

MAXWELL PARK NCPC – Meeting on Wednesday, September 10th, 2003

Minutes

Present: Jose Dorado (Chair), Robert McGillis (Vice Chair), Jan Hetherington (Secretary), Sarah Hipolito (Treasurer), Steven King, Araina Richards (NSC-OPD), Darryl Stewart (Nate Miley's Office), Arturo Sanchez (Jean Quan's Office), Jean Quan (Council Member District 4), Desley Brooks (Council Member District 6), Darryl Stewart, Officer Patterson (OPD) Drew Pearson, Don Dever, Jim Curtis, Nick Stoughton, Alan Hollie, Gary Busboom, Suzanne DuPont, Ron Wallace, Montia Chiles, Stacy Neal, Teresa Patton, Andrew Brandt, Perryman & Melanie Ducreny, Harvey Miller, Irma (????), Sarah Dillard, Anne Reinville, Lori Head, Kelly & Peter Hartlaub, Kurt Madison (OPD), Ronald Johnson (OPD), Paulette Bruder-Dorado, Teresa Holliday, Rev Paul Holt, Tera Casselberry, Mary Washington, Tracy Almeida, Susanne Perkins, William Taylor, Myra Alvarado, Grace Neufeld, Keith & Angela (????), Elmen & Suzette Meredith, Kaya Beeley, Fred Schultz, Joan Porter, Johnny Russell, Brian Notz, Vanessa Yasui, Claudia Page, Laurie Spry, Jeremy Gluskin, Clara Kamunde, Lesleigh Franklin, Maria Nieto, Darleen Brooks, Barbara Cagar, Nafeesa Ahmed-Bey, (with apologies for any misspellings)

Guest: Oakland Police Chief Richard Word

Board Absent: None

- **Jose Dorado (Chair) welcomed us to the meeting**, gave a brief history of NCPCs for the benefit of new members (many brought in by new brochures) & described the format of this month's meeting, with written questions to be presented to the Chief.

- **The Minutes** of the previous meeting were approved.

- **COMMITTEES**

- **'Clean Up'**

- Jan described the 'Adopt A Highway' project, cleaning up Redding Street from High to Birdsall, along with planned adoption of the 'triangle' between Courtland & Walgreen's parking lot. (Adopt A Spot). Cleanups done on 8/17 & 9/6. A neighbor on Redding is also doing a lot of personal pickups. Jan is also going to be on a new Board called 'Keep Oakland Beautiful'. First meeting is in September. We'll have a clean up on Sep 21, as part of a Statewide Adopt A Highway & Clean California day, meeting at 9am at Walgreen's.

- **BROCHURE DISTRIBUTION**

- Jan thanked the following for their help in sticking modification labels into our brochures ...
Jan, Don, Helen, Alice

- And to the following for their help in distributing

- Jose Dorado, Paulette Bruder-Dorado, Robert McGillis (& his daughter Sydney), Sarah Hipolito, Jan Hetherington, Helen da Silva, Alice Leon, Joe Davis, Don Dever, Gary Busey, Tracy Almeida, Alecto Caldwell, Alan Hollie, Araina Richards, Tom Van Demark, Suzanne DuPont, Susan Scolnick, Nick Stoughton, Bill Symmes, Pat Patterson

PLEASE – if I've forgotten anyone, let me know

- **GUEST SPEAKER**

OPD Chief Richard Word.

Contact information – 238-3365 rword@oaklandnet.com

Opening remarks

Goal is to connect NCPCs & Home Alerts. The new City budget has Neighborhood Services out of the City Manager's Office. Meeting with reps from Jean Quan's & Ignacio del la Fuente's offices to develop this link. Interested in input from community.

Q & A

Remainder of meeting was formal Q & A with written questions being submitted.

1) What can be done to increase response times?

-- Calls are prioritized. Category A. has top priority & if a non-priority call may get dropped in favor if 'life threatening' call. Make sure you get an incident number when you call in & if you don't get satisfaction call in to speak to a supervisor. Also use drug hotline 238-DRUG to leave msgs re drug activities, with as much info as possible.

- A. Life threatening
- B. Crimes in progress but not life threatening
- C. Take reports s.a. home burglaries

2) Failure of organizations due to lack of resources or management?

-- Can be both, but by thinking comprehensively can resolve blight-type situations (Cited 2445 Telegraph & Mayor Brown's push as an example of a severely blighted building that housed drugs, prostitution etc. Housing Authority involved & tenants all have to leave.) San Diego focuses on problem solving, particularly around liquor stores. Need to tap into all City resources.

-- Probation/Parole system is also broken. Revolving door, insufficient follow-up etc.

3) Danger around high speed chases?

-- Suspected felons will be pursued. Officers always supposed to weight risks, & there is NO SHAME is canceling a chase. All incidents involving accidents are investigated. Helicopters are a great tool.

4) 'Shoot First' situations.

-- San Diego (again) has a system of using more restraint if a person is mentally unstable.

5) Report Writing – some reluctance to take the time

-- Does take time but is important. Again, call supervisors if you feel that your situation not being treated appropriately.

6) Involvement in schools – legitimacy of 'Police Activities League' etc.

-- Yes, summer camps, riding trips etc. 2 officers involved. Also C.L.A.S.H. unit – coaches violence prevention. P.A.L. has a website. Address ?????

7) Concern around safety of students at Mills.

-- Shouldn't be a concern, especially if one uses common sense. Most people involved in violent crime are living high risk life styles. Drugs & violent crimes closely linked. Oakland has less serious crimes per capita than Berkeley, Sacto, Fresno.

8) Is OPD just putting out fires, or actually doing crime prevention ????

-- 911 calls have to be first priority & other activities may be dropped to cover those. Sometimes BART/Parks police may be used.

(Jan – sorry – incomplete notes on this response)

- 9) Officers should observe ‘Stop’ signs etc.
 - Yes, they should Civil suits happen because of accidents. There are disciplinary procedures. (Not fully answered ???)
- 10) Is there a ‘Crime Prevention 101’?
 - Yes, call 238-0666 – can have someone come out to do an inspection & check on your home, car etc. Car alarms, ‘Club’ etc are good deterrents. Put things in your trunk !!!
- 11) False burglar alarm policy?
 - Yes, this is being looked at – fines for more than one false alarm. False alarms cost a lot of police resources.
- 12) How to deal with barking dogs etc??
 - If haven’t been able to talk to neighbor – suggest calling police on Sunday morning when it’s quieter (for police) to have them talk to neighbor. Can also remain anonymous if you want to call in with repeated problems.
- 13) How to deal with nuisance homeless person?
 - Can call – see if police can maybe connect to county services.
- 14) Neighbor has seen a drug dealer making deliveries on a motor cycle.
 - Call DRUG hotline with as much info as possible. 238-DRUG
- 15) Kids hanging out in front of apartments by 76 Gas Station.
 - May be a Housing Authority question. Again, bringing in the relevant agencies.
- 16) Is drug dealing more prevalent again?
 - Local economy has 11% unemployment. Increase of ‘street-type’ crimes. Criminals are not sufficiently prepared to re-join the world.
- 17) Tickets given out when street cleaning not actually done.
 - Not a police activity – contact PW
- 18) Tail pipe whistlers?
 - Legislation has been passed & should be signed soon to penalize manufactures & installers.
- 19) Education of public on use of ‘911’ vs non-emergency ??
 - Some calls are ridiculous – people calling for time etc. Need to ‘de-market’ 911. San Jose has ‘311’ for non-emergency calls. Afraid here that an idea like that might get overused.
 - NOTE: Call 777-3211 if calling from a cell phone & need OPD in an emergency. (911 goes to Highway patrol).**
 - Also, 777-3211 can be used if you don’t want your name & address to show up.
- 20) Citizen’s Police Academy – more classes?
 - Subject to budget constraints, but this 14-week program may hopefully start up again next year.
- 21) How to get speed bumps on Birdsall – high speeders?
 - Call traffic in police at 238-3155 to make complaints about speeding, & contact PW re bumps etc. It is possible to override the bus route exemption (Desley Brooks got Monticello ‘bumped’)
- 22) What are aspects of police culture that are barriers to working with NCPCs, community groups? Can we work together?

-- 'Officer Safety' is a first priority. Veterans are better at using their 'voices' than rookies. (Stern voices vs more conciliatory). Impressions can be created that may not be the best. Meet with community groups.

23) We can get input to DA's office when people go on trial, what can we do when they come out, to either protect our n'hoods, find out conditions of release etc.??

(Jan – sorry – incomplete notes)

- **OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Upcoming meetings announced, with Speakers

- It's important to be proactive & involved

- 20 people have been killed in Oakland since our last meeting, A moment of silence was held.

- **Next Meeting - Wed, October 8th, 2003, at MILLS COLLEGE, Alderwood Hall, 7 – 8:30pm**

- **Jan Hetherington, Secretary**

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