

## Country Club Vista Neighborhood Council meeting

4 October 2010

Held: 720 Legends Place

### Attendees:

Sarah Pousho

Ana Cortez

Lennox Brown

Joe Bako

Michael Lee

Sheryl Palmieri

Tim Herring

Russell Pottharst

Anna Eng

Mary Durban

Yi-De chuang

Officer Roderick

Joe brought up that we are trying to get officially recognized by the city of Richmond. We need bylaws, need a recognized board, and households need to pay annual dues. Joe is our Richmond Neighborhood Council Committee (RNCC) representative and he is working on getting us official. Joe mentioned that many city representatives are at the monthly RNCC meeting, and they are good about taking notes on everything that is brought up at the meeting.

It was brought up that CCV should try again to establish a neighborhood watch program. We would need to contact Michelle Milam with the Richmond PD to establish this program. Her contact info is: 510-620-6538, mmilam@richmondpd.net.

Discussion moved to how CCV can get involved with other NC's in Richmond, and how we can interact with them and help make the quality of life better in the city of Richmond. Examples from the last RNCC meeting were mentioned, including fixing broken street lights and pothole repair. Crime was also a hot topic. The Chief of police was there, and reported that the crime rate has been declining overall, and that homicides were down but the number of robberies have recently grown.

Officer Roderick brought up that his beat (beat 8) includes I-80 to Parchester village, and hilltop mall. He brought the crime stats for CCV and the general area from January 1st until now. There have been about 7 car thefts, mostly early model Toyota and Hondas. It was recommended that people with those cars get a Club to install when their car is parked. Burglaries: 5 since January. There seems to be more cases of crime on Rock Rose. Officer Roderick told the group that usually burglars won't hit houses with alarms on. He said we should all make sure to post a lot of alarm signs on and around our homes. Officer Roderick said that he felt VIP is doing well with patrolling our neighborhood, and they've been

contacting Officer Roderick during their patrols. Officer Roderick is pleased with their responsiveness. He mentioned that if you are on vacation it's good to put an emergency #/contact phone # on the fridge or in an obvious place so that officers can contact you if anything is wrong.

Hawk Ridge had a smash and grab two weeks ago. They went through the slider, smashed it.

The Beat 8 shifts are; 7am – 5pm, 11:30am – 9:30pm. 4:30pm – 2:30am, 9:30pm – 7am. Weekend shifts are 12.5 hours. Beat 9 comes over and helps if Beat 8 is too busy. Officer Roderick mentioned that they are still going to hire a few more new officers. They are close to up to staff now. Vallejo and Oakland officers were hired in the latest round. At RPD's peak a few years ago, there were 230 officers. Until recently they were down to about 130. Currently RPD has about 190+ officers.

Officer Roderick told the group that burglars kick the doors in a lot, especially through the garage. He reiterated that if you see people you don't know, call the cops. If you see cars you don't recognize that seem like they are casing the neighborhood, call the cops. There seem to be a lot of problems on Atlas Road and near the UPS facility, especially on Oakmont Road. It was proposed to try to get a parking time limit zone on Oakmont and limit parking to one – two hours, that way the officers can ticket the cars that park there all day. Steve Tam in the Richmond engineering department would be able to help us get parking signs with time limits. It was brought up that at the last HOA we might hand out stickers for all CCV cars so that it is easy to tell which cars belong in the neighborhood. It was brought up that Oakmont Road is actually part of CC Preserve, not officially part of CCV. They have their own HOA, etc. They met with UPS to try to stop the parking. It didn't help.

It was mentioned that it would be great to find out which residents stay home during the day so they can keep an eye out for strange activity in CCV.

There seems to be a lot of suspicious activity on Park Ridge, mostly due to it being the street that runs between the transit stop and Parchester Village. Can we get involved with Parchester Village and try to work together to curb the crime?

It was recommended that CCV residents watch for strange cars that are driving slowly and seem to be casing the neighborhood. However, in order for the police to stop them, they need to have a reason, such as a broken tail light, no plates, etc. so if CCV resident call in suspicious cars please provide offers with additional information that may be cause for them to stop the vehicles. Officer Roderick told the group that all officers have a beat book – if they stop people often enough, they will have them in the beat book and can be on the lookout for them.

Officer Roderick says it's good that VIP is roaming CCV in case he is busy. Officer Roderick provided his cell phone: 510-967-7581. He works 11:30am – 9:30pm. If he doesn't answer it means he's busy but you can leave a message and he will call back. Officer Roderick was asked if we should continue with the VIP and he highly recommended it. He then also brought up that 223-1214 is the non-emergency number for RPD. For all emergencies, call 911.

The issue with the poor lighting and non-working lights along Hilltop was brought up, along with potholes, and weed abatement. If any CCV residents have these issues, please forward them to Joe Bako (referrejo@yaho.com) so that he can bring them up at the RNCC meetings.

It was asked if it was reasonable to call the police in this situation: a person showed up at someone's house and went toward an open door. When the homeowner confronted them, they claimed that they wanted to offer free carpet cleaning service, but he had no car or anything with him that would imply that he actually could clean the carpets. Officer Roderick said yes, please call the cops in those situations.

Officer Roderick mentioned that another issue in Richmond is identity theft. He said to watch out for Craig's List job postings where they ask people to cash checks or send money. Don't ever cash the check or send money. They will send it UPS and FedEx so it looks legit, but it isn't.

There have been reports of stolen checks out of the mail box, and Netflix movies. It is very important to report stolen checks because it will be easy for the robbers to use them to make up fake debit cards and credit cards. It was recommended that people get on a monitoring service for their credit scores where you will be notified if there is strange activity on your account. It is possible to lock your credit so that if anyone is trying to check your credit and it's not your account, the credit company will lock it and deny credit.

It was brought up that Parkridge Road backs up to a Giant Highway off ramp, and lots of cars park there and also dump garbage. Lights are not working either. If you see any parked cars, call the police and they will check them out.

It was brought up that in the past police response times have been bad. Officer Roderick mentioned that recently when the number of officers was down to around 130, it was hard to respond to every call in a timely manner, especially since the size of the beats got larger and larger during that time. Now they have more officers again, but they still have very large beats so it's still hard to cover the entire beat and have great responses.

The non-working street lights were brought up again. Officer Roderick told us that the city is now putting an alarm on the wire so that if it's cut they cops will be called. Officer Roderick has said that they did actually catch a couple of people because of this. But we need the city to install those alarms on all of the light poles.

It was brought up that if the CCV NC can do more homework and offer solutions to the city, it is easier to get the city to solve your problems. It was recommended that we try to find another city that has wire theft problems and that has found a solution for that problem. We can take that solution to the city of Richmond and try to get them to use it as well.

Joe Bako mentioned that he attended the Hilltop Advisory Board meet the candidates night. He took away that the votes seem to be split among candidates from the same parties. He also said that congressman Miller does not seem to care at all about Richmond or helping the city because he does not get the backing he wants from us.

It was suggested that the CCV NC have a web page with info about the NC, how to join, etc. Joe will work on this in a couple of weeks when he's back in town.

It was suggested that the NC meet once a month instead of once every two months. The majority attending this meeting agreed.

It was finalized that the next meeting would be the first Monday in November, the 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 – 8 pm at 3616 Sky Park Place, home of Sheryl Palmieri. The meeting after that will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup>, place TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.