



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

Community Safety meeting minutes – January 26, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Corwin Morton, co-chair; Kathy Waite and Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police department; Matt Wilcox, City Attorney's office; P J Bensen and Morgan Miller, Hennepin County Probation; Mindy Mueller, MN Adult & Teen Challenge; Tiffany Lindquist, Mint Properties; Jill Ferguson, Jerry Paulson, Paul Soderquist, Evi Smirnitskaya, Ken Strobel, Ashlynn, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoeye (dave_sscoweb@yahoo.com)

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

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 2/23, 6 p.m., at 1925 Nicollet Ave. 	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 2/23, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – 5 th Precinct Inspector Kathy Waite, Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams, Community Attorney Matt Wilcox, Probation Officers P J Bensen, Morgan Miller	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Inspector Kathy Waite: There have been three homicides within a year and a half at the same apartment building on the 2100 block of 3rd Ave, which is south of Franklin Ave in Whittier. The suspect in the most recent case, which occurred on 1/14, has been charged with 2nd degree murder and is in custody on \$1 million bail. Waite will meet with representatives of the rental property company soon to develop a plan to prevent any further incidents at that address.</p> <p>There has been a rash of robberies of businesses – including Starbucks, Dunn Bros, and Subway – since early December in the 5th Precinct and elsewhere in the metro area. The same suspect(s) may be connected to some of the crimes. 5th Precinct staff has met with Starbucks management, which has shifted opening times to 8 a.m. in response to early morning robberies and temporarily hired an off-duty officer for at least one location. Chelsea Adams has contacted other shops owned by these business which have not been robbed in an effort to promote crime prevention measures such as making sure that windows are free of clutter so that people outside can see what's happening inside. Police plan to issue a crime alert about the robberies, with photos of suspect(s), on 1/27.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Matt Wilcox: Update about Stevens Square offenders who are on the 5th Precinct CLEAN list: Sharee Barrett (7/10/81) is scheduled to be released from the workhouse on 2/8. Barrett has been charged with 3rd degree burglary for an incident at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave, on 9/24/16, and has a court appearance set for 3/20. Barrett is also on probation for gross misdemeanor 5th degree assault until 9/12/18. Dahir Yussuf Aden (1/1/82) has been ordered by the court to report to the workhouse on 1/31 to serve the balance of his 365-day sentence for gross misdemeanor trespassing from 5/23/16. Patrick Addy (3/6/77) is in treatment and has two trespassing cases set for court on 3/7. Darryl Brooks (8/29/64) is on supervised probation for open bottle and gross misdemeanor trespassing and is expected to go to treatment within the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>There was a question about geographic restrictions for offenders as a condition of release. An Appeals Court recently ruled that violating a geographic restriction is just a probation violation and does <u>not</u> constitute criminal contempt of court, which is a crime. As a result, the City Attorney's office is pushing for the State Legislature to correct the problem in order to make the enforcement of geographic restrictions more effective.</p>	Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819 Crime Prevention Resources 911 / 311 information Matthew.Wilcox@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402 CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716

There was a question and discussion about [harassment restraining orders](#).

Presentation by Chelsea Adams: In the past six weeks in Stevens Square – Loring Heights, there were three robberies of person (12/22 at 1905 3rd Ave; 1/7 at Franklin & Nicollet; 1/15 at 18th & 3rd), one theft from person (1/21 at 18th & Nicollet), two assaults (12/29 at 1816 Nicollet, Village Center Mall; 1/11 at 1801 1st Ave), four burglaries (laundry room at 1920 3rd Ave on 12/21; community room at 1801 LaSalle Ave from 12/30 to 1/3; business at 1812 Nicollet Ave on 1/5; laundry room at 1810 3rd Ave on 1/18), two motor vehicle thefts (1/12 at 415 Ridgewood Ave; 1/18 at 18th & Stevens); five thefts from motor vehicles (12/23 at 220 East 19th St; 12/26 at 17th & Stevens; 1/18 at 137 East 17th St; 1/20 at Franklin & Nicollet; 1/21 at 1933 Lyndale Ave), and four other incidents of theft.

Adams provided other information, including:

- [Block leaders](#) are needed for the 1900 blocks of Pleasant, Pillsbury, and Clinton Aves – contact Adams to volunteer;
- Preventing [motor vehicle theft](#) during the winter – don't leave an unattended vehicle running or the key in the ignition;
- Smart phone apps for providing [tips to police](#) regarding crimes and [reporting problems to 311](#).
- [Registering a bike](#) for free via 311;

Adams provided an article from the [Inside MPD](#) website about 2016 crime trends in the city. In the article, Chief Harteau confirmed that statistics show "that our violent crime and our gun violence is escalating. It is driven by a small part of the population that has no concern for others . . ." Harteau stated that police "will continue to aggressively seek the perpetrators of this gun violence" and asked for the community to cooperate. Police "are looking for more adequate consequences for these violent criminals we are taking to jail." Homicides in the city were down 19.1% compared to 2015. The number of burglaries reported was the lowest in 36 years.

During 2016, there were 287 shooting incidents in the city which resulted in 344 victims, 56% of whom have gang association and 41% of whom are on probation. By race, 81% of the victims are categorized as black. Five of the victims had been shot in more than one incident, including one person shot three separate times. No shootings or homicides occurred in Stevens Square – Loring Heights.

Adams distributed copies of charts showing Part 1 (serious) crimes reported in Stevens Square – Loring Heights and in the 5th Precinct as a whole during 2016. In the neighborhood, 195 crimes were reported, 64.6% of which were burglaries and thefts. Precinct-wide, 3,873 Part 1 crimes were reported, 79.8% of which were burglaries and thefts. In terms of straight numbers, in 2016 Stevens Square – Loring Heights was the 37th highest crime neighborhood out of the 88 neighborhoods in the city. On average, 78% of the crimes reported in the neighborhood from 2006 to 2016 were property crimes. Adams emphasized that many property crimes are preventable.

Adams said that it's hard to determine why serious crime reports increase or decrease in a neighborhood year to year. Many factors are involved, including weather – a warm November coincided with a spike in robberies – and the increased willingness of residents to make police reports via 311.

Presentation by SSCO staff: The number of Part 1 (serious) crimes reported in the neighborhood during 2016 (195) was the lowest since CODEFOR tracking began in 1998, down 9.8% from 2015 and down 55.9% from 1999. The same is true for property crimes (143), down 15.4% from 2015 and down 41.8% from 1999. Robberies (28) were up 75% compared to 2015 and down 57.6% from 1999. SSCO staff made available information about the outcome of a homicide case from Whittier in 2015.

<p>Neighborhood-related safety ideas and concerns</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff: Alcohol, narcotics, and prostitution related arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St. 2016 saw the lowest number of arrests in these categories since tracking began in 2005:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arrests for alcohol offenses (77) were down 80.5% from 2009 (394). ▪ Arrests for narcotics offenses (42) were down 88.6% compared to 2006 (367). ▪ There have been no prostitution-related arrests in the past three years, compared to 105 in 2005. ▪ Total arrests for all three categories (119) were down 84.7% from 2006 (774). <p>For the same area in 2016, arrests (80) of chronic offenders (defined as those who have been arrested in the area five or more times within two years) were down 76.4% from 2006 (401). SSCO has identified and tracked 250 chronic offenders since 2004 who accounted for 2,819 arrest in the area. Arrests (36) of top offenders (defined as those who have been arrested in the area five or more times in a calendar year) were down 84.7% since 2005 (235). There were six top offenders in 2016: Shareet Lanette Barrett (7/10/81, 7 arrests), Darryl Brooks (8/29/64, 6 arrests), Abdi Mohamed Areis (1/1/85, 6 arrests), Ahmed Ahmed Jama (7/27/81, 6 arrests), Sharmake Abdullahi Mohamed (1/1/90, 6 arrests), Haweyo Skeikh Shuriye (1/1/80, 5 arrests).</p> <p>SSCO staff identified some key factors and partners that have produced these positive results in the area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing community commitment to reduce livability crime, including the neighborhood organizations, businesses, religious institutions, and nonprofits. ▪ Consistently heavy police enforcement of livability crimes, including the Franklin Nicollet beat officers, other 5th Precinct teams (911 responders, directed patrol, CRT), Park police, and Metro Transit police. ▪ Focusing on the cases of chronic offenders in the criminal justice system, including Neighborhood Probation, 5th Precinct Community Attorney and others in the City Attorney's office, and County Attorney staff. <p><u>Community comments / concerns:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dog owners who don't pick up waste – what can be done to address the problem? Report pet waste and off leash violations to Animal Care and Control via 311, including description and address of the pet and owner. Contact the rental property manager of the building where the owner lives and report the problem. ▪ Trash and litter – thanks to those who clean it up in the neighborhood! They have made a huge difference in changing the public's perception of the neighborhood and send a signal to others that people here care for the community and will not tolerate behavior that harms the environment. Block Patrol's presence has a similar impact, demonstrating that citizens are willing to take a stand to rid the area of street crime. ▪ 2101 3rd Ave – This is the address where the homicides discussed above occurred – see page 1. Tiffanie Lindquist from Mint Properties confirmed that her company will meet soon with Inspector Waite to discuss strategies to prevent this from happening again. SSCO staff said that there is no evidence to suggest that Mint Properties does not screen tenants: in tracking the three homicide cases, it appears that the residents on lease had no criminal history in Minnesota. Two of the incidents appear to have been domestic assaults. Inspector Waite said that there may be some actions the owner could take to keep a closer eye on what's happening at the building. Lindquist said that residents often call the office with information or complaints about suspicious activity and that the company follows up on those concerns. SSCO had not received any complaints about suspicious activity or traffic at that address, which is in Whittier neighborhood. ▪ Video surveillance cameras at Public Housing towers add extra eyes to the street and can help deter those engaged in criminal activity. ▪ Moves by the Legislature to allow liquor sales on Sunday – There is a bill (H.F. 30) in the Minnesota House of Representatives to allow sale of liquor at stores on Sundays, with limited hours (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.). A community member (not present at the meeting) asked if SSCO would consider taking a position in opposition to this bill, 	
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	<p>considering the neighborhood's long effort to reduce alcohol-related crime. SSCO staff looked up the arrest numbers for the past five years and found that, out of 739 alcohol-related arrests in the area, only 19 (2.5%) occurred on Sundays. This raised a question about whether changing the law to allow liquor sales on Sundays would lead to more violations and arrests in the area. Franklin Nicollet Liquor, 2012 Nicollet Ave, is opposed to changing the law. Since no one knows the opinions of neighborhood residents, the committee decided to table discussion of the issue and place it on the agenda of the 2/23 meeting so that neighborhood residents can be notified and invited to participate or comment.</p>	
<p>City Council Ward 6 report</p>	<p>The Ward 6 office was unable to send a representative to the meeting, but sent the end-of-year newsletter to distribute to attendees. The newsletter sums up Council Member Warsame's accomplishments in 2016.</p>	<p>Abdi.Warsame@minneapolismn.gov 673-2206 Ward 6 web site</p>
<p>Block Patrol news – Ashlynn</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ashlynn: From December 16 to January 26, 11 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 15 shifts, contributing 32 total hours. 2 new volunteers joined Block Patrol.</p> <p>During 2016, 45 volunteers contributed 779 hours total. 34 new volunteers joined Block Patrol. Over the past 17 years, from 2000 through 2016, 233 Block Patrol volunteers contributed 19,212 hours.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams: spoke with several dozen community members on the streets; spoke with our Franklin Nicollet beat officers; stopped at neighborhood coffee shops to warm up; observed a broken window at the Silver Building, 1924 4th Ave, which had been repaired with duct tape and was propped up by two nail-studded pieces of lumber – and arranged to have the problem reported to the City; spoke with a kid who wanted Block Patrol to organize neighborhood residents to shovel snow off the basketball court in the park – he offered to provide a shovel.</p> <p>During the 3 p.m. shift on January 20, a team watched a large political protest at Franklin & Nicollet which lasted almost an hour and featured numerous speakers. Someone burned a mannequin of the president near CVS. An officer later said that someone also tried to set fire to a tire. Police officers from all precincts were in the area, directing traffic, blocking off streets, and keeping an eye on the situation. The Block Patrol team spoke with Officers Aimee and Brianna, who were at Groveland & Nicollet. Groups of officers on bikes were stationed at various points. A drone was in the air, passing back and forth over the crowd. Several TV news crews were on the scene. The Grinch Who Stole Christmas made an appearance. At about 4:05 p.m., the protesters marched northbound on Nicollet Ave, into downtown. A large contraption featuring an illuminated eyeball and chomping jaws and teeth rounded up stragglers. After they were gone, the Block Patrol team picked up large pieces of trash and litter left behind, including a number of discarded protest signs.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the protest, how it played out, and its impact on MPD resources.</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_ssko@yahoo.com</p> <p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.