

Panil meeting summary June 2021

49 people in attendance at height

Officer M. Gichki, provided report.

He's not the official Comm. Resource Officer CRO for beats 8 and 12, but has been filling in until the Department assigns one for 9x.

He stated statistics for our beat have been trending down, but noted the trends for the District and the City as a whole have been trending upward.

For the 90-day period from March 9 to June 9 the crime numbers for the beat are

crime type	this year	last year same period
homicide	0	0
battery	6	13
auto burglary	21	34
commercial burglary	11	22
assault with a deadly weapon	3	8
robberies	10	3
grand theft	2	11
petty theft	21	32
stolen vehicles	33	35

Officer solicited questions and concerns from neighbors.

- Gunshots heard. Officer responded that close to 4th of July they increase. could be fireworks.
- Sideshows. One woman reported being caught in one on Broadway, but Officer noted that with the refunding of the sideshow taskforce. The activity has diminished greatly
- Kathryn Hughes raised a concern about speeding on Harrison from Bayo Vista to MacArthur. noted
- Drug and Homeless activity in greenbelt between 40th and 40th Street Way. noted.
- Stop sign at Monte Vista and Piedmont often disregarded.

Brenda Ivey also asked for community members to do a walkaround of the beat with the police. Three Panil board members volunteered to participate.

Officer Gichki and Ms. Ivey also provided special hotlines to call

Drug activity 510 238-DRUG

Illegal fireworks 510 238 2373

And an email to raise issues with homeless encampments: Homelessness@Oaklandca.gov.

Dan Kalb presented a proposal for housing -- no sketches or written documents -- to be situated over the public parking lot behind CVS, at the corner of Howe and 40th.

Development would be for very low-income and extremely low-income residents. [note, in Oakland, ext. low income for family of 4 is 38k]. No further restrictions or target profile was specified. Estimated number of people living there would be 200.

Each unit would have about 6 lockable bedrooms with shared kitchen and bathroom spaces. The building would have an onsite manager, and a "case worker."

Tenants would pay rents or have leases. City would be the lease holder. Section 8 recipients may be eligible.

Solicited questions from the audience.

Q. Who is developer? What's their experience?

A. A group in Oakland. No known experience in U.S. of this model, but has been successful in Europe. Their website is "under development" at this time. [Name? Central City?]

Q. Why is there no provision of public open space commensurate with the increased density?

A. Housing is number one priority.

Q. Phillipa (?) asked if Kalb has made up his mind on this or if he is genuinely interested in opinions of current residents. She noted businesses on the Avenue have suffered greatly during the pandemic and the loss of parking would add greatly to the devastation.

A. This is all very preliminary. We will have many meetings and collect feedback before we move forward.

Q. Why does North Oakland have such a large amount of densification, can't that be promoted in other parts of the city?

A. Most development in this District has been market rate. The city is trying to ensure all districts construct more affordable housing. West Oakland is experiencing a big boom in housing also.

Q. Is criminal screening to be done?

A. Kalb noted this is illegal and discriminatory in the application process, and that there are many challenges to reentry from incarceration. However, sex offenders can be restricted.

Q. What about the loss of parking?

A. The project would be built over the existing parking lot, with no loss of parking spaces. Many objections to potential loss of parking "for years." Kalb noted that the loss will be very temporary, though no commitment made at this point to how many spaces would be lost during construction or for how long.

Q. Won't garbage collection be a problem. It's serviced from the parking lot.

A. Noted. Provisions will have to be made.

Q. Won't a covered lot invite crime.

A. We expect it will be open on the sides,

Q. What about developing this at Pleasant Valley Rd. and Broadway instead.

A. That's private property. It would be much more expensive to purchase that land, and owner would have to agree. Previously project for shopping area fell through. Owner not amenable at this time to any kind of housing on the site. [PANIL just conducted a survey about the site. Results?]

Q. What about a library at the site?

A. The focus of relocating the Piedmont Ave. Library is now on the vacant Child Development Center to turn that into the permanent library. There is good progress towards that goal.

Multiple questions and comments appeared on the chat that could not be addressed. Brian Cassidy from the City will collect the chat information and forward to both PANIL and the councilman's office.

A representative from Keith Carson's office failed to appear. But Desmond Jefferies, from Rebecca Kaplan's office was onsite. He introduced himself and stated that Ms. Kaplan is very much interested in this topic, and offered to see if she was available for a future PANIL meeting.

Lastly, Oakland Heritage Alliance is presenting a program on the candymakers of Oakland. More information at OaklandHeritage.org.