

PANIL Meeting March 13, 2019

Agenda

- 1) Crime Stats Update
- 2) Presentation from Oakland Recycles, Waste Management and California Waste Solutions

Approximately 25 people were in attendance. Bill Manley chaired the meeting.

Crime Stats

Community Resource Officer Andrew Volynets provided a crime incident summary from the past 60 days compared with last year's numbers

Summary

Crime	2019 mid Jan to mid Mar	2018
Auto break-ins	82	22
Commercial theft	9	1
Grand theft	9	8
Petty theft	11	19
Stolen vehicles	15	9
Vandalism	24	9

The officer stated that the numbers are reflective of the same trends across the city. He speculated that part of the trend is because of relaxed prosecution and penalties for theft and the growing sophistication of perpetrators. He stated that a single thief can break into as many as 70 cars in a night, and they frequently go from town to town in doing so. Electronics and phones are often the target, and devices allow thieves to detect the presence target items in a closed trunk. He also noted that vandalism includes car break-ins when nothing is stolen. An audience member requested the officer provide traffic statistics in the future, as there is a lot of concern for the safety of the arterials such as Broadway, Pleasant Valley and Piedmont Ave. Officers from neighboring beats were also introduced. Asked if car alarms are helpful, Officer Volynets said he believes they are, but did not have statistics.

Trash Talk

Bill introduced the speakers

Julia Heath - Oakland Recycles (part of city government)

Jeff Cox - Waste Management

Leticia Jauregui - California Waste Solutions

Jeff from WM spoke first. He explained that in Oakland WM handles trash (landfill) and green waste. He characterized green waste as anything you can eat or grows in your garden.

Jeff noted the biggest problem facing is contamination. Contamination is when items unexpected in a particular kind of recyclable "are contaminated by a item or substance that affects the chemical conversion into a new reusable substance. A common example cooking oils or even a slice of pizza that are found in or on a cardboard pizza box. In 2018, China, the main processors of recyclables, adopted a stringent policy on contamination called the "China Sword". This reduces the loads that can be shipped to China and increases the need for recycling collectors here to enforce much greater standards.

Leticia Jauregui spoke next. CWS is the official recycler for Oakland, collecting only the gray bins. Gray bins should contain only household items, such as cans, bottles, paper or cardboard. For plastics, generally only items with the triangle containing a number, 1-7. Cardboard should be free of oils. The plastic tape that seals cardboard boxes is tolerated, but it would be best if that can be taken off and moved to trash. Small plastics are not good if they cannot be picked up by hand easily on a conveyor belt. Caps can be left on plastic bottles. Glass jars and bottles are OK, but glasses, broken glass, and ceramics are not. Jeff emphasized that items may be labeled as recyclable, or bio-degradable but are not suitable for the processes used by WM or CWS. For example, rebar, or sheet metal, copper pipes are certainly recyclable, but should be take to metal recyclers. For any questions on where to throw what, Laura provided a link www.recyclewhere.org the tells people exactly where they can recycle what. A few things real problem materials identified: plastic bags and Styrofoam. These should be used as little as possible. Both cannot be recycle and plastic bags clog machinery at recycling plants.

The regulations and policies for trash are rigid in many cases. All single family residences must minimally pay for a 20-gal container. Pickups are weekly, no variances. Several people stated they don't fill up the trash or recycling containers. You don't have to put containers out, but you are still charged for weekly pickup. One resident noted that when his trash was not picked up, he got a credit, but it seemed very low in proportion to what he pays.

Oakland rates are high, but on par with San Jose and Seattle. But Oakland is far ahead of surrounding cities in recycling effectiveness.

The team passed out brochures that illustrated and explained went into each of the three colored bins. At the end of the meeting they passed out under-counter bags. The team invited attendees to speak to them about individual questions after the meeting, and at their offices.

The meeting concluded at 8:40.

APRIL MEETING: DAN KALB, State of District One, and the Budget.



Figure 1. Jeff, Leticia and Julia