

**Next SSCO Safety Committee meeting:
Thursday, September 25, 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 August 28, 2008, at 1925 Nicollet Ave.**

PRESENT Michele McGaughey and Ken Strobel, co-chairs; Bobbi Harrington, Hennepin County Community Probation; Lisa Godon, City Attorney's office; Taryn Runck, Restorative Justice Community Action; John Martin, UPi Property Management; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Danny Marrapodi, Stevens Community Apartments; Hank Jensen, CVS Pharmacy; Elizabeth Young, Bonnie Bona, Helen Grams, Eddie Chambers, Jeanne Krueger, Judy Austin, Faye Howell, Charles Rosensteel, Melinda Langer, Laura Blue Bird, Angel Alexander, Jerry Paulson, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Stevens Square farmers market, every Wednesday through September 24, 2 to 6 p.m., in the Plymouth Church parking lot at Franklin & Nicollet.
- Pancake breakfast in recognition of SSCO volunteers, September 13, 9 to 11 a.m., at Stevens Square Park. RSVP to Dave at 874-2840 by September 10.
- Neighborhood Development committee meeting, September 4, 6:30 p.m., at Loring Nicollet Center, 1925 Nicollet Ave. On the agenda: a presentation by Roxanne Givens regarding a proposal to purchase the Coe Mansion, 1700 3rd Ave, for use as the Minnesota African American History Museum and Cultural Center.
- Ward 6 City Council Member Robert Lilligren will attend the September 25 Safety committee meeting.
- Eddie Chambers thanked Helen Grams, who is moving out of the neighborhood, for all of the work she has done for the community, and expressed sadness that she was leaving. Grams promised to come back to Stevens Square regularly and to continue to attend meetings and events. The committee took part in a celebration of Grams' contributions. Chambers thanked CVS Pharmacy for donating soda and ice.

COMMUNITY PROSECUTOR REPORT – Assistant City Attorney Lisa Godon

The committee welcomed Godon back from her recent medical leave; she said that she is totally fine and happy to be back. Godon said that the police were right now completely focused on the Republican National Convention, and that most of the staff who serve Stevens Square were on convention duty. She said that other officers, who may not be familiar with the area, are working in the neighborhood in the meantime. Godon 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 a number of these offenders were due to be released from the workhouse in September. The coordinator said that City Attorney Susan Segal will attend the committee's November 20 meeting to share her plans and priorities and hear community members' concerns.

Godon spoke about the August 14 sentencing of Level 3 sex offender Damon Moore, who was ordered to serve 165 days in the workhouse after the remaining time on his 2007 theft from person conviction was revoked; Moore will then be on parole for seven months. She said that neighborhood residents Grams and Strobel and SSCO's safety coordinator went to court with community impact statements and helped to change the judge's mind regarding the sentence. Godon said that *The Southwest Journal* reported on the case, and the coordinator passed around a copy of the story. The coordinator said that on August 13, Judge Peter Albrecht reversed his decision to sentence Moore to credit for time served, with no time revoked for the previous felony, if he pled guilty to the April 22 gross misdemeanor criminal sexual conduct charge in the incident at the Steeple People store. Under this agreement, Moore would have been released with no conditions or supervised probation. The coordinator said that Judge Albrecht stated that he made a bad decision and credited statements by community members for changing his mind. He said that the new plea agreement on August 14, the outcome of which Godon had described, included a guilty plea to the gross misdemeanor criminal sexual conduct charge for which Moore was sentenced to the 92 days he had already served, far less than the possible maximum sentence of 244 days in the workhouse. The coordinator spoke about SSCO's community impact statement from April 25 and how

the judge had ultimately ignored three of the four requests made by the community regarding time to be served, geographic restrictions, and supervised probation. He said that, although Judge Albrecht reacted to the presence of community members and the press in the courtroom, the new agreement was still a lenient sentence for a Level 3 sex offender who posed a threat to the community. The coordinator acknowledged the outstanding work on the case done by Probation Officer Tanya Parks, who advocated strongly and persuasively for the community's position in the courtroom, and prosecutor Liz Cutter, who pushed for consecutive sentences and spoke about how rare it is for a judge to reverse such a decision. He also thanked SSCO's other law enforcement partners who helped with the case, including Lisa Godon and paralegal Lisa Johnson for providing crucial information and soliciting community impact statements, Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen for sharing background information and valuable advice, and Jeff Hall and Deb Hubert, the Stevens Square-Whittier day beat officers who arrested Moore on April 22.

Strobel spoke about his experience in court with the case, and said that the judge listened to the community impact statements, especially those from neighborhood residents. The coordinator said that judges may not pay attention to statements coming from staff, and that this case showed the power which community members have when they work with probation officers and prosecutors to put pressure on the court system. Strobel said that, in the future, we need to recruit community members to submit more impact statements. The coordinator said that committee co-chairs Strobel and McGaughey had suggested that Godon and Johnson teach community members how to write effective impact statements, and that they had agreed to do that, perhaps immediately following a Safety committee meeting. The idea is to make it easier, and more comfortable, for neighbors to weigh in with their opinions on important cases. Grams said that she will continue to go to court to observe and report – and present impact statements – for certain cases. She said that this a way to put a face to the community members who are victims of these crimes and to change the outlook of the judges. She described Damon Moore as a blatant predator with disregard for the community, who is only out for himself. Grams said that she is proud of the judge, who admitted that he made a mistake and took action to correct it. She said that she agreed with Strobel that community impact statements are important tools for prosecutors to use.

Godon spoke about Moore's criminal history, with convictions for two previous felony sexual assaults which both occurred in this area. She said that Moore was homeless, which made it difficult for the understaffed police Sex Crimes unit to track his whereabouts. Strobel said that Moore gave Stevens Square Park, which is closed between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., as his address when he was released from prison. The coordinator said that Level 3 sex offenders who are homeless are instructed to check in once a week with the Sex Crimes unit to state where they can be found overnight, although there is no staff available to check on them. The coordinator said that there was a heated discussion about Moore's housing status at the community notification meeting in June, 2007. He said that a day or two after the meeting, the Stevens Square-Whittier night beat officers went looking for Moore in the park late at night and were unable to find him; if they had found him, Moore would have been cited for illegally being in a closed park. The coordinator said that the Sex Crimes unit subsequently stated that Moore was allowed to be in the "vicinity of the park", which made it virtually impossible for officers either to locate him or to provide evidence that he was not complying with the law. Howell said that this was a serious loophole in the law and that sex offenders were using it to avoid supervision. Harrington said that, at the time, Moore had completed his sentence and was not on parole or any kind of supervised release. McGaughey thanked everyone who was involved with the case.

COMMUNITY PROBATION REPORT – Probation Officer Bobbi Harrington

Harrington reported that chronic offender Theoplias Howlett was still in long-term care at a nursing facility, after being seriously assaulted in the 3rd Precinct in June and spending weeks at HCMC. She reported that chronic offender Donald Hurt was out of the neighborhood, in treatment and sober for over a year now. Godon said that chronic offender Carmilita Grant was also successful in treatment and had not offended for a long time. Harrington said that probation officers, like the police, were also busy with the Republican National Convention. She said that the neighborhood has seemed relatively quiet. Bona asked about chronic offender Pamela Beaulieu, who has been arrested in the neighborhood recently for alcohol-related offenses. Austin said that chronic offender Krissy Stillday had been arrested four times recently, and that chronic offender Michael Rogan was on work release from the workhouse.

MINNEAPOLIS POLICE REPORT

The coordinator said that we have a new sector lieutenant, David Hayhoe, who just started the job last week. He said that Eddie Frizell had been transferred to the Training unit. The coordinator said that, because of preparations for the Republican National Convention, Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams was unable to attend the meeting or to provide the usual updates. He said that, based on police reports he's found, it appears that there have been two robberies of person reported in the neighborhood in the past month:

- August 10, 11:55 p.m., 1915 Clinton Ave, in which a suspect put a victim in a choke hold and stole his wallet;
- August 19, 2 a.m., 19th & Stevens, in which a victim's wallet was taken.

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 July 21 to August 24, there were 82 alcohol-related arrests (51 last year), 21 narcotics-related arrests (28 last year), and 1 prostitution-related arrest (2 last year). Year to date, there have been 263 alcohol-related arrests (247 last year), 126 narcotics-related arrests (145 last year), and 16 prostitution-related arrests (10 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 July 21 to August 24, 32 reports were generated in the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave) and 60 in the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St). The coordinator pointed out an increase in narcotics-related arrests in the Clinton sector (last month there had been none) and an overall increase in alcohol-related arrests. 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_ssc@yahoo.com

Alexander asked, what is the attraction which brings this criminal activity to the area? Austin said that it's a combination of things such as social service providers, places such as parks and bus stops at which to hang out, efforts to clean up other areas, and easy access to drugs and alcohol. She emphasized that the neighborhood is not as dangerous as some other areas in the city and that offenders often report feeling safe and comfortable here. The coordinator said that the SSCO Alcohol task force has addressed this question and is trying, with a certain degree of success, to work with businesses and organizations which are perceived to be contributing to the problems.

PRIORITY CONCERNS / HOT SPOTS / CHRONIC OFFENDERS

- 1800 Stevens Ave, 1808 Stevens Ave, 1706 2nd Ave – The property manager reports that a lot of the trouble associated with these addresses appears to have moved away, some of it to 1801 2nd Ave.
- 1801 2nd Ave – There are reports of drug dealing out of an apartment in this building. Police and the property manager, with private security guards, are working to resolve the problem.
- 1807 2nd Ave – There are reports of suspicious traffic to an apartment in this building. The property manager reports that the problem should be resolved by the end of August.
- 1805 1st Ave – Residents are concerned about building security after someone broke into and stole items from a number of mailboxes, which led to incidents of financial fraud and identity theft.
- 1900 & 1904 1st Ave – There are reports of prostitution and narcotics activity at and around these buildings. Police and the property manager are working to resolve the problems.
- Stevens Square Park, 1801 Stevens Ave – 5th Precinct day and night CRT and beat officers, Park police, and other law enforcement agencies have been working on the problems in and around the park. Police report that some gang members who live in the area go to the park, but that there is no indication that the activity generating complaints is gang-related, although it does appear to be tied to drug dealing. Police recommended that SSCO not organize a community meeting or presentation about gangs at this time, but rather encourage residents to call 911 to report suspicious or criminal activity at the park. Residents should also call the 5th Precinct Community Response Team (CRT) at 673-5716 to report narcotics activity, providing descriptions of suspects, addresses, vehicle license plate numbers, and times of day during which the problems tend to occur. Community members stated that the level of suspicious activity in the park seems to be decreasing. Several residents of nearby buildings who may be involved in the activity are reported to be gone or leaving.
- 1801 1st Ave – There are numerous reports of narcotics activity at this apartment building.
- Police serving warrants at residences – There was a complaint about the way in which officers from the Juvenile unit served a warrant at an address in the neighborhood. The person police were looking for did not live at the address, but neighbors were treated rudely by officers when they inquired about what was happening since the resident was not at home. Harrington said that the addresses on warrants are often

wrong for a variety of reasons, and that residents need to understand the difficulty involved in trying to track down fugitives. A community member said that officers do not call to confirm whether someone is at an address, since that would likely tip them off. The person with the complaint said that it was a matter of the officers' behavior to the neighbors which was disturbing; the person had called the commander of the Juvenile unit to complain about this. Godon suggested the option of filing a complaint with the Internal Affairs Dept. if the answers received so far were not acceptable. A community member said that sometimes all it takes to resolve these kinds of problems is an apology from police.

- 110 East 18th St – There are reports of loitering, trespassing, and drinking in the vacant parking lot of this property on the west side of the 1700 block of 1st Ave South, between 1st Ave and Nicollet Ave. There was a recommendation that the owners trim or cut the hedge by the sidewalk along 1st Ave to discourage this activity.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMUNITY ACTION – Community Coordinator Taryn Runck

Runck reported that RJCA had established a Youth pilot program to deal with offenders between the ages of 14 and 17, which would operate a little differently than the program for adult offenders. Volunteers are being recruited. Runck announced that volunteer positions were open on the RJCA Board of Directors, and that it would be great to have SSCO members represented on the Board. She passed around copies of the application form. Runck said that she had met with SSCO staff to discuss ways to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations. She said that SSCO's community standards of behavior would be a useful document for RJCA conferences, and will arrange for it to be given to participants in Stevens Square cases.

BLOCK PATROL REPORT – Judy Austin

Austin reported that, from July 25 to August 27, 16 volunteers participated in 18 shifts, contributing a total of 72 hours. 4 shifts were cancelled. Two new volunteers, Mel and Laura, joined Block Patrol. Block Patrol teams participated in the Parade of Community Gardens on August 16, patrolling the area around LaSalle Community Garden. 9 Block Patrol volunteers participated in Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park on July 30, contributing 27.5 hours. Block Patrol made \$48.33 profit from soda and water sales at this event. Total for the past month: 20 volunteers contributed 99.5 hours. Austin shared some stories from the Block Patrol log.

SAFETY COORDINATOR REPORT – Dave Delvoe

The coordinator said that there were two National Night Out parties in the neighborhood this year, including one at Stevens Square Park sponsored by Minnesota Teen Challenge. Krueger reported on the party sponsored by the Clinton Ave block club and the Project Lookout groups at 1707 3rd Ave and 1920 4th Ave. She said that the party, which went from 5:30 to 11:00 p.m., was very successful, and that between 75 and 100 people attended.

Bona said that there was a lot of graffiti along Nicollet Ave from Franklin Ave to 24th St. Austin said that the committee had organized a graffiti clean-up on August 23, which focused on Stevens Square.

The coordinator reported that the feasibility study for the police safety/security camera system along Nicollet Ave is under way. He said that the study is being conducted by Tracy Downing, a project manager for the Business Information Services department. He said that Inspector Kris Arneson organized and participated in a site survey on August 5 with Downing, two Police department supervisors who work on camera systems, and staff from SSCO and Whittier Alliance. The coordinator said that the group identified camera locations along Nicollet Ave from 18th St to 22nd St, with the capability to observe north to I-94 and south to 24th St. The group also identified secondary camera locations along Franklin Ave from 1st Ave to 4th Ave, which were included in the feasibility study in case this area is considered for a camera system in the future. The coordinator said that Inspector Arneson answered the three questions about the system which came out of Safety committee discussions about the issue:

- A camera system will not jeopardize the assignment of day and night beat officers to the area.
- If crime moves off of Nicollet Ave and onto the side streets, police will redirect patrols to deal with it.
- The cameras will be monitored by police, not community members.

Rosensteel reported that the City group working on bike and pedestrian issues has agreed to look at safety concerns regarding riding bikes on sidewalks in commercial districts. He said that the group will look at a combination of signage, education, and enforcement to solve the problem.