

**Next SSCO Safety Committee meeting:
Thursday, October 23, 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 September 25, 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; David Hayhoe and Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Lisa Godon, City Attorney's office; Jennifer McDonald, Restorative Justice Community Action; Molly McCarthy, Stevens Supportive Housing; Don Lepper, Lydia Apartments; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Charles Rosensteel, Judy Austin, Eddie Chambers, Betty Winston, Faye Howell, Arlene Storandt, Mary Gunderson, Robert Fischer, Bonnie Bona, Melinda Langer, Laura Blue Bird, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Stevens Square farmers market will continue at least one more week: October 1, 2 to 6 p.m., in the Plymouth Church parking lot at Franklin & Nicollet.
- Fall Clean Seep, October 4, 10 a.m. to noon, meet in Stevens Square Park.
- Fall Harvest Festival, October 18, noon to 3 p.m. in Stevens Square Park.

COMMUNITY PROSECUTOR REPORT – Assistant City Attorney Lisa Godon

Godon passed around a copy 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 Godon pointed out that there was an active warrant again for CLEAN sheet offender Earlis Robinson, who had been arrested for a warrant following the August Safety committee meeting thanks to Judy Austin. Austin said that she went to Starbucks after the meeting and saw Robinson loitering outside. She said that there was a squad parked outside, so she approached an officer – a lieutenant – who was inside the coffee shop, showed him the CLEAN sheet with Robinson's mugshot and information about the warrant, and told him that Robinson was outside. The coordinator said that Robinson pled guilty on September 16 to an August 15 charge of consuming alcohol in public at 2120 Nicollet Ave and was sentenced to 30 days, with credit for 30 days served, and released. He said that Robinson was cited by the day crack team for consuming alcohol in public at 22nd & Harriet on September 17 and then failed to make a court appearance on September 24. The coordinator passed around copies of community impact statements regarding Robinson and chronic offender Randy McNellis which SSCO had submitted at Godon's request. SSCO asked that the court sentence the defendants to the maximum amount of time – 90 days for a misdemeanor – for each offense. He said that McNellis had been cited twice on August 1, first for consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & 4th by the day crack team, then for disorderly conduct and open bottle at Franklin & Nicollet by Metro Transit police. The coordinator said that these charges were dismissed as part of a plea agreement on September 5, for which McNellis was sentenced to 45 days; he was released from the workhouse on September 20. In response to a question by Chambers, Godon recommended that property owners trespass intruders under the State trespass statute, which involves issuing a written notice to the offender and copying police. A third conviction under the statute enhances the offense to the level of a gross

misdemeanor. Adams distributed copies of the form, which is available at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/

COMMUNITY PROBATION REPORT – Probation Officers Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen

Schwalen reported that CLEAN sheet offender Fatah Hashi, who is on her caseload, is in jail pending transfer to prison. She said that Hashi has been arrested and booked multiple times for misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors. Schwalen said that Godon requested community impact statements regarding Hashi, which the judge took seriously: Hashi's remaining time for a previous felony was revoked, and he will spend six months in custody and then seven months on parole. Schwalen said that this is an example of how community members can make a real difference, by calling 911 to report crimes and submitting impact statements when offenders go to court. Harrington reported that she now has CLEAN offender Robert Smythe on her caseload. In response to a question, Schwalen said that she and Harrington are supervising a number of Somali offenders because a lot of them live in the area. Harrington spoke about a recent episode of the TV show "The First 48" which featured Minneapolis police investigators successfully working on a homicide case in the Lyndale neighborhood. There was a discussion about the show and its accurate documentation of how investigators work and the obstacles they face in solving violent crimes.

MINNEAPOLIS POLICE REPORT – Lieutenant David Hayhoe and Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams

Lt Hayhoe introduced himself as the new sector 1 lieutenant for the 5th Precinct, responsible for supervising officers in the neighborhoods north of Lake St. He said that he has been with the Minneapolis Police department for 21 years, with a total of 26 years in law enforcement. Hayhoe said that he had worked in the Criminal Investigation division most recently. He said that he's still getting his feet wet in the new job, and praised the work done by Crime Prevention Specialist Adams. Adams reported that, in the neighborhood in August, there were four robberies of person (1915 Clinton Ave on August 10, Franklin & 4th on August 11 in which a suspect was arrested for taking money from a child, 19th & Stevens on August 19, and 1805 1st Ave on August 29) and two aggravated assaults in which arrests were made (Rudolph's at 1933 Lyndale Ave on August 1, in which a suspect assaulted a police officer, and 1811 2nd Ave on August 5, which was a domestic assault involving strangulation). Adams also reported that in Stevens Square-Loring Heights, year to date, robbery of person was down 57% compared to 2007, aggravated assault was down 79%, burglary was down 28%, and motor vehicle theft was down 45%; the only Part 1 crime which saw an increase was rape, which rose from 3 last year to 5 this year. Adams invited community members to attend a Personal Safety Workshop, sponsored by the SAFE Unit, on October 16 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Washburn High School, 201 West 49th St. She said the workshop will be presented by self-defense expert Mary Brandl. Adams distributed information about 5th Precinct resources including phone numbers, web sites, and e-mail lists; bike safety; and ways to improve home security and prevent residential burglaries.

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 August 25 to September 21, there were 22 alcohol-related arrests (42 last year), 11 narcotics-related arrests (15 last year), and no prostitution-related arrests either year. Year to date, there have been 286 alcohol-related arrests (289 last year), 137 narcotics-related arrests (160 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 August 25 to September 21, 16 reports were generated in the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave) and 51 in the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St). The coordinator pointed out the big drop in alcohol-related arrests; Harrington and Schwalen suggested that the reassignment of police officers during the Republican National Convention probably had an impact on the arrest numbers. 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_ssco@yahoo.com

PRIORITY CONCERNS / HOT SPOTS / CHRONIC OFFENDERS

- 1801 1st Ave – It appears that the problems at this building are being resolved. Residents are encouraged to call 911 to report trespassers.
- 1815 1st Ave – There are complaints about the disruptive behavior, including consuming alcohol in public, of a resident at this building. Residents are encouraged to call 911 to report disturbances and loud parties.
- 1904 1st Ave – There are reports that prostitution is still occurring at this building. The manager is working to resolve the problem.
- 1801 Stevens Ave, Stevens Square Park – There are fewer reports of problems in the park over the past month.
- 1808 Stevens Ave – There are reports of drug dealers working the front steps of this building, sometimes moving into the park.
- 1801 2nd Ave – It is unclear whether drug dealing is still occurring at this building.
- 1807 2nd Ave – There are reports of drug dealing at this building.
- 1912 3rd Ave – There are numerous reports of suspicious persons loitering in front of this building.
- Ongoing problems – A community member asked why some addresses always seem to be listed as problems, why the owners or managers don't take care of them, and whether Council Member Lilligren could put pressure on them to respond. The community member said that there are often excuses, but no improvements. Lilligren said that the City has ramped up its regulatory authority over rental units during the past four years, and that referring addresses to the Problem Properties Unit might be a good way to resolve these problems. The community member said that SSCO took this approach toward a problem property on 4th Ave a few years ago, with good results. Lilligren said that the Safety committee could consider that option if other ways are not working. The coordinator said that SSCO has used this approach to resolve problems at two properties over the past few years, but that currently the property managers in question are cooperating with SSCO and the authorities. He said that he did not believe it would be appropriate or productive to bring these issues to the Problem Properties Unit. Another community member said that male drug dealers have changed tactics and are connecting with single female tenants to gain access to apartment buildings in order to conduct their business; the way to stop that would be to document the traffic and identify and trespass everyone who doesn't belong in a building. Adams said that other tools to stop criminal activity include adopting a crime-free lease addendum, in which residents are held responsible for the behavior of their guests. A community member said that most of the rental property owners in the neighborhood already have that in place. Another community member said that tenants also have a responsibility to keep their building safe by refusing to let intruders in and reporting those who commit crimes or break the lease rules. Another community member said that property managers are responsible for monitoring their buildings to make sure that they are safe and secure. Adams encouraged residents to call 911 with complaints about noise or other disturbances, which helps the police and property managers deal with these kinds of problems. She said that a pattern of documented complaints involving

police response can trigger warning letters to the owner from police, which can put pressure on the owner to resolve the problems or risk the loss of the rental license.

WARD 6 REPORT – City Council Member Robert Lilligren

Council Member Lilligren thanked the committee for the impressive work it has been doing, and referred to the data on the maps as an example of the progress which has been made due to active volunteers and staff. He spoke about the process of adopting the 2009 City budget, and suggested that community members pay attention to the budget hearings involving the Police department. Lilligren said that the Council plans to vote on September 26 on the structure of the community engagement program which will probably fund neighborhood organizations for ten years with about \$6 to \$10 million per year. He said that neighborhoods will probably see little difference in operations during the changeover from NRP. Lilligren spoke about the proposal to establish a citizen advisory commission to oversee the program, which would be staffed by an assistant city coordinator; half of its membership would be elected by the neighborhoods and half would be appointed by the Council and mayor. Lilligren asked if SSCO had taken a vote on whether to support the proposal, and suggested bringing the issue up at the Neighborhood Development committee. Lilligren also spoke about the Southwest LRT corridor: discussion is under way and a decision will likely be made regarding the route in January, 2009. There will be opportunities for more public input, including a public hearing. He said that more information can be found at www.southwesttransitway.org/

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMUNITY ACTION REPORT – Executive Director Jennifer McDonald

McDonald introduced herself as the new RJCA executive director and said that she started the job in July. She said that the Youth pilot project will begin in October, with the first community conference probably in November. She said that RJCA has successfully completed its first three years as its own nonprofit organization and is now developing a new three year plan with the intention of growing and expanding to cover the entire city. McDonald said that the program now operates in 18 neighborhoods, including all but two of the neighborhoods in north Minneapolis. She said that the program needs more community participation, and that volunteers are welcome to participate not just in the neighborhoods where they live but also in those where they work, worship, or go to school, such as downtown. McDonald spoke about the new 5th Precinct direct referral project, in which officers can refer eligible offenders to the program when they are cited for a qualifying offense. She said that the Franklin Ave beat officers have been great to work with, and that they talk with offenders and encourage them to participate in the program. McDonald said that about five cases have resulted from this project so far. The coordinator said that he had supervised most of these offenders, and that the agreements had gone very well. Two RJCA conferences for Stevens Square and/or Whittier offenders have been scheduled: November 6 at 5:30 p.m., and December 16 at 5:30 p.m. Call community coordinator Taryn Runck at 746-0784 to sign up.

BLOCK PATROL REPORT – Judy Austin

Austin reported that, from August 29 to September 24, 9 volunteers participated in 16 shifts, contributing a total of 62 hours. One shift was cancelled. One new volunteer, Molly, joined Block Patrol. Austin shared some stories from the Block Patrol log.