



Stevens Square Community Organization
(612) 874-2840
<http://www.sscoweb.org>

Community Safety meeting minutes – January 25, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Corwin Morton and John Littlejohn, co-chairs; Jennifer Neale, Minneapolis Police department; Matt Wilcox, City Attorney’s office; Drew Kirch, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Jerry Paulson, Richard Evans, Paul Soderquist, Amanda Skiscim, Neill Burnett, Ken Strobel, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoeye (dave_ssc@yahoo.com)

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next Community Safety meeting: 2/22 at 6 p.m. The meeting takes place on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. 	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 2/22, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – 5 th Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist Jennifer Neale, Community Attorney Matt Wilcox, Probation Officer Drew Kirch	<p>Community Attorney Matt Wilcox reported that 5th Precinct Inspector Kathy Waite was unable to attend the meeting because MPD is in operational mode for the Super Bowl. Waite wants the community to know that, due to heavy police presence downtown for the next two weeks, some of the offenders who regularly hang out there may be displaced. Stevens Square is one of the neighborhoods which may be impacted. Police are working to create a safe and secure environment for the game-related events and are not intentionally removing anyone from the area, but experience shows that offenders tend to move elsewhere when police presence increases substantially.</p> <p>Wilcox reported on the outcome of a case of concern to the community: Quyla Fisher (2/10/84) was convicted of disorderly conduct for an incident on 10/9/17 at Third Avenue Market, 1905 3rd Ave. She was sentenced to 90 days, with credit for 72 days served. Fisher, who has six prior convictions in Hennepin County during 2017, was arrested for 2nd degree assault with a dangerous weapon and initially charged with terroristic threats.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Wilcox and Neighborhood Probation Officer Drew Kirch: Stevens Square offenders who are on the 5th Precinct CLEAN list. All of Ellery Charging Thunder's (2/20/54) misdemeanor cases have been dismissed because he has been found incompetent to stand trial. He is no longer restricted from the area. A petition has been filed with the court to have him civilly committed to a state psychiatric hospital. In the meantime, he continues to offend in the neighborhood. For example, Metro Transit police responded on 1/24 to a report that Charging Thunder was drinking vodka and causing a disturbance at a bus stop at Franklin & Nicollet. Charging Thunder was the top offender in the area in 2017 with 10 arrests. Sharee Barrett (7/10/81) will be released from prison on 3/18 and will be on parole until 2/7/19. She has many prior arrests at Franklin & Nicollet; her current prison sentence is for burglary at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave. Rachael O’Gorman (12/24/76) is in the workhouse until 2/23 for a trespassing conviction. She had been on supervised probation for the first time, and had violated her conditions of release. Another trespass case is set for court on 2/28. If convicted, she will be subject to enhanced penalties (up to 365 days) for any further trespass convictions. There is a warrant out for the arrest of Corey Harges (12/27/90) who failed to return to the workhouse – where he is serving sentences for robbery and 3rd degree burglary – after being temporarily released. He faces escape from custody charges.</p>	<p>Crime Prevention Resources</p> <p>911 / 311 information</p> <p>Crime Prevention Specialist Jennifer.Neale@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p>Matthew.Wilcox@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p> <p>CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716</p>

Presentation by SSCO staff: Information on arrests for livability offenses and of repeat offenders in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St. The data goes back to 2004 for repeat offenders and to 2005 for livability offenses.

2017 alcohol-related arrests

- 49 arrests, down 36.4% compared to 2016 (77 arrests) and down 87.6% compared to 2009 (394 arrests).

2017 narcotics-related arrests

- 43 arrests, up 2.3% compared to 2016 (42 arrests) and down 88.3% compared to 2006 (367 arrests).

2017 prostitution-related arrests

- 1 arrest. No arrests in 2014, 2015, 2016. 105 arrests in 2005.

2017 arrests for all three categories combined

- 93 arrests, down 21.9% compared to 2016 (119 arrests) and down 88% compared to 2006 (774 arrests).

2017 arrests of chronic offenders (five or more arrests within two calendar years)

- 21 arrested, down 22.3% compared to 2016 (27 arrested) and down 81.6% compared to 2006 (114 arrested).
- 39 total arrests of chronic offenders, down 48.1% compared to 2016 (81 arrests) and down 90.3% compared to 2006 (401 arrests).
- From 2004 to 2017, 250 chronic offenders have accounted for 2,859 arrests in the area.

2017 arrests of top offenders (five or more arrests in a calendar year)

- 1 arrested, compared to 6 in 2016 and 33 in 2005.
- 10 total arrests of top offender(s), down 72.3% compared to 2016 (36 arrests) and down 95.8% compared to 2005 (235 arrests).
- 2017 top offender: Ellery Charging Thunder (2/20/54) with 10 arrests.

Presentation by Crime Prevention Specialist Jennifer Neale: From 12/22/17 to 1/25/18 in the neighborhood, there were:

- 2 robberies of person: 1/4, 5:30 p.m., at Franklin & Nicollet in which suspects asked a person for a cigarette, then robbed him at gunpoint after the person went to an ATM and withdrew \$300; 1/9, noon, at 1926 3rd Ave in which acquaintances injured a person, dragged him out of this apartment building, and robbed him of \$300 – two persons were arrested for felony warrants.
- 1 rape: 12/8, 3 p.m., at 19th & Nicollet (?), in which a person was raped by an acquaintance – the exact location is unknown.
- 2 burglaries: 1/1 at an apartment in 1913 Stevens Ave, forced entry in which a TV and laptop computer were taken; 1/1 at Giant Laundromax, 1922 Clinton Ave, in which cash and keys were taken from an office.
- 4 motor vehicle thefts, 2 of which occurred while the vehicles were running.

Neale provided information about [preventing motor vehicle thefts during the winter](#). Do not leave a vehicle running unattended with the key in the ignition. Call 911 to report a stolen vehicle. If an owner finds his or her stolen vehicle, call 911 to report that it has been recovered. MPD today released a crime alert for Whittier neighborhood which has seen a recent increase in motor vehicle thefts. The number of motor vehicle thefts in Stevens Square – Loring Heights during 2017 (37) spiked to the highest level since 2007, and was more than double the numbers reported for each year from 2013 to 2016. There's been a widespread problem with thefts from motor vehicle throughout the 5th Precinct, especially at popular bars and restaurants. Many of the recent incidents involved forced entry, and are not the result of vehicles being left unlocked.

There was a discussion about the decline in narcotics-related arrests in the area. Many of those arrests are now made as a result of traffic stops by police. Compared to ten years ago, few arrests are made at apartment buildings or on the street, which highlights the changes which have occurred in the ways that illegal drugs are bought and sold. Smart phones have changed the way that dealers interact with customers; they often arrange to meet at a certain time and place to conduct the transaction, and then leave the area. Due to changes in public policy, police now make few arrests for loitering with intent to buy or sell narcotics.

A community member applauded the successful focus on reducing livability crimes in the area and advocated for continuing and expanding that approach. Keeping the neighborhood clean and free of trash and litter should be part of the plan for the neighborhood and should have the support of the mayor and other City officials. Most of the problems facing the neighborhood are a result of the behavior of people who don't live here and don't care about the well-being of the community. Many of those who now rent in the neighborhood are doing their part to keep the area clean and safe. There was a comment about the amount of discarded food found in and around the park; chicken bones and other items can be a hazard for dogs. There are plenty of trash containers in the area.

Neale distributed copies of a request for community impact statements (c.i.s.) in regard to the arrest of John Lee Bartel (1/27/78) who is charged with 1st degree felony sale of meth, 1st degree felony possession of meth, and 2nd degree felony possession of meth as a result of a traffic stop in northeast Minneapolis on 1/17 and a subsequent forced entry search warrant executed at an apartment in 1913 Stevens Ave. Altogether, police seized about 83 grams of meth. Bartel is currently in custody on \$75,000 bail plus a U.S. Marshalls Service hold with a court appearance set for 2/20. To receive a copy of the information about the case and to submit a c.i.s., contact Christopher Band at the Hennepin County Attorney's office at christopher.band@hennepin.us

SSCO staff asked about the recent MPD community notification regarding Level 3 sex offender Frank Leo Sexton (3/15/64) who gave an address on the 1800 block of 2nd Ave. The notices were distributed on 1/9 and MPD released information on 1/12 that Sexton was now homeless and not living in Stevens Square anymore. Do police have an obligation to verify that an offender is legitimately living at an address before they put out a public notification? In this instance, it appears that the offender was staying somewhere without the knowledge or permission of the property owner. Kirch said that if a sex offender was on supervised probation, then a check would normally be made regarding the address to make sure that it was in compliance with any conditions of the sentence. But Sexton is not on probation, and police used the address he gave them, with the understanding that it was a crime for him to provide false information. It appears that MPD is not required to contact a property owner or manager to verify the residence information provided by a Level 3 sex offender. There was a discussion about the various risk factors involved in the authorities' determination of how likely it is for a sex offender to re-offend, and about how the process makes it difficult for a convicted sex offender to succeed in reintegrating into society.

Presentation by SSCO staff: Information on Part 1 (serious) crimes reported in Stevens Square – Loring Heights in 2017, compared to data going back to 1998.

- No homicides,
- 7 rapes, up 133.3% compared to 2016 (3) and down 41.7% compared to 2000 and 2011 (12).
- 31 robberies, up 10.7% compared to 2016 (28) and down 53.1% compared to 1999 (66).
- 27 aggravated assaults, up 28.5% compared to 2016 (21) and down 18.2% compared to 2013.
- 65 total violent crimes, up 25% compared to 2016 (52) and down 35% compared to 1999 (100).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 27 burglaries, down 22.9% compared to 2016 (35) and down 55% compared to 1998 (60). ▪ 131 incidents of theft / larceny, up 43.9% compared to 2016 (91) and down 47.2% compared to 1999 (248). ▪ 37 motor vehicle thefts, up 117.6% compared to 2016 and down 21.3% compared to 2001 (47). ▪ 195 total property crimes, up 36.3% compared to 2016 (143) and down 43% compared to 1999 (342). ▪ 260 total Part 1 crimes, up 33.3% compared to 2016 (195) and down 41.2% compared to 1999 (442). <p>Staff highlighted the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total Part 1 crimes increased in 2017 after dropping year-to-year from 2012 through 2016. ▪ 2017 had the highest number of robberies – and total violent crimes – since 2011. ▪ Burglaries were down: only 2014 had fewer burglaries than 2017. ▪ The number of motor vehicle thefts in 2017 spiked to the highest level since 2007, more than double the numbers reported for each year from 2013 to 2016. 	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p>From 12/22/17 to 1/25/18, 12 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 15 shifts, contributing 61 total hours. One new volunteer joined Block Patrol.</p> <p>During 2017, 42 volunteers contributed 938 hours total. 25 new volunteers joined Block Patrol. Over the past 18 years, from 2000 through 2017, 258 Block Patrol volunteers contributed 20,150 hours total.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams: spoke with several dozen community members on the streets; stopped at neighborhood businesses to warm up, including Ace Hardware, Caring Medical, Giant Laundromax, Cajun Boiling, Boiler Room Coffee, CVS, and Third Avenue Market; frequently checked on construction of the new Franklin Ave bridge; spoke with an owner of a business on Nicollet Ave about a recent incident in which two plate glass windows had been broken by a male suspect throwing rocks; found a mummified, frozen squirrel on a sidewalk on Stevens Ave during a sub-zero shift; encountered chronic offenders J.B., W.E., D.R., and S.M. on Nicollet Ave – not all at the same time; saw a male urinate in public on the wall of Ace Hardware near the bus stop during a snow storm; found notification flyers blowing around the neighborhood regarding a Level 3 sex offender who reportedly lives in the area; watched an intoxicated male passerby attempt to help a female driver re-attach the front bumper to her car after it fell off in a parking lot along Nicollet Ave; saw a sheriff's deputy and two officers dealing with a situation in an apartment building on 3rd Ave – it turned out to be an aggravated robbery of person in which two people were arrested for felony warrants; reported that a dumpster enclosure was unsecured and that trash was strewn on the ground behind the Village Center Mall – the owner of the property resolved the problem quickly.</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 at 874-2840 or dave_ssco@yahoo.com</p>

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.