

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>

Safety Committee minutes – December 15, 2011, 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; Chris Dixon, City Attorney’s Office; Bryan Anderson, SSCO Board; Rob Helmerich, Rand Management; Lucy Minn, Lupe Development Partners; Arlene Storandt, Jerry Paulson, Jill Ferguson, Eddie Chambers, Kandace Krause, Howard Penas, Carla Andersen, Charles Rosensteel, Paul Soderquist, Samantha Teschendorf, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_ssc@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
<p>Announcements</p> <p>Contact SSCO to volunteer or for more info.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5th Precinct police staff were unable to attend due to their annual holiday celebration. The committee was aware of this conflict when it scheduled its December meeting. ▪ A recap of 2011 crime numbers and trends will be presented at the committee meeting on 1/26/12. Reports of rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and theft in the neighborhood are all up compared to 2010. 	<p>Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 1/26, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</p>
<p>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Chris Dixon</p>	<p>Chris Dixon distributed copies of the 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet and highlighted the recent changes made to the list. Four offenders who have been active in Stevens Square have been added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Charles Bailey – a felony and three misdemeanors set for court on 12/28. ▪ Maxim Chance – released from the workhouse on 12/14 and arrested five hours later for a new offense. ▪ Alpheaus Putmon – three misdemeanors set for court on 12/16. ▪ Addis Swift – five misdemeanors set for court on 1/4/12. <p>Chronic offender Kenneth Nickaboine will be released from the workhouse on 12/28 and may be added to the CLEAN sheet if he continues to offend in the neighborhood.</p> <p>Other Stevens Square offenders on the CLEAN sheet include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joseph Conklin – a gross misdemeanor and misdemeanor set for court today. ▪ Kathleen Croud – restricted from the area by court order. ▪ Anthony Ford – six active bench warrants. ▪ Larry Harper – restricted from the area (except for St Stephen’s) by court order, a misdemeanor set for court on 12/22, a felony set for court on 12/29, and another felony set for court on 1/9/12. ▪ Frank Killsright – in the workhouse until 1/29/12. ▪ Ronald King – restricted from the area by court order, in the workhouse until 3/6/12. ▪ Lynn Love – restricted from the area by court order, three active arrest and detention warrants. ▪ Jessica Matt – restricted from the area by court order, a gross misdemeanor and eight misdemeanors set for sentencing on 12/19. ▪ Maurice Patterson – two active arrest and detention warrants. ▪ Frederick Washington – in the workhouse until 3/12/12. ▪ Robert Yellow Wolf – two active bench warrants. 	<p>Christopher.Dixon@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p>

Minneapolis
Police report

Although she was unable to attend the meeting, Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams provided a map and list of Part I crimes reported in the neighborhood in November. There were:

- 2 incidents of criminal sexual conduct/rape: 11/13 at an address on the 1900 block of 3rd Ave; 11/23 at an address on the 1900 block of Stevens Ave.
- 3 robberies of person: 11/2, 10 p.m., at 19th & Stevens; 11/9, 7:50 p.m., at 1920 LaSalle Ave; 11/11, 12:30 a.m., at Franklin & 3rd.
- 1 burglary of business: 11/17 at 441 Ridgewood Ave, an apartment building.
- 3 burglaries of dwellings: 11/4 at 1728 3rd Ave; 11/16 at 1800 4th Ave; 11/17 at 308 Ridgewood Ave.
- 6 motor vehicle thefts: 11/10 at 1820 1st Ave; 11/11 at 441 Ridgewood Ave; 11/16 at 17th & Stevens; 11/20 at 1831 2nd Ave; 11/21 at 1817 2nd Ave; 11/29 at 18th & Clinton.
- 4 thefts from motor vehicles: 11/3 at 1933 Lyndale Ave; 11/7 at 17th & 1st; 11/12 at 304 Ridgewood Ave; 11/27 at 1915 2nd Ave.
- 4 other incidents of theft.

The Police department report for 2011 on crime reduction and prevention strategies can be found on the city's web site at [Results Minneapolis](#). There was a question about what to do if one encounters a person on the street who appears to be in trouble or to need help. One option is to call 911, describe the person and the situation, and ask that a squad be sent to check on the welfare of the person.

5th Precinct Inspector Matt Clark provided information about three more offenders who have been charged with felonies for selling narcotics to undercover officers in the neighborhood: [James Willis Black](#), [Titus Eugene Wright](#), and [Earley Romero Blevins](#). Thanks to the great work of Sgt Sara Metcalf's night CRT (community response team), 13 offenders have so far been charged with similar narcotics-related felonies in the neighborhood since the beginning of August. This has been a key part of the precinct's successful strategy to counter the influx of drug traffic in the Clinton sector this summer and fall. SSCO is tracking the outcome of these cases.

The [5th Precinct Spotlight](#), the precinct's quarterly e-newsletter, featured two items regarding Stevens Square-Loring Heights. First was a profile of the day beat officers who patrol Stevens Square and Whittier: Brianna Garman, Jodene Malloy, Aimee Colegrove, and Nick Hwang. One of the officers stated that "we enjoy working the beat because it brings the community, officers, probation, and the court system together – side by side. The community brings us first-hand knowledge of what is going on and the issues they face. Together, we identify the culprits and come up with solutions. All four of us officers have a vested interest in cleaning up the area and maintaining what we have accomplished." The beat officers regularly attend the Safety committee meetings. If you live in the neighborhood and see the beat officers on the street, give them your support.

The e-newsletter also contained an account of the heroic actions taken by Sgt Scott Downing on 4/9/11. Responding just after midnight to a report of a group trying to rob people at gunpoint at 18th & 1st, Sgt Downing pursued a suspect on foot through a vacant lot. Downing, who did not see a wire cable stretched across a driveway of the lot, tripped and fell, breaking his arm and elbow. Despite this severe injury, Downing got up and continued to chase the suspect for two blocks, apprehending him at gunpoint. Downing was then transported to a hospital and underwent surgery for the injuries. The Police department awarded Downing the Medal of Commendation and North Memorial Medical Center gave him an award for valor. Downing is familiar with the neighborhood, having served as a beat officer here for several years.

SSCO's Google maps and lists of arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, from 11/14/11 to 12/11/11 showed 4 [alcohol-related arrests](#) (11 in 2010), 4 [narcotics-related arrests](#) (5 in 2010), and no prostitution-related arrests (none in 2010). Year to date, there have been 200 alcohol-related arrests (308 in 2010), 135 narcotics-related arrests (124 in 2010), and 10 prostitution-related arrests (24 in 2010). For the period from 11/14/11 to 12/11/11, SSCO's Google maps showed 20 police reports for the [Nicollet corridor](#) (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St), 8 for the [Stevens Square Park area](#) (Stevens Ave to 2nd Ave, 17th St to Franklin Ave), and 15 for the [Clinton sector](#) (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave).

Chelsea.Adams@
Minneapolismn.gov
673-2819

[CRT](#) line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716 or contact Sara.Metcalf@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

[Crime Prevention Resources](#)

[911 / 311 information](#)

Contact SSCO to receive printed or e-mailed copies of the Google maps, which are updated weekly. The e-mailed versions include links to mugshots of chronic offenders.

<p>Stevens Square Community Organization report – SSCO chairman Bryan Anderson</p>	<p>Bryan Anderson reported on a number of ongoing projects and new developments in the neighborhood, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 110 East 18th St – The Dunwoody Apartments project (in what is commonly referred to as the City of Lakes building) is moving forward through the city approval process. The financing is in place and construction should start soon, with most of the work slated to be finished by next Thanksgiving. The project will rehab the existing structure (which is now vacant, fenced, and boarded) and feature a mix of market-rate and affordable rental housing. ▪ Northeast corner of 18th & Nicollet – It appears that the Staybridge Suites hotel project may not go forward at this vacant lot which was formerly the site of the Johnson Meat Company. A nearby property owner and developer is talking with city staff about other potential redevelopment plans for the site. ▪ 1911 Nicollet Ave – The new owner of this vacant commercial building plans to redevelop it, perhaps in conjunction with the property to the north. ▪ A number of the landowners along Nicollet Ave from I-94 to Franklin Ave are now willing to work together on development plans, overcoming an obstacle which has prevented much positive change from occurring there in recent years. ▪ SSCO’s funding outlook – The twenty-year Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) is closing its office at the end of this year. SSCO has used the funds it received from Phases 1 and 2 of NRP responsibly and, with the new funds available from the city’s Community Participation Program and the grants obtained by the executive director, is in a comfortable financial position. ▪ SSCO’s strategic plan – SSCO’s Board and executive director have developed a strategic plan for 2011 to 2016 which includes strategies and targets for engaging more people in neighborhood activities and projects. The plan is available online or from SSCO staff. ▪ Solar energy in the neighborhood – The Lofts on Arts Avenue at 1829 3rd Ave has installed solar panels to provide power for common areas in this condo building. There is interest in sharing information about this kind of technology to help make the neighborhood “greener” and more energy efficient, perhaps at a meeting of the Neighborhood Development committee. <p>Anderson thanked the committee for its good work.</p>	
<p>Priority concerns / hot spots / chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Narcotics-related loitering and trespassing in the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave), especially on and around Franklin Ave – See the Minneapolis Police report above for an update on those charged with felony sale of drugs to undercover officers in this area. Although arrests in the area have decreased, community members still report incidents of suspicious loitering at 19th & 3rd and of being approached by drug dealers on the streets. ▪ Incidents near 18th & 4th – Residents have expressed concern about three property crimes reported in this area in the past month: 11/16/11 condo burglary at 1800 4th Ave; 11/29/11 motor vehicle theft at 18th & Clinton; 12/3/11 theft from motor vehicle (rims and tires) at 339 East 18th St. CPS Chelsea Adams looked into the matter and found that there was nothing to indicate that these incidents were related. There are no suspects and no arrests have been made. ▪ 110 East 18th St – There was a report that intruders are using a gap in the fence in the rear of this vacant and boarded building to gain access to the property. ▪ Franklin & Nicollet – There was a report that suspicious persons often loiter after dark in and around the alley behind The Nicollet coffee shop, 1931 Nicollet Ave. Call 911 to report suspicious persons. ▪ Police have identified the group of Somali males who frequently loiter and drink in the area and cause trouble in Fair Oaks Park and at Loaves & Fishes at St Stephen’s. The problems appear to have subsided. ▪ Dumpsters – Day CRT officers in the neighborhood have been enforcing the city ordinance prohibiting unauthorized removal of solid waste from trash containers and dumpsters, which is a misdemeanor. Several offenders have been cited and one was recently arrested for failing to make a court appearance and subsequently convicted of the crime. Residents are concerned about identity theft and the noise and litter generated by those who search through commercial dumpsters. ▪ A community member who volunteers to pick up trash and litter in the neighborhood encouraged others to help and do their part to keep the neighborhood clean. Trash on the streets sends the message that no one cares about the community and attracts those who cause problems. A neighborhood that looks good often has less crime. 	

	<p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update included cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Howard Crenshaw – 8/5/11 3rd degree felony drug sale at Franklin & 3rd. ▪ James Black – 9/21/11 disorderly conduct at Franklin & Clinton; 11/9/11 possession of drug paraphernalia at Franklin & 4th. ▪ Kathleen Croud – 7/30/11 trespassing at 2011 3rd Ave; 8/7/11 loitering with intent to buy or sell narcotics at 1915 Clinton Ave; 8/14/11 loitering with intent to commit prostitution at Franklin & 4th; 8/16/11 trespassing at 2011 3rd Ave; 8/27/11 trespassing at 2011 3rd Ave; 9/9/11 trespassing at 1922 Clinton Ave, Giant Laundromax; 9/13/11 open bottle at Franklin & 3rd; 10/1/11 trespassing at 2006 2nd Ave. ▪ Ahmed Hired – 10/22/11 5th degree assault, trespassing, and disorderly conduct at 18th & Nicollet. ▪ Ronald King – 10/5/11 consuming alcohol in public at 2315 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Brian Martin – 10/4/11 consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ Ibrahim Musse – 8/10/11 disorderly conduct at 1801 Stevens Ave, Stevens Square Park; 10/18/11 interfering with traffic and littering at 2012 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Duane Roy – 7/28/11 open bottle at 9 West Franklin Ave, Greenleaf Lofts. ▪ Elizabeth Storm – 8/4/11 prostitution at 22nd & Nicollet. ▪ Frederick Washington – 6/2/11 open bottle at Franklin & Nicollet; 6/7/11 possession of liquor in a park at 2200 3rd Ave, Fair Oaks Park; 6/13/11 open bottle at Franklin & Nicollet. 	<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 reported that construction of the Dunwoody Apartments project at 110 East 18th St will probably start in the spring and be completed in stages, with the first one ready to open by the end of November 2012. This project has competed well for public funding, with a very low cost per unit and a small developer's fee.</p> <p>On 12/14, the City Council approved a \$1.4 billion budget for 2012. The Mayor had proposed a 0% property tax levy increase, which was approved by the Board of Estimate and Taxation. The Council made many difficult cuts to programs and staffing but, working with Police Chief Tim Dolan, found the money to retain all of the Crime Prevention Specialist (CPS) positions, five of which had been slated for elimination in the Mayor's budget. It seems that every year there is a fight to preserve funding for the CPS program which provides critical services to core neighborhoods such as Stevens Square-Loring Heights. The Council directed Dolan to find a way to fund the CPS positions in the future without relying on federal Community Development Block Grants, which continue to be cut. Thanks to Council Member Meg Tuthill who proposed using money left over in the Police department's 2011 budget to fund the CPS positions and to put additional sworn officers back on the street in 2012.</p> <p>SSCO staff shared a message sent today by 5th Precinct CPS Chelsea Adams and Amy Lavender which thanks the community for its support and work in successfully retaining the CPS positions in the 2012 budget. The committee thanked Lilligren for his hard work and key role in making that happen.</p> <p>The city has a new director of Regulatory Services who is taking a community-oriented approach to improving and redesigning the services provided by that department. It might make sense to invite the new director to attend a Safety committee meeting in 2012.</p> <p>Future funding for neighborhood organizations will be provided by the city's Community Participation Program (CPP). Each neighborhood organization is eligible to apply for its share of \$3 million in annual funding, which is expected to continue for ten years, to support community engagement activities and administrative expenses. The CPP funds are in addition to any money already allocated by the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) to neighborhood organizations. NRP, a twenty-year program which will close its office at the end of 2011, has been a huge success, funneling about a half billion dollars to neighborhood organizations for community-directed improvements. Remaining NRP funds will continue to be spent until 2016. Central administrative costs for CPP will be much lower than those for NRP, using about 11% of the total budget vs 19% for NRP. Thanks to NRP, the city has become more responsive to neighborhood organizations, and CPP will further elevate the role of neighborhood organizations in city government. SSCO has handled its NRP dollars very well.</p>	<p>Robert.Lilligren@Minneapolismn.gov</p> <p>673-2206</p> <p>Ward 6 web site</p>

	<p>There was a question about whether it's possible to expand or develop a version of the Downtown Improvement District (DID) for the neighborhood. The DID, which focuses on making downtown cleaner, greener, and safer, is funded by downtown property owners through a special service district. Lilligren suggested that the Nicollet Avenue Service District might be a way to provide improved or expanded services here if there is interest among property owners. Right now, the district does not have much structure and is not well engaged with the community, but there are indications that some owners would like the district to be more robust and responsive to current needs.</p>	
Restorative Justice Community Action report	<p>The executive director of the Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) program sent a message thanking City Council members for reinstating funding for the program in the 2012 city budget. RJCA funding was set to be cut by \$17,500 and instead received an allocation of \$20,000. Thanks to community members and key city staff for their support.</p> <p>New RJCA intern Brandon Hilton contacted SSCO today and plans to attend a Safety committee meeting soon.</p>	<p>Contact Chanti Calabria 746-0784 CCalabria@rjca-inc.org</p> <p>RJCA web site</p>
Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt	<p>Arlene Storandt reported that, from 11/18/11 to 12/15/11, 8 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 20 shifts, contributing a total of 59 hours. One new volunteer joined Block Patrol. Block Patrol teams have not made a 911 call in the past month.</p> <p>The Stevens Square-Loring Heights police substation will be moved from its current location at 10 East 19th St. The new owner of that building has generously offered to provide a new home for the substation, which is used by Block Patrol.</p>	<p>Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol.</p> <p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.