

National Night Out, Tuesday 8/2/16

One more reminder to get out and meet your neighbors on August 2nd!
If you're not sure where gatherings are being held, contact the LHA Office for more information 510) 451-7160.

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An Update From Safer Crocker, Private Security Patrol

Please see below for the one month update from Safer Crocker.

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An Update From Save Our Skies East Bay:

Thank you everyone for your emails, complaints, calls, and contacts with the Oakland City Council and Save Our Skies East Bay. Your voices have been heard and we now have the full support of the City of Oakland requesting the FAA address increased aircraft noise in Oakland. This is a wonderful victory and an important step in the right direction. Now we have to keep up the pressure on the FAA to change and work with us. For more information and next steps, <http://www.soseastbay.org/take-action>

Lisa Ray | Administrator

E office@lakeshorehomes.net | **T** 510-451-7160 | **F** 510-451-8640

Lakeshore Homes Association | 907 Underhills Road | Oakland, CA 94610-2526

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Dear Neighbors – Update on Safer Crocker patrol

We are writing with a one-month update on the Safer Crocker security patrol in the Lakeshore Homes Association neighborhoods. We are entirely sensitive and empathetic to the family victims of the recent home invasion on Greenwood and do not write in response to that event. Far from it, for we share their sense of violation. Unfortunately, it is difficult to find a week when a home crime is not reported in our area, and we committed to a regular report to all the families in Crocker:

For the past month we have patrolled the maximum hours permitted by our monthly donations, and we would certainly like to increase those hours. At this time we have participation in Safer Crocker from about 13% of the families in our patrol area encompassed by the LHA. (Please visit www.safercrockerhighlands.org for information. At 60% participation level, we could arrange 24/7 security patrol of our area.)

Many of you have likely met our PPS patrol officer, Reg Hawkins. Reg Hawkins has over 15 year's security experience, he is friendly and engaging, and he is working daily to get to know our streets and our citizens. In a four-hour period, Reg drives each street of the LHA approximately three times. He has a wealth of safety information that he will share if you wave him down as he drives by in the white PPS patrol car. Reg submits a daily assessment of what he encounters as he drives and walks our streets. He drives by Crocker Highlands School daily to check for suspicious cars or individuals. Almost daily he notes that he sees open and unattended garages that can make an easy target for criminal activity.

On June 16 Reg encountered a van parked on the street with three individuals sitting and seemingly waiting. When he pulled up behind the van, the driver started the car and drove swiftly off. In the last month Reg had two such episodes. There is no way to be certain of the intent of these individuals just as it is very difficult to prove or know events that were prevented from occurring.

Although the Safer Crocker patrol officer will call Oakland police to try to stop crimes in progress, the preferred goal is crime deterrence. This is the benefit proved in our neighboring communities. Our daily intent is to alert criminals to the fact that we have a patrol and an engaged security officer and that we intend to patrol for the safety of our families as many hours of the day as possible. We believe that this patrol is a benefit to the entire community and are considering limited expansion of directly contiguous Crocker streets dependent upon agreement and funding support of those living on those streets and assurance that we do not compromise the overall patrol effectiveness.

We are also proud and thankful that two Crocker residents and real estate professionals – Anthony Riggins and Robyn Mohr – have become sponsors of this effort to make the Crocker Highlands neighborhood safer. You can see their sponsor emblem on our home page. If you own or know a business that would also be interested in sponsoring the Safer Crocker effort, please reach out to us.

Bottom line impression from the past month is that our neighborhood continues to be targeted by criminal elements and that the Oakland police do not have the resources to respond to daily events. Our patrols have started and most feedback is that our officer Reg Hawkins is engaged every day on patrol to try to make our streets safer. In a couple of instances he may have already prevented crime. With a stronger participation base we could increase our weekly patrol hours. Our best safety effort is to deter crime by creating the appearance and reality of

neighborhood security measures – including the Safer Crocker security patrol – as many hours of every day as possible.

If you agree, please contribute to the Safer Crocker patrol and ask your neighbors to do the same. We use every penny donated for safety patrols for our Crocker families. We hope to expand to adjoining streets and to greater hours as soon as possible. For information or to donate, please visit www.safercrockerhighlands.org.