

Safety Committee minutes – January 23, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.



Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Chelsea Adams, Rob Illetschko, Scott Watry, Minneapolis Police department; Jennifer Saunders, City Attorney’s Office; Dave Hautman, Franklin Nicollet Liquor; Amanda Hilligoss, Paul Soderquist, Dee Tvedt, Jerry Paulson, and safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_sscoweb@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

Note: A sheet with some of the information presented at this meeting is available from SSCO on request. Contact the safety coordinator at dave_sscoweb@yahoo.com or 874-2840.

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The committee tabled recommendations about how to better cope with the needs of the community until its 2/27 meeting. ▪ Community Probation Officer Jean Schwalen is retiring on 1/31. Schwalen has served the neighborhood for almost eight years and attended her first Safety committee meeting on 3/23/06. 	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 2/27, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.
Minneapolis Police report – CPS Chelsea Adams, Officers Rob Illetschko, Scott Watry	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: 1) List and map of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during the past month. No burglaries occurred. 2) Spreadsheets/charts of annual crime statistics for the neighborhood from 2006 to 2013, percentage of crimes by category reported in the neighborhood in 2013 compared to the 5th Precinct as a whole. Violent crime was up across the board in 2013 – citywide, 5th Precinct, and in the neighborhood – although overall it remains at the lowest level in 30 years.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by staff: 1) Spreadsheet/charts of Part 1 crimes reported annually in the neighborhood from 1998 to 2013. The total number of property crimes in 2013 dropped 25.9% compared to 2012, with motor vehicle theft – down 58.9% compared to 2012 – at its lowest level since the current police tracking system began 16 years ago. 2) Spreadsheet/charts of arrests for certain livability offenses in the area from 2005 to 2013. The trends are positive: total arrests for all categories were down 14.2% compared to 2012 and down 65.5% compared to 2006.</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> The positive results are due to a number of factors, including smart and consistent police enforcement, strong follow-up by prosecutors and probation, cooperation by businesses, rental property owners, and social service providers, support from community members and organizations. Commercial and residential redevelopment projects in the neighborhood have also contributed to the trend. It’s unclear what is driving the increase in violent crime, although police have responded with successful robbery suppression details in impacted areas.</p> <p><u>Suggestion:</u> Increase police presence at and around businesses at Franklin & Nicollet, especially on the southwest corner, from 8 to 10 a.m. to discourage loitering and panhandling.</p>	<p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p>Crime Prevention Resources</p> <p>911 / 311 information</p> <p>CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716</p>
Community Attorney report – Assistant City Attorney Jennifer Saunders	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Jennifer Saunders: 5th Precinct CLEAN list. One individual on the list was recently convicted of burglarizing a neighborhood business and received a 15-month stayed sentence and supervised probation. The 1st Precinct Community Attorney is leading the move to expand the monthly court for St Stephen’s Human Services clients who are homeless to a court which convenes twice monthly and can include any offender who is homeless.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by staff: Spreadsheets/charts of arrests of two categories of repeat offenders in the area from 2004 to 2013. The trends are positive: the arrest numbers by category in 2013 are down 40% and 46.5% compared to 2012 and down 78.3% and 93.6% compared to 2005.</p>	Jennifer.Saunders@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402

	<p><u>Discussion:</u> The positive results are due to the focus of law enforcement agencies, neighborhood organizations, and social service providers on finding ways to prevent or reduce problematic behavior in the community. Homelessness is part of the lives of many who commit livability offenses. Various government agencies and social service organizations are working to provide housing for those who are frequently caught up in the criminal justice system. Examples include Heading Home Hennepin, St Stephen's Human Services, Veterans Court and other problem-solving and specialty courts, the Wilder Foundation and its statewide survey of homeless people, and Utah's initiative to end homelessness. A combination of housing services and mental health treatment is often the most successful approach to resolving these problems.</p>	
<p>Neighborhood-related safety ideas and concerns</p>	<p><u>Community concern:</u> Sexual assault near a bus stop at Franklin & Chicago late afternoon on 1/18. No information is available beyond what appeared in press reports based on a crime alert. Contact CPS Don Greeley at 673-3482 for information about that area.</p> <p><u>Community concern:</u> Illegal consumption of alcohol in Stevens Square Park. There were no police reports or arrests in the park or the surrounding blocks at all in the past month. Consistent enforcement by police at the park early in the spring in 2012 and 2013 appears to have succeeded in significantly reducing the number of incidents. The 5th Precinct has agreed to continue this strategy in 2014. Arrests for alcohol offenses in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, in 2013 were down 16.2% compared to 2012 and down 51.3% compared to 2009.</p> <p><u>Community concern:</u> Drug-related loitering and traffic in the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave), especially at 19th & 3rd. No drug-related arrests have occurred in this area for the past three months. The 5th Precinct continues to focus on this area. Arrests for drug offenses in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, in 2013 were down 7.6% compared to 2012 and down 80.1% compared to 2006.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol report – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: 1) Update for the past month. From 12/20/13 to 1/23/14, 6 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 11 shifts, contributing 30 hours. Block Patrol teams assisted four people, providing bus directions and snow emergency information and receiving comments about the need for Block Patrol at 15th & Park (outside the neighborhood) and an inquiry about an incident at a Public Housing high rise. Block Patrol made no 911 calls. One shift was cancelled due to a National Weather Service wind chill warning. In partnership with the Community Engagement committee, Block Patrol teams will door-knock apartment buildings one night per week during February and March to recruit new volunteers and publicize SSCO events, meetings, and activities. 2) 2013 recap. During 2013, 28 Block Patrol volunteers contributed a total of 889 hours. A core group of 10 of these volunteers each contributed 24 or more hours. 9 new volunteers joined Block Patrol, 2 inactive volunteers returned, 5 volunteers moved away, and 1 volunteer became inactive. This resulted in a net increase of 5 volunteers (+21.7%) and 51 hours (+6%) over 2012. Block Patrol teams made 9 calls to 911 to report crimes in progress, which resulted in the arrests of 4 offenders. Block Patrol teams door-knocked 483 apartments in 20 buildings, spoke with the residents of 194 units (40%), and signed up 101 residents for the SSCO e-mail list. Block Patrol teams participated in the following events: Art Squared, 5th Precinct Open House, Cinema & Civics, Red Hot Art, 5th Precinct presentation on 911 and burglary prevention, and a "get out the vote" project on Election Day. Block Patrol soda sales at summer events totaled \$221. Block Patrol organized and staffed a successful Open House celebration at the Stevens Square Police Substation. Over the past 14 years, 181 Block Patrol volunteers have contributed a total of 17,060 hours.</p>	<p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>
<p>Topics for discussion</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by staff: Draft recommendations on ways to enhance the committee and Block Patrol in order to better serve the needs of the community. Any decisions have been postponed to the 2/27 meeting.</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> There was an objection to having the Safety committee organize a National Night Out (NNO) event, as directed by SSCO's Strategic Plan, because that is in violation of the spirit of NNO and beyond the capability of the committee. SSCO already has a committee to organize events. NNO's purpose is to help neighbors on a block or in a building get to know each other, and any gathering is organized by a block leader. The focus is on a small geographic area, not an entire neighborhood. Part</p>	

of the problem is that there are few, if any, block leaders left in the neighborhood who have the capacity to do that. It's unclear how the Strategic Plan is revised and how one is able to get involved. An additional recommendation for the committee to consider suggests participating in that process.

Discussion: There was a question about whether the Police department works with rental property managers to recruit block leaders or make information available at leasing offices. Many residents are interested in getting to know – and getting together with – their neighbors but there is no information available or easy way to facilitate that. Adams will explore how that could be accomplished; the Police department has set a goal of having 90% of the blocks in the city organized by the end of 2015. Block Patrol might be willing to help door-knock if any block leaders need assistance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.