

# Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



## Safety Committee minutes – April 28, 2011, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave

Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Nimco Ahmed, Ward 6 City Council; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Matt Clark, Chelsea Adams, Brianna Garman, Jodene Malloy, Jack Kelly, and Tim Mattsson, Minneapolis Police 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct; Chris Dixon, City Attorney's office; Joyce Tesarek, Pet Doctors; Julian Gray, Fades of Gray; Jeremy Konecny, The Nicollet; April Kelly, Stevens Community Associates; Rob Helmerich, Rand Management; Charles Rosensteel, Ray Alex Perry, John Ryser, George Demars, Melinda Langer, Laura Blue Bird, Arlene Storandt, Randall Chevront, Jerry Paulson, Judy Austin, Rochelle Peyton, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoe (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"> <li>▪ Clean Sweep, April 30, 9 to 11 a.m., meet in Stevens Square Park. Rain date: May 7.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Cinema &amp; Civics</a> in Stevens Square Park, every Wednesday from June 15 to July 20.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Red Hot Art</a> in Stevens Square Park, July 30 &amp; 31.</li> </ul>	<p>Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 5/26, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</p>
<p>Community Probation report – Probation Officers Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen</p>	<p>Jean Schwalen reported that eight of her clients are in jail. Bobbi Harrington reported that none of her clients are on the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct <a href="#">CLEAN sheet</a>; most of those offenders are on unsupervised administrative probation or on probation to Drug court or Mental Health court. Community probation officers can still report on the behavior and activities of offenders they don't supervise.</p>	<p>Bobbi.Harrington@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8075</p> <p>Jean.C.Schwalen@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8212</p>
<p>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Chris Dixon</p>	<p>Chris Dixon reported that the attempt to get more court-ordered <a href="#">geographic restrictions</a> for top neighborhood offenders is getting results. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Ronald King</a> is serving 45 days in the workhouse for violating restrictions;</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Kenneth Nickaboine</a> has two pending criminal contempt charges for violating restrictions and faces up to a year in the workhouse on a prior trespassing case;</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Jessica Matt</a> goes to court in May on three cases, including two criminal contempt cases for violating restrictions;</li> <li>▪ Jimmar Nichols-Cooper is restricted from all of Stevens Square-Loring Heights and Whittier.</li> </ul> <p>Much of this is in response to a move by the 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct to restrict a large number of offenders from downtown, some of whom then come and offend in the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Dixon has asked for geographic restrictions for chronic offender <a href="#">Elijah Regenauer</a>, who has three cases pending from the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct and is already restricted from part of downtown. SSCO submitted a community impact statement regarding Regenauer on 4/12.</p> <p>Dixon distributed copies of the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct <a href="#">CLEAN sheet</a>. A number of the offenders active in Stevens Square are in custody, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Frederick Washington</a>, 5/8/11 workhouse release</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Curtis Batton</a>, 5/19/11 prison release</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Joseph Conklin</a>, 5/19/11 prison release</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">William Ernst</a>, 6/14/11 workhouse release</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Patrick Addy</a>, 9/4/11 workhouse release</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Rick Martinez</a>, in jail on \$30,000 bail for felony domestic assault</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">William Casarez</a>, in jail on \$25,000 bail for burglary and three other charges</li> </ul>	<p>Christopher.Dixon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5402</p>

<p>Minneapolis Police report – CPS Chelsea Adams, Officer Brianna Garman, Officer Jodene Malloy</p>	<p>Chelsea Adams distributed a map and list of Part I crimes in the neighborhood during March, noting that there were no aggravated assaults (except domestics) or robberies reported. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2 sexual assaults: 3/19, 6:20 p.m., at an address on the 1800 block of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave in which a suspect attempted to sexually assault a victim who went with him to smoke marijuana; 3/24 at an address on the 1900 block of Stevens in which a victim was raped by a known suspect.</li> <li>▪ 5 residential burglaries: 3/11 at 1806 LaSalle Ave; 3/11 and 3/12 at a vacant condo unit at 1800 LaSalle Ave; 3/30 at 1728 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave; 3/15 at 1805 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.</li> <li>▪ 1 business burglary: 3/20 at 1812 Nicollet Ave, Hot Wireless.</li> <li>▪ 4 motor vehicle thefts: 3/6 on the 1700 block of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave; 3/10 at Ridgewood &amp; Pillsbury; 3/11 at 1707 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave; 3/19 on the 100 block of Groveland Ave.</li> <li>▪ 3 thefts from motor vehicles: 3/3 on the 1800 block of LaSalle Ave; 3/15 on the 1700 block of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave; 3/21 at 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>.</li> <li>▪ 4 incidents of theft.</li> </ul> <p>The annual 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Open House is set for 5/19, 6 to 8 p.m., at 3101 Nicollet Ave. Come and meet the officers who patrol our neighborhoods and learn about how the Police department operates. It's fun, free, and family-friendly. Food and beverages will be served, the Minneapolis Police Band will perform, and there will be displays/demonstrations by the K-9 unit, bomb squad, SWAT, HCMC paramedics, Fire department, Animal Control, the police horse patrol, and others, including the State Patrol helicopter.</p> <p>SSCO's Google maps and lists of arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St, from 3/21/11 to 4/24/11 showed 11 <a href="#">alcohol-related arrests</a> (54 in 2010), 10 <a href="#">narcotics-related arrests</a> (10 in 2010), and 1 <a href="#">prostitution-related arrest</a> (0 in 2010). Year to date, there were 30 alcohol-related arrests (102 in 2010), 33 narcotics-related arrests (27 in 2010), and 3 prostitution-related arrests (12 in 2010). For the period from 3/21/11 to 4/24/11, SSCO's Google maps showed 54 police reports for the <a href="#">Nicollet corridor</a> (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St), 12 for the <a href="#">Stevens Square Park area</a> (Stevens Ave to 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, 17<sup>th</sup> St to Franklin Ave), and 18 for the <a href="#">Clinton sector</a> (3<sup>rd</sup> Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave).</p>	<p>Chelsea.Adams@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2819</p> <p><a href="#">CRT</a> line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716 or contact Sara.Metcalf@ci.minneapolis.mn.us</p> <p><a href="#">Crime Prevention Resources</a></p> <p>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>
<p>Priority concerns / hot spots / chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> – There are numerous reports of drug-related loitering outside the market at this corner. Police continue to watch the area and stop suspicious persons and vehicles. The building is posted for No Trespassing; call 911 to report suspicious activity there.</li> <li>▪ Village Center mall, 1804 to 1816 Nicollet Ave – There are complaints about loitering, trespassing, and panhandling at this property and the adjacent parking lot. Businesses and customers need to call 911 to report problems. The property owners, police, and SSCO staff met on 4/19 to work on strategies.</li> <li>▪ 110 East 18<sup>th</sup> St – There are still problems with open/broken windows and holes cut in the security fence at this vacant, boarded property.</li> <li>▪ Stevens Square Park, 1801 Stevens Ave – There is a report of problems at the basketball court at 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; Stevens starting at 4:30 p.m. Call 911 to report suspicious activity.</li> <li>▪ Aggressive panhandling is prevalent in the neighborhood, especially along Nicollet Ave. Call 911 to report the crime as defined below.</li> </ul> <p>Minneapolis City Ordinance 385.60 defines <a href="#">Aggressive Solicitation</a> as verbal requests for money or an item or offering an item or service of little value for a donation <u>in the following locations</u>: restroom; within 10 feet in any direction from a crosswalk; public transportation vehicle or facility; on any park land, playground, or public entertainment venue, including within 50 feet of entry or exits; bus or light rail stop or shelter; parked/stopped vehicle; sidewalk café; entrance of commercial or government building; within 80 feet in any direction from an ATM or financial institution; at or within 10 feet of gas station, liquor store, or convenience store property and <u>in the following way</u>: involving physical contact; blocking path/entrance; following a person who said no to ask again; using obscene/profane/abusive language; creating fear of bodily harm; threatening criminal act upon property; intimidating to person; while under the influence of alcohol or drugs; soliciting in a group of two or more; soliciting</p>	<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>after sunset or before sunrise.</p> <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update included cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Ronald King</a> – 4/18/11 criminal contempt of court for violating conditions of release at 1801 Nicollet Ave.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Isaac Welch</a> – 8/20/10 motor vehicle theft (police bait vehicle) at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup>.</li> </ul>	
<p>Results of the test of the police mobile camera at Franklin &amp; Nicollet – Inspector Matt Clark</p>	<p>Matt Clark spoke about the test of a mobile police camera at Franklin &amp; Nicollet from 4/14 to 4/20. The police camera was positioned on the Nicollet Ave sidewalk by CVS (the southeast corner) while another unmarked camera owned by Minneapolis <a href="#">Emergency Preparedness</a> was placed in the Plymouth Church parking lot (on the northwest corner) to record the public's reaction to the police camera and the activity on the corner. The video of the test is not yet available from the Police Strategic Information Center (SIC) which monitors police cameras citywide. SIC is not staffed to continually monitor all cameras and does not have the capacity to control cameras in response to 911 calls. The purpose of the test was to determine whether the visible presence of the police camera changed behavior on the corner and whether citizens felt safer there. The cool, rainy weather may have skewed the results of the test, since fewer people appeared to be loitering in the area. Chelsea Adams compared 911 calls and police incidents at the corner during the test to the same period a year ago and found that, although the number of calls increased slightly, there were not as many reports about nuisance crimes this year. There was a discussion about what community members saw at the corner during the test. Comments included: many people on the street seemed unaware of the camera; some people stopped to look at the camera and then moved along; the camera should have been placed at a different location, such as 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>. Information about the location of police cameras gets around and offenders often avoid those areas. SSCO received only a couple of comments – all of them positive – regarding the camera, and no complaints.</p> <p>Clark asked whether the committee would be interested in getting a mobile police camera for the precinct or in trying to borrow one of the unmarked Emergency Preparedness cameras occasionally. The unit used in the test had two cameras and cost about \$22,000; a mobile camera with fewer options would be less expensive. A camera marked with the MPD logo would be more effective at deterring and preventing crime. There might be a way to attach removable MPD signs to the Emergency Preparedness camera trailers. A static camera system is more expensive to purchase and install and, depending on circumstances, its cameras might not always be at the right location or pointed in the right direction. There are a number of options, depending on the community's needs and the money available. A community member argued that a mobile camera should be used to prosecute crimes committed in the neighborhood and not just for deterrence. It makes no sense to have cameras which would not be monitored or controlled.</p> <p>The committee discussed how to proceed regarding this issue. The committee agreed by consensus that having a mobile police camera in the neighborhood is a valuable crime reduction tool. Staff suggested that SSCO look into getting a mobile police camera for the neighborhood along two separate tracks: 1) work with MPD and the City on the project, which would require that most if not all of the funding come from the community and would give the control of the camera to the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct, and 2) explore the possibility of raising funds to purchase a camera specifically for use at SSCO's discretion. The goal of the second approach would be to give SSCO the ability to determine the location of the camera on any given day and monitor and control its operation. Local businesses and institutions might be more interested in contributing to the purchase of a camera if they are assured that it will be used in the neighborhood where and when it is needed.</p> <p><b>On a motion by Charles Rosensteel, seconded by John Ryser, the committee expressed support for having a mobile police camera in the neighborhood and asked SSCO 1) to work with the Minneapolis Police department and the City to acquire a mobile police camera for use in the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct and 2) to explore the possibility of raising funds to purchase a mobile police camera to be used and controlled by SSCO.</b></p>	

<p>Ward 6 report – Policy Aide Nimco Ahmed</p>	<p>Nimco Ahmed reported that Council Member Lilligren was unable to attend the meeting due to his commitment to help with the Aliveness Project’s Dining Out for Life campaign this evening. Lilligren’s monthly <a href="#">office hours</a> in the neighborhood are the third Monday (except for city holidays) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave; call 673-2206 to schedule an appointment or take your chances and just stop by. The Minneapolis – St Paul Home Tour is set for 4/30 and 5/1. <a href="#">2010 census results</a> showed Stevens Square-Loring Heights with a population of 3,833 in 2,571 housing units, with an additional 334 units vacant.</p> <p>Lilligren is involved in convening city discussions about increasing the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians. The city’s <a href="#">Bike Walk Ambassadors</a> are offering free workshops about biking safety: 5/3 at noon at 309 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave South (biking for transportation); 5/19 at noon at 309 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave South (bike maintenance); 5/26 at noon in front of City Hall (biking with traffic). For more info and to register, call 333-3410. There were suggestions that these workshops be held in the evening to accommodate people who work during the day and to hold a workshop in the neighborhood especially for residents, perhaps in conjunction with a community event. Ahmed offered to ask the director of the Bike Walk Ambassador program about that, although there seemed to be limited interest among committee members.</p>	<p>Robert.Lilligren@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2206</p> <p><a href="#">Ward 6 web site</a></p>
<p>Restorative Justice Community Action report – Community Coordinator Alex Suskovic</p>	<p>Alex Suskovic reported that from January through March, there were two 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Restorative Justice conferences which included two offenses (littering and public urination) committed in Stevens Square-Loring Heights. Contact Chanti Calabria for information about participating in upcoming conferences.</p> <p>Last year, RJCA clients performed many hours of community service removing graffiti in the neighborhood. There was a discussion about how to stop or reduce graffiti in the neighborhood. Some of those who remove graffiti on their own worry about retaliation from taggers. Several community members suggested using art – such as murals or other wall decorations – to combat graffiti and beautify the neighborhood. There was also interest in finding out whether art could be applied to public property (such as controller boxes) as well. Chris Dixon reported that Lyndale Neighborhood Association received grants to fund murals and that County Sentence to Service crews will often remove graffiti if asked. Stevens Square Center for the Arts completed a mural last year on the wall of the building which houses its gallery and work spaces and might be interested in organizing more mural projects. The committee directed staff to look into these suggestions and report back.</p> <p>The coordinator asked if the committee wanted to sponsor a project to remove graffiti from public property in the neighborhood. The committee agreed and scheduled the project for 5/14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact Dave at 874-2840 or <a href="mailto:dave_ssc@yahoo.com">dave_ssc@yahoo.com</a> to sign up.</p>	<p>Contact Chanti Calabria 746-0784 <a href="mailto:CCalabria@rjca-inc.org">CCalabria@rjca-inc.org</a></p> <p><a href="#">RJCA web site</a></p>
<p>Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt</p>	<p>Arlene Storandt reported that, from 3/25 to 4/28, 11 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 24 shifts, contributing a total of 85 hours. Block Patrol teams participated in the 4/23 Art Squared fundraiser at Stevens Square Center for the Arts, patrolling the area and welcoming guests. Block Patrol concluded its door-knocking campaign to promote SSCO and recruit new volunteers. During the past month, Block Patrol door-knocked 169 apartments in four buildings, spoke with 62 residents, signed up 26 to receive the SSCO e-mail newsletter, and gave Block Patrol applications to 23 residents who expressed interest.</p>	<p>Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol. <a href="#">Application and guidelines</a> are at the SSCO web site.</p>

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.