

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – October 22, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Robert Lilligren, Ward 6 City Council; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Marie Przynski, Chelsea Adams, Michael Killebrew, and Jessica Bartholomew, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Chris Dixon, City Attorney’s office; Adam Campbell, Stevens Community Associates; Arlene Storandt, Robert Fischer, Eddie Chambers, Mary Gunderson, Charles Rosensteel, Jeanne Krueger, Andy Exley, Frank Anderson, Jill Ferguson, Kevin Chavis, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_sscoweb@yahoo.com or 612-874-2840)
Meeting agendas and minutes are at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Agendas_and_Minutes/

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements – contact SSCO to volunteer or for more info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Safety committee has changed its schedule due to the upcoming holidays and will meet on 11/12 and 12/10. 	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 11/12, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.
Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Chris Dixon	<p>Chris Dixon reported that of the six new Stevens Square offenders recently added to the 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet, four are in custody, one has a bench warrant, and one has a future court date. He distributed copies of the CLEAN sheet, which is at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/docs/Pct5CLEAN.pdf, and provided updates on some Stevens Square offenders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the workhouse: Pamela Beaulieu (11/20 release), Pamela Cobenais (11/27 release), Joseph Conklin (11/8 release), Anthony Ford (10/23 release), Ronald King (10/29 release), Maurice Patterson (11/5 release). ▪ Recently released from custody: Maurice Giles, Larry Harper, Earlis Robinson. ▪ Tammie Houle is in Mental Health Court. ▪ Curtis Batton and Jessica Matt were due to appear in court on 10/21. ▪ Darryl Brooks just completed a 45-day sentence and has no open cases. ▪ Kenneth Nickaboine is in custody on \$1,000 bail with a court appearance set for 10/30. ▪ Judy Peters is in custody on \$40,000 bail for felony 4th degree assault of a police officer. ▪ Rick Martinez recently received a stayed sentence for several theft convictions and was ordered to serve a “long weekend” in the workhouse (4 p.m. 10/23 to 5 a.m. 10/26) and cooperate with the St Stephen’s housing program, which provides housing and living expenses for chronic criminals in order to get them off the streets. <p>There was a discussion about plea agreements and why offenders are offered deals in which good cases are dismissed and lenient sentences are imposed. Plea bargains allow the courts to resolve the maximum number of cases in a minimum amount of time. The number of convictions obtained for misdemeanors is irrelevant because there are limits to imposing consecutive sentences. For misdemeanors, the maximum penalty is 90 days and defendants get credit for time served which is applied across the board to all open cases. This is mandated by state law. An offender often receives only a single consequence after having been charged with and/or convicted of a number of separate misdemeanors. Geographic restrictions are an option only for those on probation, not for those who choose to serve their entire sentences.</p>	Contact info: Christopher.Dixon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5402

<p>Neighborhood policing plan – Lt Marie Przynski and CPS Chelsea Adams</p>	<p>Marie Przynski introduced herself as the new sector lieutenant for the neighborhoods in the 5th Precinct north of Lake St. She spoke about taking a comprehensive approach to community policing and said that she considers herself a community activist and advocate when it comes to crime and safety issues: contact her with any questions or concerns.</p> <p>Chelsea Adams distributed copies of and summarized the 2009 Stevens Square-Loring Heights neighborhood policing plan. http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/docs/StevensSquarePolicingPlan2009.pdf Neighborhood concerns included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Livability crimes such as public consumption of alcohol, aggressive panhandling, and loitering. ▪ Problems at the LaSalle community gardens, the vacant building at 18th & 1st, bus stops and businesses at Franklin & Nicollet, and Stevens Square Park. <p>The 2009 policing strategy included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reducing burglaries. ▪ Targeted livability enforcement. ▪ A camera system for Nicollet Ave. ▪ Providing beat officers for the neighborhood. ▪ Working with Metro Transit police on problems at bus stops. <p>SSCO had agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue working with Law Enforcement Group. ▪ Educate residents and business owners about reporting crime to 911, 311, or CRT. http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/docs/When_and_how_911-311.pdf ▪ Continue Safety committee meetings and Block Patrol. ▪ Support the camera system initiative. <p>Adams asked if the concerns and priorities identified in 2009 were still valid. Problems in Stevens Square Park seemed to subside this year. Discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The feasibility study for a camera system along Nicollet Ave: Council Member Lilligren said that the City is working on a protocol for camera systems which would set standards for camera technology, data management, and public access and would establish a way to prioritize and pay for new systems. Lt Przynski said that the protocol study has been completed and recommendations will be sent to the City Council, although a number of questions – including whether and how the cameras will be monitored at a central location – have yet to be resolved. The feasibility study for Nicollet Ave will not be completed until a protocol is approved. ▪ No Trespassing signs: Encourage property owners to post police-authorized signs to prevent loitering and trespassing. CPS Adams will contact property owners in the neighborhood whose signs are damaged or down. http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/docs/Affidavit-Form.pdf ▪ Beat patrols: Maintaining the day and night beat patrols at current staffing levels is a neighborhood priority. Przynski said that she and Inspector Eddie Frizell are committed to keeping the two day beat and two night beat positions staffed for Stevens Square and Whittier in 2010. The bidding process for jobs is under way and the positions will be filled by 12/20. Przynski supervises the mid-watch shift which includes the night beats and, starting in 2010, directed patrol. A power shift from 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. will also be established to work on focus zones to address specific problems. There has been a shortage of officers available to staff the 5th Precinct desk during the day shift, resulting in beat officer(s) sometimes being assigned to desk duty. This will be remedied in 2010. 	
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<p>Minneapolis Police report – Lt Marie Przynski and CPS Chelsea Adams</p>	<p>Chelsea Adams provided a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during September. There was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 sexual assault: 9/22 at Ridgewood & Pleasant in which the victim, who was under the influence, was with acquaintances and was not sure whether an assault occurred. ▪ 1 robbery of person: 9/5 at 1815 1st Ave in which acquaintances got into an argument while intoxicated. ▪ 3 apartment burglaries: 9/4 at 1810 3rd Ave in which someone entered an occupied apartment using a key; 9/6 at 1921 3rd Ave in which a juvenile suspect was arrested after breaking a window of an occupied apartment; 9/23 at 1822 LaSalle Ave in which a door was kicked open, with no loss reported. ▪ 15 thefts from motor vehicles: At scattered locations throughout the neighborhood over the course of the month. This trend is ongoing through October and is a priority for police enforcement. http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/docs/PrevAutoTheft.pdf <p>Police-sponsored personal safety workshops are scheduled for 10/29 at 6:30 p.m. at Pratt School, 66 Malcolm Ave SE and 11/21 at 10 a.m. at Northeast Middle School, 2955 Hayes St NE. To signs up, call Carol at 673-2874.</p> <p>A suspect in a number of business robberies in the 3rd and 5th Precincts was arrested on 10/21 by 5th Precinct CRT and patrol officers.</p> <p>Adams provided a list of online resources including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crime statistics & maps http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-statistics/ ▪ Police department http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/ ▪ Access to public information on police reports http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/records/ ▪ Crime prevention resources http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/ ▪ Crime alerts via e-mail http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crimealert/signup.asp ▪ County jail roster http://www4.co.hennepin.mn.us/webbooking/ ▪ Minnesota Dept of Corrections http://www.corr.state.mn.us/ ▪ Minnesota court records http://www.mncourts.gov/publicaccess <p>SSCO's Google maps and lists of arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, from 8/24/09 to 9/20/09 showed 40 alcohol-related arrests (22 in 2008), 14 narcotics-related arrests (11 in 2008), and 1 prostitution-related arrest (0 in 2008). From 9/21/09 to 10/18/09, there were 19 alcohol-related arrests (37 in 2008), 6 narcotics-related arrests (9 in 2008), and 8 prostitution-related arrests (1 in 2008). Year to date: 348 alcohol-related arrests (323 in 2008), 120 narcotics-related arrests (146 in 2008), and 26 prostitution-related arrests (17 in 2008). For the period from 9/21/09 to 10/18/09, SSCO's Google maps showed 15 police reports for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave) and 49 for the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St). Information in text format is at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Crime_Information/index.htm</p> <p>The number of alcohol-related arrests in the area over the past month dropped for the first time this year compared to the numbers for 2008, perhaps due to the early onset of cold weather; few of the arrests occurred in either Stevens Square Park or Fair Oaks Park. Six of the eight prostitution-related arrests in the past month resulted from a successful john detail conducted by the directed patrol team on 10/2 at 22nd & Nicollet; all of the arrestees have been charged with gross misdemeanors.</p>	<p>Contact info: Chelsea.Adams@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2819</p> <p>Marie.Przynski@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5595</p>
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<p>Priority concerns, hot spots, chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rydelle Reginald Loving (3/10/89) is trespassed from 1926 3rd Ave following a series of domestic assault incidents. The victim's order for protection may include additional geographic restrictions for the suspect. ▪ Thefts from motor vehicles – In addition to incidents involving vehicles parked on the streets, these crimes are occurring in private parking lots in the vicinity of Franklin & Blaisdell such as those belonging to Lydia Apartments, Plymouth Church, and Park Nicollet Medical Center (when rented out for an evening event at the Semple Mansion). <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update featured cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pamela Beaulieu: 9/18/09 possession of drug paraphernalia at Franklin & 3rd. ▪ Anthony Ford: 6/24/09 4th degree assault of a police officer at Franklin & 3rd; 7/18/09 consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & Nicollet; 7/23/09 possession of liquor in a park and fleeing police on foot at 1801 Stevens Ave, Stevens Square Park; 9/2/09 consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ Darryl Brooks: 6/11/09 loitering with intent to buy or sell narcotics at 2200 3rd Ave, Fair Oaks Park. ▪ Constance Roche: 5/1/09 possession of drug paraphernalia at 1918 Clinton Ave. ▪ Rick Martinez (a.k.a. Andrew Terrell): 4/30/09 theft at 22nd & Nicollet; 7/15/09 loitering with intent to buy or sell narcotics at 2012 1st Ave; 8/3/09 disorderly conduct at 2200 3rd Ave, Fair Oaks Park; 9/22/09 trespassing at 1707 Stevens Ave. 	<p>Contact SSCO to receive a printed or e-mailed copy of the monthly chronic offender update, which features the outcome of court cases resulting from arrests in the area along with the names of the sentencing judges and mugshots of the offenders.</p>
<p>Ward 6 report – City Council Member Robert Lilligren</p>	<p>Robert Lilligren welcomed Lt Przynski back to the 5th Precinct, praised her for her hands-on approach and responsiveness to the community, and thanked the Safety committee for its good work. Lilligren met with new 5th Precinct Inspector Eddie Frizell, who emphasized his commitment to maintaining and expanding beat patrols. The process of developing a neighborhood policing plan is familiar to SSCO and the results have been great over the past few years. In regard to alcohol-related crimes, Lilligren met with police and SSCO staff to identify current problem areas to work on. Regarding the City budget for 2010, public safety (including police, fire, and regulatory services) is the top priority and these departments will receive the smallest cuts or reductions. Regarding the Police department, the focus is on keeping officers on the streets and keeping beat patrols staffed. The 2010 budget is smaller than the 2009 budget.</p> <p>Other issues discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A suggestion that the City pass an ordinance (if it's constitutional) requiring liquor stores to package goods in clear plastic bags which would make it more difficult for street drinkers to hide what they are doing. There was a debate about this idea and some objections were raised to this kind of regulation based on its effect on law-abiding citizens. Lilligren suggested that a study could be conducted to identify best practices. Dixon said that some cities have ordinances regulating how stores can package goods. ▪ New rules which mandate that apartment building owners keep the temperature in apartments at a minimum of 68 degrees from 10/1 to 4/30 and at 65 degrees from 5/1 to 9/30. There was a suggestion that the required temperature during the cold weather months be raised to 72 degrees to accommodate those with health problems. ▪ The need to ensure that the owners of the vacant building at 110 East 18th St maintain security and remove trash and graffiti from the property. Lilligren will discuss the issues with the owners and report to SSCO staff. ▪ How the City deals with nuisance properties, such as an apartment building in Whittier at which a stabbing and a shooting occurred after the owner decided to participate in a St Stephen's housing program which brought in tenants with narcotics backgrounds. The problems there have been resolved. The City is looking at ways to tighten up the rental licensing ordinance to respond to owners who don't cooperate, for example, by refusing to pay fines or submit management plans to police. 	<p>Contact info: Robert.Lilligren@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2206</p>
<p>Restorative Justice Community Action report</p>	<p>Two RJCA clients performed 11 hours of community service in the neighborhood in the past month, picking up litter and removing graffiti. One offender submitted a letter of apology to the neighborhood, which staff read aloud and passed around. Information about the program is at http://www.rjca-inc.org/</p>	<p>Contact info: Taryn Runck TRunck@rjca-inc.org 746-0784</p>

Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt	<p>Arlene Storandt reported that, from 9/25 to 10/21, 14 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 14 regular shifts, contributing a total of 73 hours. Four shifts were cancelled. On 10/17, 9 Block Patrol volunteers participated in shifts during the Fall Harvest Festival, contributing 28.5 hours. Block Patrol earned \$77 from the sale of soda and water at this event. Total volunteer hours during this period: 101.5</p> <p>The Block Patrol guidelines and application are at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Block_Patrol/</p>	Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol.
Safety coordinator report	<p>The coordinator met with members of Stevens Square Center for the Arts (SSCA) on 10/20 to hear concerns about late night loitering and suspicious activity in the parking lot and community garden north of 1905 3rd Ave. SSCA members agreed to call 911 to report problems and to ask the building owner to install a light on the wall by the parking lot and post No Trespassing signs. Staff notified the night beat officers of the problems.</p>	

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.