

**Laurel/Redwood/Leona Heights (Beat 25X)
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 2012
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Redwood Heights Recreation Center**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bobbie Bond at 7:03 p.m.

Announcements

- **December 15, 2012/10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.** gun buy-back event at 2245 82nd Ave. (St. Benedict's Church). \$200 per firearm. Will take up to three in working condition. Guns should not be loaded and should be transported in the trunk of a car. This event is only for Oakland residents.

Scheduled Guest Speaker Acting Captain Kirk Coleman-BFO 2

K. Coleman is Captain Medieros' temporary replacement. 25X is returning to Bureau of Field Operations (BFO) 2 the first of the year. Ersie Joyner will be the new Captain assigned to BFO 2 starting in January.

- Primary concern is getting guns off the street.
- Understaffed department. CHP is freeing up patrolmen to respond to "hill residents" policing needs.
- Coleman believes in "social networking"—checking on those arrested and who else they may know committing crimes.
- There will be a dedicated beat officer again in January.
- Hoping Deputy Sheriffs will soon be on the job and show more presence on 25X and surrounding beats.
- Coleman wants patrol officers to do their reporting parked in "key" beat areas to increase OPD visibility.
- There are currently 630 sworn personnel.
- Keeping CHP in the flats (where they like to be), and directing patrol officers to focus more on the hill beats.
- **Negotiated Settlement Agreement**—isn't affecting officers duties; "they're grounded in it." They know their instructions and they're following them.
- Coleman is in charge of "Ceasefire." Joint effort with Federal, State, County law enforcement agencies. He identifies the biggest troublemakers and focuses attention/resources on them.

Questions: What about prostitution on E. 14th?

- Sykes responded that neighbors in the San Antonio area have been trained to get license plates of "johns." A "Dear John" letter is sent to the home of the registered vehicle owner advising them they have been observed soliciting. Motels on the other side of High Street have been known to participate in prostitution activity.
- Human Trafficking is a problem in Oakland as well as elsewhere.

Question: What will the Beat Officer cover?

- 25X & Y and wherever his/her services are needed
- This is all we can expect for the time being.
- Coleman says there will be more officers in 2013.

- Right now there are three officers assigned to this area plus a Problem Solving Officer and a Crime Reduction Team.

A resident expressed concern for the area near Leona Lodge & Park. There has been more crime. "We're being hit real hard," she said.

Question: Are burglary arrests being prosecuted?

- Currently, around Beat 31 there have been lots of burglaries. Every time an arrest is made, the crime is decreasing.
- Burglars work in teams. OPD has been setting up decoy cars and using other strategies to capture them.

Question: Is OPD running fingerprints again?

- Yes.

Question: How many patrol officers are actually on the street in the three shifts of each 24 hours?

- Eight officers in each area of BFO2. (24 East Oakland) ideally.
- What they're trying to get is 20 officers per shift; that is not happening regularly.
- OPD will barely hold its own.
- Lots of competition between cities. Lots of people want to work here.

Question: What is the parolee population here?

- Oakland can't keep parolees from coming here.

Question: How realistic is it to have police stations in neighborhoods?

- It is expensive to have substations.
- Looking at cops doing paperwork in facilities such as recreation centers, etc...

Question: Where do I go if someone is following me in my car?

- Drive to 7th St. or the Eastmont police station or a high populated area.

Question: How can Rec Center be included?

- Subscribe to Nixle.
- Nixle has been "glitchy." Also, OPD doesn't assign someone on all shifts to do it.
- Staying in touch with local list serves helps.

Question: Since it's unreliable, is there an alternative to Nixle?

- No, there isn't.
- Giving info or making OPD intelligence available to public is impossible.

Question: Is there word on the two girls who were murdered at Allendale?

- Investigators are working on it with new information everyday?

Question: Resident's neighbor at 39th and Anderson burgled. What more can we do?

- Be watchful, look for unfamiliar people. Send info directly to PSO Douglas and NSC Sykes.

- Sykes says to “think like a crook.” Look at your property and neighborhood like criminals. They’re checking you and your neighborhood out on Facebook, Twitter, Google, etc...
- Douglas encourages residents to use their cameras to record strangers in your neighborhood.
- Alert your neighbors; tell them what they can do to make their homes safer.
- Douglas says burglaries are crimes of opportunity. Everyone needs to be more aware of their surrounding in neighborhoods and in the commercial districts. He gave the example of smart phones and computers that criminals want and how citizens need to be circumspect.
- Douglas gave an example of the crime unit needing PSOs to assist with their projects. It takes PSOs away from their beat assignments. He’s trying to cover beat needs and fill in for officers in other areas who aren’t at work. “We’re officers who want to be here. I was in the military, now I’m back and glad to be back.” “This is what I want to do.”
- Douglas: “There are a lot of things we can do better, but for now we rely on you to help take this city back.”

A resident told Officer Douglas that citizens know how stretched OPD is. However, OPD needs to communicate in more ways, (i.e. the Laurel Listserv). She urged people to call OPD and report what they see.

- Douglas responded that callers need to **state specifically** what they see someone doing that they find suspicious; be careful when using the term “suspicious” when calling dispatch.
- Sykes says not to be afraid to describe people clearly—it is not racial profiling to clearly and completely describe what the person looks like (including race).
- Coleman said that neighbors need to trim trees and shrubbery, leave a fan on that causes curtains to move.
- Importance of knowing neighbors and informing neighbors when you’re going to be gone.

Question: What do you do when you have a vacant house next door—especially when it becomes a magnet for crime around it?

- Call Code Compliance at ([238.3381](tel:238.3381)) and report address of the vacant house. Get a report number and follow up in 15-30 days.
- Citizens have to call themselves; City personnel has been discouraged from calling on behalf of citizens.

Council Updates

S. Nosakhare reports

- Libby Schaaf will be at February’s NCPC meeting.
- Three proposals before Council.
- 1) Remove conditions so a third police academy can occur in June 2013. Fourth quarter revenues should allow for removing the conditions. OPD needs the go ahead now in order to plan for this academy.
- 2) Agreement with County Sheriff’s Department to bring in 12 deputy sheriffs.
- 3) Hire 20 Police Services Technicians to process reports and perform other duties that free up officers to do police work.

Question: How would what deputies do be different?

They would be involved in supporting the Crime Reduction Unit. Lt. Coleman stated that CHP is good for traffic/cars stops, etc., but deputies are experienced in street work and can support high crime areas. It also frees up the PSOs to address neighborhood issues.

What is the chance of passing these three proposals?

- Shereda feels with three new council people it has a good chance of passing.

NPCPC Priority Updates

High Street Trailer Park

- Officer Douglas had a meeting last week with the trailer park management. He conducted several security checks on residents that management has identified as problematic and want out. He did another security sweep today and did not even get into the park because time was spent arresting someone standing in front of the park. This place continues to be highly problematic even though management is being cooperative in cleaning up the park. This is an ongoing focus of OPD, the NPCPC, and other city agencies.
- The strategy is to continue having a strong presence so word spreads the trailer park isn't the place to be.
- So far, 70% of the tenants have been evicted.

MacArthur Corridor

- Increase and continuation of robberies (armed and strong arm)—seven so far this month including a bank robbery (Citibank).
- There is an increase as the holiday approaches and it gets dark earlier.
- Be aware. Do not be a target when walking in the Laurel or anywhere. Try to stay off cell phones while out in public.
- If an individual is a victim of a robbery, do not resist; give them what they want.
- Criminals are walking up and down the boulevard. OPD tries to discourage them, but they are free to walk there until a crime is committed.
- Use indoor ATMs and be observant. Consider not taking a purse. Do what ever you can to not be a target. Go out with a friend rather than alone.
- Many criminals are working in groups.
- Encourage residents not to give money to homeless people who are begging (particularly in the 4000 block of MacArthur Blvd). It just attracts more beggars to the area.
- In front of Maxx Value supermarket, NSC Sykes observed two young men standing in the area for about 45 minutes. She believes they were casing. Homeless people give cover for criminals on the street.

What is being done about the Laurel Lounge? An area resident is seeing open drug deals going on there.

Douglas is already on it and it is becoming an issue for CRT. Something will be done by OPD shortly.

- Continue to call the Drug Hotline and Alcohol Beverage Action Team (ABAT) number each time drug activity is occurring. Several individuals who consistently return to the area have been observed in criminal/negative activity around the lounge.
- Douglas hopes police work will result not only in arrests but in a 300 yard stay-away injunction that allows OPD to re-arrest them for being in the area.
- If Laurel Lounge doesn't clean up its act, it could go the way of the Seven Seas bar.
- Taco sales at Laurel Lounge are ending.

How does OPD identify robbery suspects?

- Need eyewitnesses who are willing to identify/file charges against suspect.
- Report whatever you see—even if it's not facial ID. Clothing, etc. is reportable. It goes into the file and can be part of the investigation even though this cannot be done through the beat officer. OPD has to avoid the possibility of a false ID.
- Robberies in front of residences can be thwarted by calling ahead and making sure there's someone at home to come out and meet you. Turn on lights, show activity in the house.
- If you have alarm system, (e.g., ADT), call the company to see where OPD is on the contact list; are they first, second, etc...

Senior Housing Update

- Environmental Impact Report (EIR) went to the Planning commission on Dec. 5th with the comment period ending on the 10th. The comment period is closed and the consultant is responding to questions and comments submitted.
- The final EIR will come back to the Commission in the spring and voted on at that time.

Good of the Order

- Cieloha reported neighbors at 4560 Reinhardt Dr. experienced an attempted home invasion that was terrifying for them.
- A neighbor stated she successfully reported a stolen vehicle.
- The City will be closed from Dec 21, 2012 to January 2, 2013

With no further items up for discussion, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bond at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Cieloha
NCPC Secretary