



## Montclair Safety and Improvement Council (MSIC)

A Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

Public Meeting Minutes

Thursday June 5, 2014 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Montclair Presbyterian Church, 5701 Thornhill Drive, Oakland California

[www.montclairsic.org](http://www.montclairsic.org)

The meeting was chaired by Jill Broadhurst.

### **CRIME UPDATE**

Oakland Police Problem Solving Officer Jason Trode reported crimes in the last 30 days in Police Beat 13Z:

Residential burglary – only one, compared to nine last year at the same time.

Auto burglary (taking items from cars) – five in the last 30 days. Burglars are smashing car windows to take anything in sight, including paper bags.

Stolen vehicles – 12 in the last 30 days, about the same as last year. Stolen vehicles are being used to commit other crimes, often driven until they run out of gas. Hondas and Toyotas from the 1990s are targets for stealing.

Fights at Montera Junior High School are the most frequent call for help in the last 30 days and have taken up a lot of OPD time.

Montclair residents are calling in better tips and reporting suspicious activities more often, which leads to more arrests. However, someone posted notices on telephone poles of unknown, suspicious people driving a Porsche Cayman but never notified OPD. As it turned out, the Porsche owners were new neighbors.

If we see an unfamiliar car parked for more than a week, or if the ignition is pulled out, notify OPD; it may be a stolen vehicle dumped in the Oakland Hills.

There are no current solicitation permits; if anyone comes to your front door soliciting, call OPD.

Office Trode reports that he notices long driveways leading up to large beautiful homes in Montclair but the old mailboxes are of the cheapest kind. He encourages all Montclair residents to get locking mailboxes.

An attendee asked that speeding cars on Thornhill be ticketed. Officer Trode reported that there is no Oakland Police Department Traffic Division anymore to do so.

Several attendees asked that the city take action to make the intersection of Mountain Blvd and Thornhill Drive safer, reporting that drivers often ignore the red traffic light. One suggested a two second delay for the red traffic light.

An attendee asked that a sidewalk be installed on Thornhill between Moraga Avenue and Mountain Blvd, citing the current rocky dirt path which pedestrians must use, unless they walk in traffic in the narrow street. The path is frequently used by school children.

An attendee asked what “community policing” really means.

## **NEW PARKING METERS**

The City of Oakland is installing 3,800 new “smart” parking meters for a cost of \$5.8 million. The kiosks, which were installed five years ago, will be removed. The city estimates that the smart meters cost savings will reach \$5.8 million within five years and thus pay for their cost.

The new smart meters can be programmed remotely which makes it possible for the city to charge different parking rates for different neighborhoods and times of day.

## **OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 UPDATE**

Lisa Ruhland reviewed Council rep Libby Schaaf’s [www.safeoakland.com](http://www.safeoakland.com) Website.

## **OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**

Patricia Rose announced a Town Hall meeting, National Night Out, CORE classes for emergency preparedness and a blitz from Public Works Department to repair pot holes.

## **MOUNTAIN BLVD. RAILROAD MURAL**

Jill Broadhurst announced that contributions of \$4,000 have been received and that grants will be sought. The mural project can begin after \$25,000 has been raised.

Mural artist Andrew Johnstone discussed the trompe l'oeil perspective of the railroad mural, with a viewpoint from the opposite side of Mountain Blvd. He has considered the fact that parked cars will obscure the lower part of the mural, as will the new parking meters to be installed at each parking spot.

Mr. Johnstone has researched the locomotive in one design and wished to make the mural historically accurate, including using resources of the Western Railway Museum in Solano County.

In response to a question, Mr. Johnstone explained how he is using paint to deter graffiti and cope with the high wall's drainage problem

A volunteer grant writer is needed to help further this project to beautify Montclair.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 4, 2014.

Notes by Sandra Pohutsky