



Montclair Safety and Improvement Council

Public Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 5, 2013, 7:00 pm to 8:50 pm

Montclair Presbyterian Church, 5701 Thornhill Drive, Oakland California

www.montclairsic.org

The meeting was chaired by Sandra Pohutsky on behalf of Jill Broadhurst and was attended by approximately 30 people.

CAPTAIN ANTHONY TORIBIO, OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

The OPD reorganization of June 2013 divided the city into five areas, each with a Captain in command who has more authority and responsibility than before the reorganization. Captain Anthony Toribio, a 23-year veteran of the Oakland Police Department, is the commander of our police area, Area 2, Oakland Hills and North Oakland, which includes police beats 8 to 14. The OPD website—oaklandpolice.com—has a link where you can see the beat boundaries and identify which beat you live on.

Captain Toribio noted that from 2008-2010, he had been in charge of one third of the city. That structure was difficult to manage because it was simply too large to focus on everything that was going on. His area of control now is smaller and more manageable than before, allowing him to be more accountable for what happens in the area.

Captain Toribio is responsible for 24/7 operation of the area including deployment of officers (and Problem Solving/Crime Reduction Teams) and personnel management. His goals are to:

- Develop and implement crime reduction strategies;
- Develop strategies to strengthen community partnerships; and
- Ensure officers are providing efficient and professional service.

Comments on our Area 2 crime:

Montclair bank robbery suspect was arrested September 4th. He was responsible for several bank robberies at the Bank of the West. In addition, four suspects have been arrested in recent weeks. They were charged with several counts of robbery.

Robberies in Area 2 are significantly higher this year than in 2012. In July, the increase was 39%. However, it has declined to 25% (and even further at the time of print). Although there

has been a reduction, Toribio still called the numbers "alarmingly high." Robberies times vary, but most occur in the evening. It is common for the robbers to drive around, searching for a victim. They will then park and approach on foot, or may drive up in their car and commit the robbery. In instances where the victim is assaulted, it has been when there has been resistance to give up item(s) being stolen.

Captain Toribio believes the increase in robberies is caused by several factors which include: quick access in and out of the area (freeways), high number of resident/patrons on foot, use of smart phones/small electronics that can be easily sold, and insufficient police resources—officers to respond to calls for service and engage in proactive enforcement, and investigators conduct follow up investigations.

Residential burglaries have decreased 20% this year. The most common method for burglars to gain entry is to kick in the front door or to enter the house by an unlocked window.

Auto burglaries have increased in Area 2. When a citizen leaves something visible in the car (bag, package, purse, electronic device, etc.), it increases the likelihood of a break in. The most common way to enter a car is to smash a window.

Captain Toribio reads the Area 2 crime reports daily and regularly with the department's criminal investigators. Every other month he meets with representatives from Piedmont, Emeryville, Berkeley and BART PD to discuss crime patterns, trends, and reduction strategies.

An Area 2 Crime Response Team (CRT) is in the process of being formed. Six officers and a supervisor will be available to respond to crime hot spots as needed. Our Area 2 CRT will be reassigned to East Oakland because of increased gun violence and will be rotated every few weeks to work in Area 2.

Aside from focusing on crime related issues, the CRT will help the PSOs with beat projects and will also conduct foot patrols in business districts and high crime neighborhoods.

Captain Toribio has a Community Advisory Board which meets every other month with the goal of increasing public participation with the Oakland Police Department. The group discusses crime, other community issues, and ways to increase police/community collaboration. Toribio strongly emphasized that he needs more from us, the community, more than just showing up at meetings—some examples he gave included joining and actively participating in neighborhood watch, volunteer in the community, etc. Toribio strongly recommended reporting suspicious activity and all crimes.

OPD has 620 officers. Attrition averages one to six officers a month. Due to short-staffing, officers and supervisors are required to regularly work mandatory overtime. Help is on the way, though: Two academies will start later this year and two more are planned next year. One academy class graduates in late September. A typical academy class is 50 to 55 trainees; about 30 to 35 graduate after 26 weeks and go into field training for another 16 weeks.

OPD is also hiring more civilian employees. The civilians will be able to take cold reports, tow cars, etc. This will free up uniformed officers to respond to emergencies in a timelier manner and engage in more proactive enforcement. New technology and equipment is being

purchased. A new fleet of police cars are on order and the Department is purchasing a new risk management system.

In response to a question, Toribio said that California Highway Patrol is assisting OPD four nights a week, in East and West Oakland. Other law enforcement agencies working in Oakland include US Marshals, ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco, & Firearms) agents and other federal Department of Justice personnel. Alameda County Sheriff's Department is no longer working in Oakland (they do have transit officers that patrol the bus routes and are assigned to some county buildings like the court house).

Someone asked when to know when to call OPD about suspicious activity or strangers. Toribio said it is really a judgment call, but err on the side of caution. OPD wants to know about suspicious people who may be casing neighborhoods or engaging in criminal activity.

An attendee asked how OPD is investigating fencing of stolen property. Toribio said they work with pawnshops and other second hand dealers and conduct random inspections of those shops. Investigators and officers also have databases available to check property to see if it has been reported stolen.

Tips:

- 1 Write down the serial number of your electronics and photograph all of your valuable property. You **MUST** be able to prove your ownership if your property is stolen and then recovered. Just pointing it out may not be enough to get your property returned.
2. If you walk at night, do not walk alone. Walk with someone, carry flashlights, a bullhorn/whistle and carry a "throw down" wallet. Do not resist - you may be assaulted and injured.
3. Install motion detector lights all around your home and leave the lights on in the front of your home all night.
4. It is helpful for neighborhoods to install cameras.
5. Be vigilant and aware if your environment.
6. Details to be announced for October 3 OPD workshop on Burglary and Robbery Prevention.

Captain Toribio can be followed on Twitter: @area2opd

At the conclusion of Captain Toribio's candid remarks, the audience applauded.

OAKLAND POLICE PROBLEM SOLVING OFFICER JASON TRODE REPORT

There were 16 burglaries in Montclair (police beat 13Z) in August. The August bank robberies revealed a flaw in the organization of security cameras which has been addressed. There will be increased traffic patrols in Montclair.

An attendee asked about filing police reports for burglaries. Office Trode said that break ins in progress are emergencies and the police will respond. If the report is "cold" - after the burglary is done - Officer Trode prefers to take the report in person if possible because questioning may elicit more information than if the report is filed on line. (www.oaklandpolice.com "Report A Crime.")

Another attendee asked when OPD will have more fingerprint technicians. That date is not known. Other civilian police hiring will be five more dispatchers, ten evidence technicians and more.

An attendee mentioned that Piedmont is installing 39 security cameras to record the license plates of all vehicles entering and leaving Piedmont.

REQUESTS FROM ATTENDEES REGARDING SAFETY

1. Reckless drivers are barreling down Ascot - residents request traffic patrols to cite the drivers.
2. Montera Middle School (5555 Ascot) - parents dropping off and picking up children are doing so in a hazardous manner by parking in crosswalks, having children run across Ascot Drive, blocking traffic, etc. OPD is asked to focus on this safety problem.
3. Crosswalks have been obliterated by Piedmont Pines utility undergrounding project. Lisa Ruhland will request that the crosswalks be repainted wherever repaving has been completed.

PATRICIA ROSE, NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES COORDINATOR, OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Neighborhood Services Coordinator (NSC) is the liaison between the community and Oakland Police Department (OPD). Each Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is staffed by a Neighborhood Services Coordinator (NSC).
- The NSC also brings resources to address problems and help develop the capacity of residents to work together and in partnership with Police and other City departments.
- NCPCs include a Problem Solving Officer (PSO) trained in philosophy and practice of community policing to work with NCPCs. The Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Problem

Solving Officer, Beat Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, OPD special units and other City agencies work together and with the NCPC to develop and implement a strategy for addressing priorities.

- Regular updates about priorities are shared with NCPCs until problems are resolved or changed.

Please save the date for the Robbery/Burglary Prevention Workshop on **Thursday, October 3rd**. More details will be provided when finalized. Learn from experts on Personal Safety and Home Security on how to protect yourself and your home from crime. Also, hear OPD Area Command updates.

If you need additional information please feel free to contact Patricia Rose (510) 238-6822

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

Jill Broadhurst sent word that Montclair Elementary School construction project is complete; 487 children attend that school. Mrs. Broadhurst is working to place street crossing guards at Montclair Elementary. She has requested the required audit which will be sent to Oakland Police Department for a decision on assigning crossing guards. Other nearby schools on the waiting list for crossing guards include Montera Middle School and Joaquin Miller Elementary School.

LISA RUHLAND, REPRESENTING OAKLAND CITY COUNCILMEMBER LIBBY SCHAAF FOR MONTCLAIR lruhland@oaklandnet.com, (510) 238-7273

City Council members (and their staff) cannot order or otherwise request work or services from other City departments. The Oakland City Charter prohibits it under Council Interference. Council CAN follow-up on requests made by Oakland residents. Please call in Public Works requests (615-5566) and get an incident or request number. If you are dissatisfied with the City response to your request, your council office can respond and make inquiries based on your incident number

Ms. Ruhland encourages us to know our neighbors and to speak to people we do not recognize when they are in our neighborhood. By simply greeting them and chatting a few minutes you may either meet a new neighbor or scare off a potential criminal.

The city council redistricting occurs every 10 years, based on changes in population. Seven public meetings have been held regarding the proposed new district lines. City council will meet on redistricting in October and decide on changes in November.

www.oaklandnet.com/redistricting

To receive Schaaf's newsletter or to submit items to be included in the newsletter:
<http://libbyschaaf.com>

More than 2 ½ decades ago, Piedmont Pines filed an application to have all its utility wires undergrounded. In October of 2011, the association held a groundbreaking ceremony for the first of its three phases of undergrounding. By the close of this year, Phase 1 (Ascot corridor) wires will all be underground and new street lights installed. PG&E's electrical service is already running through the new system, Comcast is wrapping up its end and AT&T will finish before Christmas. Poles are scheduled for removal in early 2014. Planning and mapping boundaries for Phase 2 (Chelton corridor) have already begun. Planning for Phase 3 (Castle corridor) won't begin until construction is nearly complete for Phase 2.

2013 OAKLAND CREEK TO BAY DAY Saturday morning September 21, 9 am to noon

Barry Klezmer is eager for people to help with this annual volunteer clean up of Oakland creeks, all of which empty into San Francisco Bay. Volunteers will receive 20 minutes of training on the use of tools (which will be provided) and how to identify native plants and invasive plants. Oakland has no plans for vegetation management along the creeks so it is up to volunteers. There are many sites along 12 creeks and Lake Merritt. Select your site by consulting www.oaklandcreektobay.org and be there by 9 am. Mr. Klezmer will be at the Sausal Creek "Palo Seco Creek" location on Joaquin Miller Court, just off of Mountain Blvd. Bring your gloves. All volunteers will receive a reusable tote bag and great satisfaction.

ANTIOCH COURT PROJECT - Carolyn Winters and Jim Clardy, Architect

About six years ago, a project to improve Montclair Village streetscape and traffic safety was launched. Plans were drawn up but lack of funding has delayed the project. Now a small section of that plan, in Antioch Court, is being renewed. Two years of volunteer work have been dedicated to this improvement project, including pro bono engineering services. The goal is to increase traffic and pedestrian safety and to improve the appearance of Antioch Court, a short street leading into Mountain Blvd. The sidewalk and street configuration will change slightly. The City of Oakland has reacted favorably to the proposal. Decisions will be made in January 2014 on the various sources of funding. One source may be selling bricks to individual donors; this idea is in the planning stage.

MONTCLAIR VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (MVA, merchants in Montclair Village) www.montclairvillage.com

Carolyn Winters reported that a 3D printing company is moving into Montclair Village (LaSalle Avenue.) The last free outdoor summer movie, Brave, will be Saturday September 21 in the Red Oak parking lot, 8 pm. Get a dinner to go from a Montclair restaurant and free popcorn. The

merchants are beginning to plan their annual Christmas event, The Holiday Stroll, to be held in early December.

FRIENDS OF MONTCLAIR RAILROAD TRAIL www.montclairrrtrail.org

Volunteers are needed the third Saturday of each month to help maintain the long and level, fairly wide, trail. Work on the trail could satisfy a student's school requirements for community service. Bring work gloves & hand tools. Reach the trail behind Montclair Village parking garage on LaSalle or by Shepherd Canyon/Paso Robles Drive.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm. Residents are invited to attend the next MISC meeting on Thursday **November 7, 2013**, at 7 pm, Montclair Presbyterian Church, 5701 Thornhill Drive, Oakland California.