

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – September 24, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Chris Dixon, City Attorney’s office; Molly McCarthy, Stevens Supportive Housing; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Adam Campbell, Stevens Community Associates; Arlene Storandt, Leeann Phillips, Robert Fischer, Jerry Paulson, Howard Penas, Eddie Chambers, Mary Gunderson, Charles Rosensteel, John Ryser, 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"> ▪ Stevens Square Farmers Market, every Wednesday from 2:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Plymouth Church parking lot at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ Project to clean up the 17th Street Overlook, 9/26, 8:30 a.m. to noon, meet at 17th & Stevens. ▪ Fall Clean Sweep, 10/3, 10 a.m. to noon, meet at Stevens Square Park. ▪ Discussion of the 2010 neighborhood policing plan at the 10/22 Safety committee meeting. ▪ Thanks to Leeann Phillips for bringing food to share with meeting participants. ▪ The coordinator apologized for failing to provide Google maps of police reports this month. Information on the number of arrests for alcohol, narcotics, and prostitution offenses will be presented at the 10/22 meeting. 	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 10/22, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.
Community Probation report – Probation Officers Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen	Bobbi Harrington reported that it’s been a very quiet month. She and Jean Schwalen will try to get recently convicted chronic offenders Judy Peters and Karen Loken added to their caseload. Possible Hennepin County budget cuts of about \$30 million for next year could result in increased caseloads for probation officers. No probation officers have been hired this year.	Contact info: Bobbi.Harrington@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8075 Jean.C.Schwalen@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8212

<p>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Chris Dixon</p>	<p>Chris Dixon reported that City budget cuts could result in the loss of one, maybe two, prosecutors next year, thus driving caseloads even higher. The City Attorney’s office handled about 35,000 cases in 2008, which is approximately eight times the recommended caseload per prosecutor. 5th Precinct paralegal Lisa Johnson is being transferred to the 1st Precinct; Johnson has been a great resource for SSCO, probation, and the community prosecutor, and will be missed by all. Police have conducted a series of prostitution sting operations in the area, which have resulted in the arrest and charging of chronic offenders Leanne Kehoe and Inez Green. Harrington and Schwalen will look into taking their cases if they are sentenced to supervised probation. The sting operations are ongoing.</p> <p>Dixon distributed copies of the 5th Precinct 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"> ▪ Pamela Beaulieu is in custody on prostitution and drug paraphernalia charges. ▪ Darryl Brooks has an active bench warrant. ▪ Pamela Cobenais has an active warrant for failing to report to the workhouse. ▪ Joseph Conklin was arrested for a warrant on 9/23 and is in custody for a probation revocation hearing. ▪ Tammie Houle, who has a number of cases dating back to 2007, is scheduled for a 10/27 appearance in Mental Health Court. ▪ Ronald King is in the workhouse until 10/28. ▪ Kenneth Nickaboine is in custody on \$1,000 bail pending a court appearance on 9/30 for five new cases, four of which resulted from recent arrests in Stevens Square. One of the cases – a trespassing offense at Tillie’s Bean coffee shop – is a gross misdemeanor, and the prosecutor will ask for a one-year sentence. Community members are strongly encouraged to submit community impact statements (c.i.s.) regarding the effect of the defendant’s behavior on the neighborhood. Statements can be sent by 9/29 to Lisa.Johnson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us Contact SSCO with any questions about this. Nickaboine has been arrested in the area 26 times in the past five years and has 32 prior convictions in Hennepin County. Copies of SSCO’s c.i.s. were passed around. <p>Dixon added a number of new offenders to the CLEAN sheet at SSCO’s request, including the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Curtis Batton goes to court on 10/14 for three new cases. ▪ Anthony Ford was arrested for a bench warrant on 9/23 and then released today with no bail required, even though he has five cases and a probation revocation hearing set for 10/1. ▪ Larry Harper goes to court on 10/13. ▪ Jessica Matt goes to court on 10/21. ▪ Judy Peters has several citations pending. <p>19 of the 30 offenders listed on the 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet are active in Stevens Square, which is partly due to the fact that the neighborhood 1) tracks and is aware of chronic offenders and 2) is served by beat officers who make a large number of arrests.</p> <p>Other issues were discussed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A group of intravenous drug users who had frequented Uptown but were now being seen in areas closer to Stevens Square. ▪ Bump keys, and whether they are being used to commit burglaries in Minneapolis. ▪ A recent decision by Judge Mark Wernick, in light of the potential health threat posed by the H1N1 virus, to suspend the bail schedule and release low-level offenders from custody immediately after booking. Wernick reversed his decision today after the City Attorney strenuously objected. 	<p>Contact info: Christopher.Dixon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5402</p>
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<p>Minneapolis Police report – Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams</p>	<p>Chelsea Adams provided a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during August. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 sexual assaults: 8/21 at an address on the 200 block of Ridgewood Ave, in which a victim, who met the suspect online and arranged a meeting, believes that she was drugged and sexually assaulted; 8/28 at an apartment on the 1800 block of Stevens Ave, in which a victim’s ex-boyfriend forced his way into her apartment and then strangled and sexually assaulted her. ▪ 1 robbery of person: 8/21 at 18th & Stevens, in which a victim was approached from behind by a male and a female suspect, hit on the head and knocked to the ground, and robbed of her purse. ▪ 1 condo building burglary: 8/2 at 1812 Clinton Ave, in which a bike was stolen from a storage locker. Otis Theodore Williams was subsequently arrested after he pawned the stolen bike. ▪ 11 thefts from motor vehicles at a variety of locations, which led to a suggestion that SSCO post flyers about ways to prevent this kind of crime and encouraging residents to call 911 if they see suspicious persons looking into parked vehicles. http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/docs/TIPSPREV.pdf <p>Other news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inspector Kris Arneson has transferred to take command of the 1st Precinct downtown. Eddie Frizell, a former sector lieutenant who worked closely with SSCO on alcohol-related problems, has been promoted to 5th Precinct Inspector. ▪ Adams provided a map of Part 2 crimes reported in the neighborhood during August, which included 10 narcotics offenses, 30 alcohol offenses, and 1 prostitution offense. ▪ 8 motor vehicle thefts (4 Hondas, 2 Acuras, 2 motorcycles) and 8 stolen vehicles recovered in Whittier and Stevens Square-Loring Heights from 9/1 to 9/15, plus 30 reported thefts from motor vehicles. Several of the stolen vehicles were abandoned a short distance away. Almost all of the thefts from motor vehicle involved breaking a window to gain entry and the theft of GPS units, purses, laptop computers, stereos, and CDs. Call 911 to report suspicious activity. http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/docs/PrevAutoTheft.pdf ▪ Police are investigating the theft of a local church directory which has resulted in attempts to swindle members. Typically, the suspect calls, mentions the church, and often asks for money to get his stalled car towed. Contact Chelsea.Adams@ci.minneapolis.mn.us if you have information about or have been contacted by the suspect, who has used a number of different names. ▪ There was a discussion about identity theft and financial and credit card fraud, and ways to prevent it and reduce the damage once it has occurred. http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-reporting/forgery-fraud.asp http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/docs/identity.pdf ▪ Personal Safety Workshop, 10/29, 6:30 p.m., Pratt School, 66 Malcolm Ave SE. Call Carol at 673-2874 to sign up. 	<p>Contact info: Chelsea.Adams@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2819</p>
<p>Priority concerns, hot spots, chronic offenders</p>	<p>Concerns were expressed regarding a number of incidents in the Clinton sector near Franklin Ave, including thefts from motor vehicles, suspicious persons looking into parked cars, and what appeared to be drug-related activity from a parked (and possibly abandoned) vehicle. Call 911 to report suspicious persons and vehicles.</p> <p>SSCO’s monthly chronic offender update featured cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laura Lavine: 3/5/09 criminal contempt of court at Franklin & 4th; 4/3/09 loitering with intent to buy or sell narcotics at 19th & 3rd. ▪ Larry Harper: 6/24/09 consuming alcohol in public and littering at Franklin & Clinton. ▪ Ronald King: 8/15/09 consuming alcohol in public and unlawful smoking at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ Karen Loken: 5/1/09 prostitution at 22nd & Nicollet. ▪ Judy Peters: 8/11/09 loitering with intent to commit prostitution at 2315 Nicollet Ave; 8/13/09 consuming alcohol in public at 2118 Blaisdell 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>Restorative Justice Community Action report</p>	<p>Community conferences to address livability offenses in south Minneapolis are set for 10/20 and 11/19 at 5:30 p.m. Contact Taryn Runck to participate. Information about the program is at http://www.rjca-inc.org/</p>	<p>Contact info: Taryn Runck TRunck@rjca-inc.org 746-0784</p>

<p>Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt</p>	<p>Arlene Storandt reported that, from 8/28 to 9/23, 13 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 12 shifts, contributing a total of 71 hours. Two shifts were cancelled.</p> <p>A committee member passed along a suggestion from a Board member that Block Patrol consider addressing the issues of homelessness, perhaps by inviting County social service workers to participate in shifts. The Board member had suggested that Block Patrol was performing a disservice to the homeless by not providing them with information or assistance. The coordinator responded that Block Patrol teams treat everyone with respect but absolutely do not seek to determine anyone’s housing status or give unsolicited advice. Block Patrol teams provide information about food, housing, and other social service resources to anyone who asks. Block Patrol teams call 911 if someone needs medical assistance. The St Stephens’ street outreach teams work downtown and don’t cover the Stevens Square area.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the downtown Ambassadors program (whose street workers wear yellow vests similar to Block Patrol’s), how it is funded (by the Downtown Improvement District, http://www.minneapolisdid.com/), and whether something like that could be started in or expanded to Stevens Square-Loring Heights. It appears to be a question of whether a similar amount of business and other private resources could be tapped in this area, which seems unlikely right now.</p> <p>The Block Patrol guidelines and application are at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Block_Patrol/</p>	<p>Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol.</p>
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Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.