

2018 JANUARY PANIL MEETING

The January 2018 PANIL focused on crime reports, statistics and meeting the new Problem Solving Officer, Anna Sanchez. This was the Officer Tui **Pollard's last meeting** in that capacity, as he will be moving to motorcycle patrol and working in other parts of the city. For this meeting we had hoped to get city officials to report on the homeless situation, but that has been tentatively pushed into March.

Officer Pollard presented Beat 9X crime stats from the period of December 13 to January 9. We saw reductions in several categories.

| Crime | 2016 Dec | 2017 Dec |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| Robberies | 4 | 3 |
| Commercial Burglaries | 1 | 0 |
| Auto Burglaries | 20 | 15 |
| Petty Theft | 9 | 5 |

Broadway was the site of two violent crimes in the 2017 period, a pistol-whipping near the 7-11 store on December 21, and a stabbing in the 3600 block on December 19. An armed robbery occurred at the Burger King on Broadway and the Quik-Stop on MacArthur(Dec. 14). In these two cases the perpetrators brandished firearms.

Overall we have seen a reduction in crime from 2013 to 2017 as reported by the mayor. **Officer Pollard stated that our beat crime is “very very low” relative to most other beats in the city.**

Rick Belew, a resident from the beat, questioned the accuracy and consistency of the statistics, noting that the OPD Website does not often reflect what is reported in the meetings, and sites like NextDoor show even different statistics. Officer Pollard attributed some of those discrepancies to time lags, but Mr. Belew disputed that.

He represents an organization OpenOakland, the goal of which is to use new technology to address social problems in cities. Some questions arose over value of statistics as they only dealt with the past. Mr. Belew and other members of the audience responded that accurate statistics support the transparency and credibility of the police

department, as well as highlighting problem areas where the police can focus resources.

The supervisor of Officers Pollard and Sanchez, Officer Nick Calonge was at the meeting, and said that often **people think they reported crimes but don't provide** sufficient information. Or they report the crime on the NextDoor site, which has no interface to the official crimes database. The officers stated that the critical piece of information to get and maintain is the **"RD number."** **With that anyone in the department** can trace the status of a crime report.

Attendees raised other issues of crime or potential crime. One man noted the CVS store experiences frequent thefts and suggested that police park there more frequently (instead of the 7-11) to discourage that activity. Another woman spoke of a suspicious black car that appears to cruise Piedmont Avenue from time to time.

Kathryn Hughes from near Oakland Avenue raised the issue of illegal or improper tree cutting, that has disfigured trees in the Oakland Avenue area. No city authority seems to **regulate or monitor that activity. There are fines for cutting down trees but not "doing a bad trim job."**

Asked about the homeless encampments in Mosswood Park, Officer Pollard stated that the department is actively citing and removing them. The city has provided homeless shelters at 5th and Rush Streets.

Other items of interest: A mural on wood, of the Key System is about to be removed from the 1100 block of Broadway. PANIL is looking for potential walls for it in our neighborhood. The demolition of the massive concrete bank building at Broadway and Pleasant Valley has finally resumed, though there are timetables available for completion of Phase II of the Ridge. We will try to get more information.

Officer Sanchez provided her email amsanchez@oaklandnet.com and telephone 510 882-8536.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.