

**Stevens Square Community Organization**

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<http://www.sscoweb.org>



**Community Safety meeting minutes – January 22, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.**

Present: Ken Strobel, co-chair; Todd Loining, Aimee Colegrove, Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police department; Nikki Appelbaum, City Attorney's office; Tracy Fuller, Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge; Julian Gray, Fades of Gray; Janice Geis, Mint Properties; Jerry Paulson, Howard Penas, Corwin Morton, Kenya Weathers, John Louis, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye ( [dave\\_ssc@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_ssc@yahoo.com) )

**Note: A sheet with some of the information presented at this meeting is available at this [link](#) or by request.**

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community Safety meetings are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of every month at 6 p.m.</li> <li>▪ Dogs Days of Winter event at Washburn Fair Oaks Park, 1/24, 1 to 3 p.m., sponsored by SSCO and Whittier Alliance.</li> </ul>	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 2/26, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – Inspector Todd Loining, Officer Aimee Colegrove, CPS Chelsea Adams, Community Attorney Nikki Appelbaum	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Todd Loining: 2014 was a very successful year for the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct in terms of crime reduction and community engagement. All categories of Part 1 crime were down compared to 2013, except for aggravated domestic assault. In 2015, the precinct will be working on a number of initiatives which will benefit Stevens Square – Loring Heights. Loining has requested six permanent pole cameras and is trying to get access to more mobile police cameras. The staffing situation looks good, with strong beat patrols and <a href="#">Community Response Team</a>. Twenty six new officers will soon be sworn in and Loining will request eleven for the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct. The biggest problems in the neighborhood involve property crimes, and the precinct will continue to combat <a href="#">motor vehicle thefts, thefts from motor vehicles</a>, and <a href="#">burglaries</a>. Citizens can do a lot to help prevent these kinds of crimes: do not leave a vehicle idling unattended; do not leave anything that could appear to be valuable inside a parked vehicle; make sure the area around your residence is <a href="#">well lit</a>; lock garages; install <a href="#">security cameras</a> in areas which need surveillance; don't let strangers into your <a href="#">apartment building</a>; call 911 to report suspicious activity; <a href="#">license your bike</a> and document the serial numbers of belongings which can then be tracked if stolen.</p> <p>A community member reported that <a href="#">Minneapolis Public Housing Authority</a> has upgraded the security camera systems at its high rises in the neighborhood and feeds all of the data from its cameras system-wide to a central location. The budget for <a href="#">Project Lookout</a> – a resident-staffed security program – has increased this year to \$155,000.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: A list and map of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during the past month showed two robberies of person (1/14 at 1920 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, 1/17 at 1806 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave), two burglaries (12/25 to 12/30 of an apartment at 1707 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, 1/12 of a laundry room at 1825 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave), two motor vehicle thefts (12/30 at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; Nicollet, 12/31 at 326 East 18<sup>th</sup> St), five thefts from motor vehicles, and five other thefts. Current trends throughout the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct include an increase in burglaries of storage units and <a href="#">laundry rooms</a> (coins from machines) in apartment and condo buildings. Storage units can be vulnerable to break-ins; consider storing valuables, weapons, etc. elsewhere. Apartment companies are encouraged to use a token system for laundry machines if possible.</p>	<p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p>Nicole.Appelbaum@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p> <p><a href="#">Crime Prevention Resources</a></p> <p><a href="#">911 / 311 information</a></p> <p><a href="#">CRT</a> line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716</p>

Adams provided information about a swindler, who calls himself Michael Evans or Michael Davis, who has been active in the area since October. (Description: black male, 5'9" tall, light build, sometimes with a moustache, sometimes wearing a hat, 25 to 45 years of age.) He approaches victims and claims that he needs \$35 to get into St Stephen's homeless shelter, gives the victim a name (Katie, Kathy, Katherine) and number to call to verify this, and then requests a ride to an ATM for the victim to get the money or to the shelter at 22<sup>nd</sup> & Clinton if the victim has cash available. Contact Adams if you know who this is. Call 911 if you encounter this person.

Adams and Appelbaum provided updates on previous arrests in the neighborhood, including [John Iverson](#) (10/16/64) who was convicted of criminal vehicular homicide in the 2/3/14 death of a bicyclist at 600 West Franklin Ave and sentenced to the maximum penalty of four years in prison. He is due to be released from prison on 10/3/16 and will then be on parole until 2/1/18. SSCO submitted a community impact statement for this case.

Contact Adams to become a [block or building leader](#). Adams will ask block leaders to share the locations of any security cameras in their area with police so that officers could be aware of them when responding to an incident. The 2015 MPD Citizens Academy is set for Tuesday evenings (plus two Saturday mornings) from 2/24 to 4/28. For more information, contact Luther Krueger at [Luther.Krueger@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Luther.Krueger@minneapolismn.gov) Block leaders get first choice at participating in this program.

Presentation by Nikki Appelbaum: The [5<sup>th</sup> Precinct CLEAN list](#) was updated after an analysis using the program's criteria determined which offenders should be added or removed from the list. Appelbaum provided details on a number of cases. For example, one long-time offender now appears to be amenable to supervised probation and treatment and another, who has been civilly committed, may end up finding appropriate placement outside the metro area. Appelbaum spoke about the outcome of several cases being tracked by SSCO.

Presentation by SSCO staff: Since 2004, SSCO has tracked arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St, and identified 231 chronic offenders – defined as those who have been arrested in the area five or more times within two years. The number of these offenders arrested in 2014 was down 26.7% compared to 2013 and down 71.1% compared to 2006. Total arrests of these offenders in 2014 were down 38.8% compared to 2013 and down 85.8% compared to 2006.

During the same period of time and in the same area, SSCO has also tracked top offenders – defined as those who have been arrested five or more times in the area in a calendar year. There was one offender who met this criterion in 2014, compared to 3 in 2013 and 33 in 2005. Total arrests of these offenders in 2014 were down 66.7% compared to 2013 and down 97.9% compared to 2005.

Since 2005, SSCO has tracked all arrests for alcohol, narcotics, and prostitution offenses in the same area. In 2014, alcohol-related arrests were down 37.5% compared to 2013 and down 69.6% compared to 2009; narcotics-related offenses were down 27.4% compared to 2013 and down 85.6% compared to 2006; prostitution-related arrests declined from 105 in 2005 to 0 in 2014. Combining the numbers for all three of these categories, arrests in 2014 were down 35.3% compared to 2013 and down 77.7% compared to 2006.

Staff acknowledged the contributions of the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Community Attorney, Neighborhood Probation, SSCO volunteers, business and rental property owners, and other community organizations toward achieving these

	<p>outcomes. Appelbaum noted that the flow of information among these organizations has resulted in a successful partnership that has managed to reduce livability crime significantly in the area.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> There was a discussion about why street prostitution has almost disappeared from the area. 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct CRT has conducted numerous details in the area over the years designed to eliminate this traffic from the streets, targeting both those offering and soliciting prostitution. Community members decided not to tolerate these crimes on their blocks. Organizations such as <a href="#">PRIDE</a> offer help to those trying to escape from prostitution. The business model of prostitution has changed due to the prevalence of online solicitation and illegal massage parlors which has moved much of the criminal activity off the street. The new judicial approach to treating juveniles engaged in prostitution as victims instead of perpetrators is also having an impact. There are still some areas of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct in which street prostitution is still a problem. <a href="#">Publishing the names and photos</a> of those convicted of soliciting prostitution can be an effective deterrent, along with imposing conditions of release such as mandatory HIV testing. Despite efforts to arrest and prosecute pimps, Minnesota still ranks high nationwide as a location for <a href="#">sex trafficking</a>.</p>	
<p>Neighborhood-related safety ideas and concerns</p>	<p><u>Community concern</u> Drug-related loitering and traffic in the Clinton sector (3<sup>rd</sup> Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave), especially at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were 11 police reports in this area in the past month, the same number as in the previous month. There were no drug-related arrests. Two violent crimes (robberies) and seven property crimes (one business burglary, one apartment burglary, two motor vehicle thefts, two thefts from motor vehicle, one damage to motor vehicle) were reported. There was a report of suspicious loitering behind the commercial building at 1905 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, especially between 7:30 p.m. and 2 a.m. There were reports of suspicious persons loitering in the alleys; of others checking car doors on the street to see if they were locked; of drug dealers parked on the street, waiting to connect with buyers. Call 911 to report suspicious activity. In regard to drug dealing, a community member suggested recording the license plate number and <a href="#">description of any vehicles</a> involved and reporting them to police. Key community strategies for preventing and reducing crime include calling 911 to report incidents to police; documenting/photographing/filming and reporting suspicious activity; and conducting surveillance – either in person or by camera – of hot spots. A rental property manager spoke about the difficulty of explaining criminal incidents to new residents – and their parents. Ultimately, a neighborhood which actively works to reduce crime will achieve the best results.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> At the SSCO community meeting on 12/20/14, recommendations and observations were made regarding safety in the neighborhood, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Block Patrol should have a bigger presence at night.</i> Staff will poll active Block Patrol members in February about implementing recommendations from the program evaluation completed last year, including whether to schedule late-night shifts.</li> <li>▪ <i>Make the neighborhood a drug-free area.</i> SSCO has an ongoing focus on reducing narcotics-related loitering and traffic in the Clinton sector, especially at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>. (see above) In 2011, <a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> Precinct CRT</a> conducted undercover details on Franklin Ave which resulted in the conviction of 21 drug dealers for felony offenses. Drug-related arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St, are down from 367 in 2006 to 53 in 2014, a decline of 85.6%.</li> <li>▪ <i>Safety is much better in the neighborhood.</i></li> </ul>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 12/19/14 to 1/22/15, 7 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 14 shifts, contributing 40 hours. One new member joined Block Patrol.</p>	

	<p>During 2014, 25 volunteers contributed a total of 808 hours. 10 of these volunteers each contributed 24 or more hours. Altogether, 11 new volunteers joined Block Patrol in 2014, 8 volunteers who were active in 2013 moved out of the neighborhood, and 6 other volunteers who were active in 2013 no longer participated. This resulted in a net loss of 3 volunteers in 2014 compared to 2013.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams: spoke with about three dozen community members on the streets; reported street lights out and an abandoned vehicle to 311; frequently spoke with our beat officers and neighborhood probation officers; gave directions to a person looking for the Woman's Club on Oak Grove St; spoke with a resident regarding a package that had been stolen from the entryway of a condo building – the victim had made a police report via 311; were approached by a person who wanted to know if bars still gave free drinks on a person's birthday, and advised the person to ask the bartenders; frequented neighborhood coffee shops, the mall center, a fast food restaurant, and Scratchy's book box; attended the Neighborhood Activities Group meeting; spoke with a person who was emptying a public trash container and asked where she might obtain more trash bags – the team suggested that she contact SSCO or 311; twice checked on the welfare of a person who was sleeping on a park bench in below-freezing weather and gave her a brochure from St Stephen's street outreach; was approached by two Park police officers who were looking for a suspect – the team pointed out a person they had encountered who matched the description; spoke with two residents who told a team about an attempted robbery of a security volunteer at a Public Housing high rise in the neighborhood; received a drive-by shout-out ("Yay! Block Patrol! Whoo hoo!") at Franklin &amp; Nicollet from the daughter of a Block Patrol volunteer; came upon a suspicious male acting out at Franklin &amp; Nicollet, standing in front of vehicles which were making left turns, waving his arms and shouting, causing them to stop to avoid hitting him; encountered a nunchucks-wielding ninja warrior at Franklin &amp; Clinton – the team decided to keep its distance; returned a stray trash container to its rightful home in the park; and watched Metro Transit police dealing with a well-known offender on Nicollet Ave. How cold <u>was</u> it? One sub-zero evening, a team came upon a frozen squirrel reclining on a sidewalk on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave but was unable to investigate further because the switch on the team's flashlight had frozen in the "off" position.</p>	<p>Join Block Patrol – it's an easy and fun way to get to know people in your neighborhood and find out what's happening here. Contact: dave_ssco@yahoo.com or Dave at 874-2840</p> <p><a href="#">Application and guidelines</a> are at the SSCO web site.</p>
<p><a href="#">Community Safety plan</a> – progress report</p>	<p>The initial planning meeting regarding SSCO's partnership with <a href="#">Little Earth</a> did not occur as scheduled. The project involves educating new Hennepin County Criminal Court judges about the impact of livability crimes on the community. Efforts are underway to arrange a new meeting.</p> <p>The discussion of whether to ask the <a href="#">Sexual Violence Center</a> to make a presentation to the community about how to combat street harassment was tabled until the 2/26 meeting due to time constraints.</p>	

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.