

**Next SSCO Safety Committee meeting:
Thursday, August 28, at 6:00 p.m.
Loring Nicollet Center, 1925 Nicollet Ave**
For more information, visit www.sscoweb.org or call Dave at (612) 874-2840.

SSCO SAFETY COMMITTEE
Notes from the meeting of July 24, 2008, at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

PRESENT Ken Strobel, co-chair; Robert Lilligren, Ward 6 City Council; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Lisa Johnson, City Attorney's office; Kelby Grovender, Mental Health Resources; Don Lepper, Lydia Apartments; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Danny Marrapodi, Stevens Community Apartments; John Martin, UPi Properties; Ray Ferris, Michele McGaughey, Maureen Wells, Jeanne Krueger, Judy Austin, Elizabeth Young, John Ryser, Robert Fischer, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- July 30 at 8 p.m., the final event of the 2008 season of Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park.
- Stevens Square farmers market, every Wednesday through September 24, 3 to 7 p.m. in the Plymouth Church parking lot at Franklin & Nicollet.
- August 5, National Night Out.

COMMUNITY PROSECUTOR REPORT – 5th Precinct Paralegal Lisa Johnson

Johnson distributed copies of the CLEAN sheet, a list with mugshots of the 5th Precinct's top 30 offenders which is updated weekly with court conditions, appearance dates, and warrant and custody information. The CLEAN sheet is available online at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/docs/Pct5CLEAN.pdf She said that five offenders had recently been removed from the list – including Stevens Square offenders Darryl Brooks, Jessica Matt, and Kenneth Nickaboine, who are all in the workhouse – and five added, including new Stevens Square offender Kyle Kawakami. Among Stevens Square offenders still on the list, Johnson said that Maurice Giles was in the workhouse until September 11 and Maurice Patterson was in the workhouse until September 9. She said that Stevens Square offender Theoplias Howlett was the victim of a severe assault on June 28 and was undergoing medical treatment; investigators have been unable to talk to him about the crime yet.

Johnson spoke about the case of Level 3 sex offender Damon Moore, who pled guilty on July 16 to gross misdemeanor 5th degree criminal sexual conduct in the April 22 incident at the Steeple People store. She said that Moore has been in and out of custody a lot recently, that judges are treating him leniently, and that the County Attorney's office is frustrated with the situation. Johnson said that Moore was initially set for trial on July 21, but due to 1) scheduling conflicts involving the victim and witnesses and 2) the fact that the defendant had demanded a speedy trial and the 60-day deadline was approaching, the trial date was moved up a few days. She said that the defense attorney offered the judge, Peter Albrecht, a guilty plea in return for consequences less severe than those proposed by the prosecutor. She said that Judge Albrecht accepted a "straight plea" from the defendant and stated his intention to sentence the defendant to no more than the time he had already served. Schwalen said that probation was not informed of the trial date change or involved in this decision. Johnson said that Judge Albrecht released Moore with no bail required on July 16; the only conditions are that Moore remain law abiding and make future court appearances, including his sentencing hearing on August 13 at 1:30 p.m. Schwalen said that the judge did not even order that Moore have no contact with the victim. Johnson said that Judge Albrecht also stated that he does not intend to revoke the remaining time on Moore's 21 month sentence for a previous conviction for felony theft

from person. The coordinator said that the judge had ignored, or stated his intention to ignore, all four of the requests made by SSCO in its community impact statement on the case, and that the judge's actions have clearly put the community at risk. The coordinator said that he plans to contact the media about the case and ask reporters to investigate and publicize the judge's decisions and actions, with the intention of changing the outcome of the case. There was a discussion about the behavior of Moore and Judge Albrecht. Johnson said that Moore is homeless; Harrington said that he has to check in with the MPD Sex Crimes Unit once a week. Johnson encouraged committee members to submit community impact statements regarding Moore (forms were made available) to her at Lisa.Johnson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or Lisa Johnson, MPD 5th Precinct, 3101 Nicollet Ave, 55408; the statements should be submitted as soon as possible, since sentencing is set for August 13. Johnson said that an impact statement should include your name and a phone number, and a description of the offender's behavior and how it has affected you.

COMMUNITY PROBATION REPORT – Probation Officers Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen

Harrington brought one of her clients who is on the CLEAN sheet to the attention of the committee: Mohamed Jama Samatar. She said that he is a very violent offender who spends much of his time in Whittier, but often stays with someone who lives on 3rd Ave in Stevens Square. Harrington said that Samatar has two active felony warrants. Schwalen spoke about CLEAN sheet offender Tammie Houle, a Stevens Square and Whittier offender who has a large number of cases pending in Mental Health court. Houle is not one of Schwalen's clients. The coordinator said that Houle is not in custody and received no consequences from the court in June after she repeatedly violated an agreement with a judge to remain law abiding and stay out of Stevens Square.

MINNEAPOLIS POLICE REPORT

Strobel announced that CPS Chelsea Adams was unable to attend the meeting. The coordinator made available copies of Adams' report regarding violent crimes in the neighborhood during June. There were:

- 0 robberies;
- 2 aggravated assaults, both domestic.

The coordinator passed around copies of material provided by Adams regarding home burglar alarms. He also distributed four USB flash drives from Adams which contain documents about conducting a home inventory and preventing home burglaries; the idea is to download the information and then pass the flash drive along to other community members. The coordinator made available copies of Google maps and lists of arrests for livability crimes in an area encompassing Stevens Square-Loring Heights and the section of Whittier from Franklin Ave to 24th St. For the period from June 23 to July 20, there were 26 alcohol-related arrests (47 last year), 12 narcotics-related arrests (31 last year), and 0 prostitution-related arrests (3 last year). Year to date, there have been 181 alcohol-related arrests (196 last year), 105 narcotics-related arrests (117 last year), and 15 prostitution-related arrests (8 last year). The coordinator made available copies of Google maps and summaries of police reports of incidents and arrests in specific areas. For the period from June 23 to July 20, 11 reports were generated in the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave) and 45 in the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St). The coordinator said that there was a remarkable decline in both alcohol- and narcotics-related arrests compared to this period last year, and that, for the first time in memory, there were no narcotics-related arrests in the Clinton sector. All of these reports, updated weekly, are available in text format on the crime information page at www.sscoweb.org. To receive e-mailed or printed copies of the Google maps, contact Dave at 874-2840 or dave_sscoweb@yahoo.com

PRIORITY CONCERNS / HOT SPOTS / CHRONIC OFFENDERS

- 1800 Stevens Ave – The property manager reported that the problems at this apartment building will be resolved by the end of July.

- 1808 Stevens Ave – The property manager reported that he and police are still working to resolve drug-related problems at and around this apartment building.
- 1706 2nd Ave – The property manager reported that the problems at this apartment building will be resolved by the end of August.
- 1807 2nd Ave – The property manager reported that problems at this apartment building will be resolved by the middle of August. The manager said that in May he brought in private security guards to work on problems at all four of the above buildings.
- 1904 1st Ave – The property manager reported that he had recently resolved drug and prostitution problems at this apartment building, but that new problems have since developed, and that he is working with police to resolve them.
- 110 East 18th St, City of Lakes – There are reports of repeated break-ins and thefts at this vacant, boarded, and fenced property which is being rehabbed for use as apartments.
- Stevens Square Park – There was a discussion of ongoing, suspicious activity at the park involving a group of males (up to 18 in number) who often wear matching clothing and periodically gather at the top of the park and around the basketball court. Many residents, including some dog owners, report avoiding the park because they feel intimidated by this group's behavior. Some residents report that this resembles and appears to be gang activity and that there is drug dealing involved. Others caution that groups designated by police as gangs need to meet certain criteria, and that residents should not jump to conclusions. SSCO has alerted the Park police and 5th Precinct about the activity, although neither jurisdiction has confirmed that there is a gang active in the neighborhood. There were suggestions that police or others provide information to the community about gangs, how to identify them, and how to combat them. The coordinator reported that some residents want park staff to lock up the hoop at the basketball court for a period of time to move the suspicious activity away from the park. He said that another resident recommended that park staff have a regular presence at the park, either by having someone on site or on call. The coordinator said that there is no park programming staff available for Stevens Square this summer, which may have made it easier for criminal activity to gain a foothold in the park. There is some concern about the welfare of the neighborhood kids who use the park. Council Member Lilligren said that he would share this information with Park Commissioner Tracy Nordstrom. The committee decided to ask the 5th Precinct to provide a short presentation for neighborhood residents about gangs and gang activity, partly as a way to find out what residents are aware of and concerned about; staff will follow up with this.

WARD 6 REPORT – City Council Member Robert Lilligren

Council Member Lilligren reported that he's been involved in many of the events celebrating the city's 150th anniversary. He said that the deadline for arranging to close streets for National Night Out has been extended to July 25. Lilligren shared information about a City-sponsored forum on August 6 (two sessions, at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., at the University of St Thomas Murphy Hall auditorium, 1000 LaSalle Ave) about plans and preparations for the Republican National Convention; topics include special events, traffic, extended business hours, and plans to keep downtown safe. Lilligren said that visitors in town for the convention may increase the population of certain neighborhoods like Phillips or Whittier, and that his priority is making sure that policing is adequate here during the event. He spoke about a memorial service set for August 1 for victims of the 35W bridge collapse. Lilligren reported on the drop in violent crime in the city over the past two years: down 14% for the first six months of 2008, and an additional 13% during 2007, for a total decline of 27% compared to 2006. He said that, although a lot remains to be done to reduce crime, community groups like SSCO deserve credit for much of the progress which has been made. Lilligren reported that there are now 135 police safety/security cameras in operation in the city. He said that he plans to submit a community impact statement regarding Level 3 sex offender Damon Moore, per the discussion during Lisa Johnson's report. He apologized for not being able to attend the Cinema & Civics event on July 23; he had a previous commitment to appear at the Aquatennial torch light parade.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMUNITY ACTION REPORT

The coordinator said that RJCA community coordinator Taryn Runck was unable to attend the meeting, but had sent copies of the program's quarterly report for Stevens Square-Loring Heights and Whittier and the schedule of upcoming community conferences: 5th Precinct cases on July 29, August 12, and September 24, and a 1st Precinct (downtown) conference on August 6. Contact Taryn at (612) 746-0784 or trunck@rjca-inc.org for further information or to sign up to participate.

BLOCK PATROL REPORT – Judy Austin

Austin reported that, from June 27 to July 23, 10 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 9 shifts, contributing a total of 35 hours. One shift was cancelled. Volunteers also participated in Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park during this period:

- July 2: 8 volunteers, 22 hours
 - July 9: 5 volunteers, 13.25 hours
 - July 16: 6 volunteers, 16.75 hours
 - July 23: 4 volunteers, 11 hours
 - At the events, Block Patrol sold 245 containers of soda or water and made a profit of \$143.43
- Altogether, 15 Block Patrol volunteers contributed 98 hours during this period. Austin shared some stories from the Block Patrol log. The coordinator proposed organizing a project to clean up the police substation. The committee agreed to go ahead with this on Saturday, August 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This will count as a Block Patrol shift.

SAFETY COORDINATOR REPORT – Dave Delvoye

The coordinator reported that the SSCO Board approved the following motion at its July 10 meeting: SSCO asks the City to conduct a feasibility study of a police safety/security camera system for Nicollet Ave from I-94 to Franklin Ave. He said that Inspector Arneson has agreed to be the project manager, and plans to conduct a survey of potential camera locations along Nicollet Ave on August 5. SSCO's request will be combined with that of Whittier Alliance, which has asked that a Nicollet Ave camera system include the area from Franklin Ave to 24th St.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES AND PLANS FOR 2008 – 2009

The coordinator presented the draft of committee plans and priorities for the upcoming year, which were developed by a work group on July 21. The priorities include cleaning and fixing up the police substation, working with law enforcement on the 5th Precinct's crime reduction plan, recruiting more volunteers, publicizing the community standards of behavior, establishing closer connections with Restorative Justice Community Action, and working to reduce graffiti vandalism and aggressive panhandling. The committee discussed the document and made no changes. **On a motion by Maureen Wells, seconded by Michele McGaughey, the committee adopted community safety plans and priorities for 2008 – 2009.**

ELECTION OF A COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR AT LARGE

The coordinator said that the co-chair at-large had resigned his position for personal reasons and that a new co-chair would be elected to serve out the term, until May of 2009. He announced the eligibility criteria for voters and candidates per the SSCO bylaws, the responsibilities of the co-chair position, and the election rules. One candidate accepted the nomination: Michele McGaughey. **On a motion by Maureen Wells, seconded by Jeanne Krueger, the committee voted to suspend the rules and elect Michele McGaughey to the position of co-chair at large by acclamation.**