work force has been reduced substantially and this is causing delays in response times.
- Comment- There are more complaints about personal safety than quality of life issues. Response- Violent robberies are up City-wide. Phones, gold chains are items commonly stolen. It appears these robberies are not random, but may be targeted. Suspects are engaging in a coordinated criminal process. An individual in a car watches a victim and phones ahead to the other individual in another car telling him/her they can commit the act. Project Ceasefire is helping to address gang member issues. Burglaries are also on the rise.
  - Tull plans to change the way officers respond to calls. He wants to slow officers down—they should do more than just respond to calls. He is also a fan of high visibility. He wants constituents in Beat 25 to see the police

and he wants officers to stop and talk to people, walk around—not just engage in the old “Joe Friday style of “Just the facts, ma’am.”

- The biggest challenge Captain Tull faces are calls for service. There is a high volume of calls and few officers to respond to them. Tull stated he will tell the dispatcher “no” if the call can be handled differently (i.e. on line reporting, referral to another city agency).
- Busiest beats are 23 and 26. If the Beat 25 officer is pulled from a call on the beat, he/she will more than likely never return during the shift. That’s why the PSO will remain on the beat unless there’s a significant incident (such as an officer-involved shooting, homicide).

Q. What’s your approach? A. Tull’s directive from Chief Jordan is to reduce crime; he gets to decide how this is done using creative and innovative tactics.

Comment: A resident stated youth from the Community Day School on Mountain Blvd. are a problem and impact crime in the neighborhood; several officers are unaware there is a school at this location. A. Tull will look into it.

Q. Is there a process in place for investigating illegal dumping? A. Currently there is not an assigned investigator in OPD to address this. If there is a great deal of evidence, OPD will assign an investigator from another unit to investigate. There’s nothing to stop Tull from assigning someone to investigate an incident. Nuisance properties should also be reported to Greg Minor, City Neighborhood Law Corps Attorney ([gminor@oaklandcityattorney.org](mailto:gminor@oaklandcityattorney.org)) or 238.6523.

Q. What’s the process for monitoring recurring problem sites? A. Every day, there is a call-in where captains report their biggest crimes. From this information, hot spot” maps are developed. PSOs are used to help address long term issues. Because they’ve been pulled away from the beat for other assignments, they haven’t been able to do their assigned job. Clay Burch can and will do this. Community Policing was a great concept and it will be again.

Q. Oakland has a lot of crime, where are the parole officers? A. There is a lot of crime. A small percentage of the population is committing the crimes. But the fear they create, paralyzes citizens. Last Saturday night the activity was so busy Tull could not get on the police radio.

Comment-A resident stated she had a list of crimes that shows there’s a nest of criminals on Daisy Street. A. [Deferred the question to PSO Burch].

Q. Who in the police department will take camera video evidence? A. Residents can e-mail Tull directly ([stull@oaklandnet.com](mailto:stull@oaklandnet.com)). He is receptive and responsive to the community. If it’s a repeated problem, the evidence can be used.

**Beat 25X Problem Solving Officer (PSO), Clay Burch**  
***Crime Trends & Updates***

- Burch stated Tull is one of the most dedicated captains he's ever known in OPD. He is extremely happy he's the commander of District 4.
- *He is going to start focusing on quality of life issues by focusing on the hot spots.*
- Frames for license plates can help reduce the current trend toward snipping off the side of the plate that has the registration sticker on it.

### **First three months of 2013:**

Robberies-18 in 2012/ 29 in 2013.

Homicides-0 in 2012/1 in 2013.

Home invasion Robberies (1) in 2012/1 in 2013.

Burglaries are down in the first three months. 61 in 2012/13 in 2013

Residents should use all the deterrents and strategies that are available.

### **Community Concerns**

- **4916 Daisy St**-Burnt out house is now cleaned up and fenced off.
- **4331 Tompkins**-was a haven for narcotics use. In the last year there were 50+ burglaries in the area. Burch and the Crime Reduction Team (CRT) did surveillance and served a search warrant on this property. They recovered a lot of property. If residents are missing property from a burglary or robbery, they should call the Criminal Investigations Division and refer to Case #13-014413. Burch read a list of stolen goods that were recovered. The list included Bose headphone, Wii video console, many silver and white MAC computers, red lunch box with camera inside, DJ mixing board, several hard drives, numerous cellular phones, routers, flat screen TVs, X-box 360, CA ID card belonging to Ryan Bishop, a Dell laptop, Honda 390x generator and much more.
- **4842 Daisy St.**-Actual bad folks hanging out there. Lots of drug use although not evidence manufacturing is occurring. Loud motorcycles, pit bulls, squatting. A family member of the owner was managing the property which has resulted in failure. The owner has returned and is looking to rehab the property. If anyone has gone through a similar situation, they should get in touch with NSC Sykes who will contact the owner.
- **4000 block of Maybelle Ave.** There are a lot of kids who attend a nursery school in the area. There is a house on the block where possible drug activity is occurring. Officer Burch has an idea of what's going on, but not able to provide proof yet. Burch needs information from anyone living in that block regarding drug/criminal activity.
- Q. A resident living at 4242 Masterson St. stated there have been at least 10 recent crimes. Which ones should be reported? A. Report them all. OPD will handle the calls.
- Q/Comment: Neighbor had a burglary yesterday. "The back fence was open and suspects kicked in the backdoor, looking for computers. They didn't find anything in the resident's house but they went next door and began prying the back window open." The suspect vehicle was a maroon or burgundy car. A. Give the information to Renee Sykes, and she'll forward it to Burch.

### **Community Concerns**

- **Status of Safeway remodeling:** Chair Bond is not getting any return calls from Safeway or the individuals managing this project. Andy (a 43 year business owner in Lincoln Square, Potpourri) says the manager told him Safeway will close after Thanksgiving. The Lincoln Square property manager says he hasn't heard of any such development. Andy doesn't know what's going on with either Safeway or the Lincoln Square holding company. Bobbie asked that Bruce Stoffmacher in CM Schaaf's office contact Peter Vollman in the Planning Division and report back to the NCPC with an update on the property development of both Safeway and Lincoln Square. Gigi (Anthony's Salon) stated there's no communication with any of the other tenants in the square.
- **4916 Daisy St** D. Cieloha shared the story of a house that burned down on February 27, 2013. The owner was hospitalized and is unavailable. The property was a total disaster with toxic fumes, rotting garbage, trash, burned furniture and rats. People came at night looting and possibly stole a car from the driveway. People started dumping trash and furniture, on the sidewalk in front of the property.  

The neighbor contacted the NSC and began working directly with Code Compliance to try and get the place cleaned up. Surrounding neighbors moved to action and contacted various elected officials about this matter all the while staying in contact with Code Compliance. (Code Compliance informed residents a new City ordinance gives an owner 30 days to correct any conditions on the property out of compliance with City codes and ordinances). Continued pressure resulted in the removal of garbage, the board up of what was left of the house, and the installation of a six-foot cyclone fence around the property. The complainant was told that without "special permission from the powers-that-be to waive the regular timeline," the neighborhood would have had to tolerate these conditions until the end of April. Without the vigilance of an entire neighborhood and the cooperation of key City employees, a neighborhood can become a victim of well-intentioned ordinances that leave folks vulnerable to crime and hazards of all kinds.
- **Aliso Ave.** is experiencing prostitution and loitering. Unsure where on Aliso this activity is allegedly occurring.

#### **Councilmember Schaaf's Office Update.**

- Council aide N. Middleton announced that on April 24<sup>th</sup>, CM Schaaf is hosting a Public Safety Speakers Series at Holy Names University from 7-9 p.m.
- 4690 Tompkins (Beulah Home). There will be a meeting Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 at Daisy Chapel, 4750 Daisy St.
- April 16<sup>th</sup> -How to Grow your Own Business seminar at Italian Colors. (Check Libby's newsletter for details.)

#### **Officer Elections**

Postponed until the next meeting.

#### **Proposed NCPC Name Change**

A proposal to rename the NCPC to the Laurel/Redwood/Leona Neighborhood Action Council was tabled. This was in response to an attendee's comment where she stated "the resolution establishing NCPCs requires the word "crime" be part of the title." Danny said he would research the ordinance and report back at the next meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Cieloha  
Secretary, NCPC 25X