

Laurel/Redwood/Leona Heights (Beat 25X)
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 5, 2014
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Redwood Heights Recreation Center

Welcome, Introduction & Agenda Review

- Chair Bond called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
- Attendees introduced themselves and were from the following streets: Mattis, Wisconsin, Maybelle, Bayo, Tulip, Tompkins, Harbor View, Vale, Davenport, Steele, Virden

Announcements

- Congratulations to Jerry Wong who is the NCPC Vice-Chair and a recipient of the District 4 Local Heroes Award.
- Use Nixle (nixle.com) to receive updates about police activity.
- **February 8, 2014** -Councilmember Schaaf's District 4 "Local Hero" Award ceremony and Laurel District Lion Dance at Allendale Rec Center.
- **March 3, 2014**-New session of Citizen's Police Academy begins. (14 weeks at Eastmont Station).
- CORE (Citizens of Oakland Responding to Emergencies) training at Mills College starting in March. A full range of classes will be offered.
- Mayor Quan will be hosting a District IV town hall meeting in March.

Crime Trends & Updates

- A resident from the 3800 block of Maybelle told a story about his neighbor who was a victim of a residential robbery and locked in his closet. A relative has a history of drug activity. The police responded and interviewed neighbors. The drug activity continues and is causing widespread fear in the neighborhood. What should area residents do?
 - 1) Call the drug hotline (238-DRUG) for observed criminal/suspicious activity.
 - 2) Get an incident number from the dispatcher when calling the police about suspicious/criminal activity. Documenting observed activity is very important. Residents should consider sending a letter to the property owner outlining their concerns. A noise complaint requires a resident to complete a crime report for "disturbing the peace." (By definition, an officer's peace cannot be disturbed). The City ordinance states noise must cease by 9 p.m. It becomes a nuisance when it disturbs a citizen's peaceful enjoyment of his property. Neighbors in the area must take the lead in reporting and documenting all cases.
- 4 unit apartment building in the 4800 block of Daisy St. There may be squatters on the property. In August 2013, a homicide occurred. People

residing at this property came from the High Street trailer park. Two brothers own the property, one of the brothers has been away and the other brother is cooperative and willing to work with the City. (He wants to have his brother and the other individuals removed). This is a very complex situation and all the applicable City departments have been contacted including the Neighborhood Law Corp attorney. Q. How does the Neighborhood Law Corp fit into this situation? A. They work with neighbors, NSCs, and police officers to assemble a case and determine what strategy will be used to bring a property owner into compliance. The City cannot evict tenants—not even squatters. The owner has to go through the eviction process.

- A resident reported her concern about door-to-door solicitors. She gave a recitation of solicitors who have come to her door over the years. She does not open her door to them. Citizens should ask for the City's solicitation permit from anyone selling door-to-door.
- A resident also retold the story of a mail carrier from the Laurel Station who was dumping mail into garbage cans; the carrier was subsequently fired. Another resident spoke with the Postmaster and was told most of the dumped mail was redelivered late last week. Anyone who thinks they are missing mail should contact the Laurel Postmaster.
- A resident asked about cameras in the neighborhood. Shereda will provide her contact information and residents can also visit safeoakland.com for more information about cameras. The process is long and tedious.

District 4 Council Updates

- Council Liaison, Shereda Nosakhare represented Councilmember Schaaf.
- Reminded attendees that the District 4 Local Heroes Award ceremony will take place Saturday, February 8th at 3711 Suter Street/10-11:30 a.m.
- The Beulah Home conversion plan was approved by the Planning Commission on a vote of 6-0. 82 residents attended and 21 of them spoke. The Commission was unmoved by concerns expressed and said they had no authority to take neighborhood concerns into consideration—only the building and the landscaping.

Community Concerns

- **Laurel Merchants**-LaFranchi's store owner is concerned about loitering at the intersection of 35th Ave/MacArthur Blvd. Someone set the garbage can on fire that sits between the store and Glenn's Hot Dog stand. They do not want it placed in the same location. Metro PCS and Taco Bell have both been robbed in the last month. There was an attempted burglary at World Grounds at 4:15 a.m. Suspects made another attempt an hour later. There is not an anti-loitering ordinance in Oakland. The police can only engage loiterers in a "conversation" about what they are doing at a certain location. The Louisiana Fried Chicken store owner is monitoring and aggressively dealing with anyone who presents a problem.

- Maxx Value executives confirmed in writing that the store is closing and they are looking to lease the property to “Planet Fitness.” Stay tuned for more info, community meetings about the change.
- ACME Music complained about aggressive people at his business. When the NSC and NCPC chair visited ACME Music this past Monday, the owner did not mention any problems. They will follow up on this complaint.
- **MacArthur & Patterson** is also an area of great concern to Laurel merchants.
- **Safeway remodel**-This seems to be on hold since Safeway already has remodeling occurring at other stores (College/Claremont and 51st/Broadway).
- **Reinhardt Burglary**-the upsurge in residential burglaries this time of year may be a result of the Chinese New Year. A lot of cash is usually on hand in homes.
- **High & MacArthur Senior Facility**- Approved and now in court
- **7-11 Store**-(Letter/petition) Thanks to all who sent emails to the regional 7-11 office asking the 7-11 store at Enos & MacArthur to reduce its store hours. The store owner appreciated the community’s support. He’s now waiting on a response from the corporate office in Dallas.

With no other items up for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 9, 2014.