

**Laurel/Redwood/Leona Heights  
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)  
Wednesday, August 14, 2013/7:00 p.m.  
Redwood Heights Recreation Center, 3883 Aliso Rd.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bond at 7:05 p.m.

Chair Bond facilitated welcome and introductions. Those in attendance represented the following streets/avenues/courts: 35<sup>th</sup>, Davenport, Maybelle, Daisy, Laguna, Mattis, Reinhardt, Redwood, Harbor View, Tulip, and Steele. (Late arrivals did not provide their street name).

**Announcements:**

- Nixle awareness. If citizens want to learn about OPD activity they can visit [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) to register.
- 1000 Candles for Peace August 15, 2013; participants should meet at 4130 Telegraph at 5 p.m.
- Council District Realignment meetings. The second series of meetings will occur in September. The City is seeking public input regarding the upcoming realignment of City Council Districts. To find the meeting locations, go to [www.oaklandnet.com/Oakland2/redist/](http://www.oaklandnet.com/Oakland2/redist/) or call 238-3079.

**Crime Trends on the beat (what crime is up/what crime is down)**

- Oakland is 3<sup>rd</sup> in the country in **robberies**—the biggest loss is cell phones. They are easy to fence and fetch high prices. Several cities are working together to develop common policies to deal with phone robberies. Neighborhood Services Coordinator (NSC) R. Sykes underscored the importance of not using cell phones while out in public. The latest tactic criminals use is to ask a cell phone owner for the time or ask to borrow the phone to make a call.
- **Burglaries of concern.** A picture of a Lexus vehicle was sent via Nixle to area residents; this resulted in a couple of burglary suspects arrested on Sereno Circle. Be diligent in reporting suspicious individuals. Right now, the target area for burglaries on Beat 25X appear to be from MacArthur Blvd to Steele/High to Enos.
- **Daisy Street update:** Four-unit complex where individuals that live here may be involved in drug activity. They are connected to people at the High St. trailer park and a problem house on Buell St. PSO Festag is monitoring the situation. The police are requesting neighbors report their observations to them. The community's eyes and ears are needed in order to move forward on stopping the illegal activities at these locations.

**Kathleen O'Connor** representing the **Writer/Coach Connection** spoke to the group.

- Education is a great crime-fighting tool. She is seeking volunteers—one student/one adult to focus on writing and critical thinking skills. Positive

reinforcement based on a relationship with a caring adult. Starting with kids where they are now and helping them to develop. The goal is to make competent writers who are confident in themselves.

- What they are doing helps kids stay in school. They build up competency for the high school exit exam.
- This program helps kids know there are individuals in their community who care about them, it's also fun.
- Many neighbors who participate say this is the highlight of their week.
- Being a writer is not a requirement. Everyone gets (2) three-hour training sessions before entering into a classroom setting.
- Ms. O'Connor is seeking neighbors who would coach Oakland's youth during the school year in the daytime. The program is currently at Fremont High (9<sup>th</sup>-graders) and in Berkeley, Richmond, and El Cerrito schools. The belief is if there are more kids in school, there is less crime.

### **CORE (Communities of Oakland Respond to Disasters)**

- Formed after the Loma Prieta earthquake.
- Three-part program sponsored through the Oakland Fire Department (OFD).
- #1-What to do with your family when there is an emergency—be prepared to be on your own for 7-10 days.
- #2-What to do in your neighborhood. What can people do as a neighborhood in case of an emergency? CERT protocol is followed.
- #3-15-hour course disaster in Psychology, First-aid, Fire and rescue. Final activity is a simulation at the OFD training center.
- How do residents receive training? Basic training can occur in a public setting, (September, October, and November) at the Rockridge Library. Or, residents can do a two-weekend CORE 1-3 training. Or, CORE #1 & #2 can be scheduled for 15 or more people at a site of the community's choice.
- **911 Registry.** Special need citizens can be registered with OFD. When the registered number appears at 911, the person's information comes up and is provided to the EMT/Fire response team. (Bobbie Bond helped develop the program)!
- This information and more is available at:  
<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/OFD/s/CORE/index.htm>.

### **Updates on Various Neighborhood Focus Projects on Beat 25X**

#### **Safeway**

- They have not responded to any calls. Chair Bond has been calling since February 27, 2013. She also has not received a response from CM Schaaf's office.
- NSC Sykes will follow up with the Planning Department.
- An area resident contacted Safeway headquarters and complained about trash on the hillside at Lincoln Square. This resulted in the hillside being cleaned-up.

## **Beulah Home**

- Cieloha expressed appreciation to neighbors in 25X and citizens from around the city who signed the letter to the City declaring their opposition to Beulah Home being converted into 40 apartments. Cieloha stated more than 400 residents signed the petition. The petition is still open, and anyone wishing to sign can contact Barbara Lanier ([barbalanier@gmail.com](mailto:barbalanier@gmail.com)).
- Before the Design Committee of the Planning Commission met, neighbors sent them more than 70 e-mails expressing their opposition to the conversion.
- Approximately (25) neighbors appeared at the Design Review Committee meeting to speak against the project.
- The community has retained legal counsel for the neighborhood and continues to seek contributions to defray legal costs. For more information on contributing, contact Maria Scog ([mscg@yahoo.com](mailto:mscg@yahoo.com)).
- The Beulah House Committee has asked Councilmember Schaaf to bring representatives of the owner, Urban Green Investments, and the neighborhood together for discussions in the near future. (This is based on a standing offer from Schaaf). Members of the Commission's Design Review Committee also urged discussions to achieve a mutually-agreeable solution.
- An attendee with a great deal of experience with the Commission urged the Committee to keep the neighborhoods informed (listservs, websites, etc.) in a timely manner—particularly since, things can happen very quickly and people need to have as much advanced notice as possible.
- On behalf of the Steering Committee of neighborhood volunteers, Cieloha thanked everyone for their support and assured them that the Committee would keep everyone current as developments continue. Neighbors should be prepared to respond on short-notice as the process continues.

## **High & MacArthur Senior Facility**

- Still a polluted site with additional pollution from 580 traffic. Current plan is to build on it "as is." Only one Commissioner voted against it.
- A citizens' group is suing the City to block development.

## **7/11 store (MacArthur @ Enos)**

- In the last three months, this store has been robbed numerous times. It sits in an isolated area with three problematic motels around it. An armed guard was killed there three years ago. The Southland Corp, that oversees 7-11 stores is reluctant to have the owner assign another guard to the store or scale back hours. There is a need to have the community apply pressure to Southland Corp to scale back store hours.
- Attendee/neighbor said motels are renting rooms by the hour and the store is serving the homeless who live around the freeway. The Mills Motel seems especially problematic.

- The police need neighbors in the Tulip/Lily area to contact the City Attorney's office about what activity is observed at the hotel. 238.2373 is the Prostitution Hotline.
- Greg Minor will be invited to a future meeting to discuss how the City addresses problematic motels.

**Maybelle Ave.**

- Possibly a problem at 3809, but NSC Sykes needs neighbors to provide specific information in their reporting. Attendee reported she sees more cars and activity there.

With no other items up for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Cieloha