

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – January 28, 2010, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Michele McGaughey and Ken Strobel, co-chairs; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Eddie Frizell and Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Chris Dixon, City Attorney’s office; Hank Jensen, CVS Pharmacy; Lee Blons and Jennifer Larson, Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation; Laura VanHoever, BDC Management Co.; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Arlene Storandt, Mary Gunderson, Robert Duckworth, Judy Austin, Laura Blue Bird, Jerry Paulson, Eddie Chambers, Enzi Tanner, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_scco@yahoo.com or 612-874-2840)

Meeting agendas and minutes are at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Agendas_and_Minutes/

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements – contact SSCO to volunteer or for more info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Art Squared fundraiser to benefit SSCO: Saturday, 3/13, 7 to 10 p.m., at Tillie’s Bean, 1931 Nicollet Ave, featuring local art for sale and raffle, live art, live music, wine, beer, light appetizers. Tickets: \$5 in advance (soon to be on sale at Tillie’s Bean), \$8 at the door. http://www.sscoweb.org ▪ SSCO is hiring an Outreach coordinator: 10 to 15 hours per week supporting the Community Engagement committee and doing outreach to the neighborhood. For further information visit http://www.sscoweb.org Application deadline: 2/12. ▪ 2010 Citizens’ Police Academy: Thursdays, 6 to 9 p.m., from 3/11 through 5/20 at a location in north Minneapolis to be determined. For further info visit http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/citizens-academy.asp Application deadline: 2/19. ▪ SSCO has asked the MPD Sex Crimes unit to schedule a community notification meeting regarding Level 3 sex offender Brent Murray Spafford (8/13/80) who is residing on the 1900 block of 1st Ave. For information about this offender visit http://www.corr.state.mn.us/level3/OffenderDetail.asp?OID=204745 and http://info.doc.state.mn.us/publicviewer/Inmate.asp?OID=204745 	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 2/25, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.
Community Probation report – Probation Officers Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen	<p>Jean Schwalen reported on the cases of two of her clients who are well-known offenders in the neighborhood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kenneth Nickaboine, who has a warrant; ▪ John Dye, who pled guilty to felony domestic assault (and misdemeanor consuming alcohol in public, a case handled by Chris Dixon) and is serving a 23-month prison sentence with a release date of 12/1/10. <p>Bobbi Harrington reported that Inez Green has a warrant.</p>	<p>Contact info: Jean.C.Schwalen@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8212</p> <p>Bobbi.Harrington@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8075</p>

<p>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Chris Dixon</p>	<p>Chris Dixon distributed copies of the 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet and reviewed the status of the 2009 top 13 Stevens Square offenders identified by SSCO, those who were cited or arrested in the area five or more times during the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ronald King (10 arrests) – Serving 120 days in the workhouse as part of a 365-day sentence. When King is released on 3/21/10, he is restricted from area 2 of the 5th Precinct (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St). If King violates his conditions of release, the judge will send him back to the workhouse to serve another 120 days. SSCO submitted a community impact statement regarding King on 12/22/09: King was released from jail that day at 11:53 a.m. and was back in jail at 2:08 p.m. following an arrest at 22nd & Nicollet for consuming alcohol in public. Staff praised Judge Daniel Moreno for agreeing with SSCO’s recommendations to hold the defendant in custody on bail until the new case was resolved, imposing the maximum sentence for the main offense (gross misdemeanor trespassing, from another case), and imposing a geographic restriction as a condition of release. ▪ Darryl Brooks (7 arrests) – No new arrests in the area. ▪ Harry Leftbear (7 arrests) – An emerging chronic offender who will be added to the CLEAN sheet in March. ▪ Kenneth Nickaboine (7 arrests) – On probation, has a warrant, 185 days remaining from a previous sentence. ▪ Judy Peters (7 arrests) – On probation, no new arrests. ▪ Anthony Ford (6 arrests) – No new arrests in the area, but cases from the 1st Precinct are pending. ▪ Earlis Robinson (6 arrests) – Three warrants. ▪ Larry Harper (5 arrests) – No new arrests in the area. ▪ Rick Martinez (5 arrests) – No new arrests in the area, but cases from the 1st and 3rd Precincts are pending. ▪ Walter Weyaus Sr (5 arrests) – Will probably be added to the CLEAN sheet in March. <p>The other 2009 top offenders are Pamela Beaulieu (6 arrests), James Jeffries (5 arrests), and Eric Robinson (5 arrests). The good news is that few of these offenders have been arrested in the neighborhood in the past several months. The CLEAN sheet is at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/docs/Pct5CLEAN.pdf</p> <p>Dixon is trying to schedule a meeting with Hennepin County court staff to ask that “consuming alcohol in public” and “loitering with open bottle” be taken off the list of payable offenses and added to the list of bookable offenses due to the impact of these crimes on the livability of neighborhoods such as Stevens Square-Loring Heights. SSCO submitted a letter to the court in support of these changes, copies of which were passed around: “This policy of treating crimes which cause significant harm to our community as payable offenses makes it more difficult to solve the problems associated with this behavior. Providing immediate consequences for chronic offenders – by booking them in the jail and holding them on bail pending a first court appearance – is an effective way to hold those who routinely disregard the law and make our neighborhood unsafe accountable for their actions.” Police have issued 1,776 citations for alcohol-related offenses in the area over the past five years.</p> <p>On 12/22/09, a judge dismissed a case against Ronald King from 11/18/09 at Franklin & Nicollet because the mouthwash (which typically contains 25% to 30% alcohol) which the defendant was drinking does not meet the definition of an “intoxicating liquor” in state statute. The public defender assigned to the case made that argument. Public consumption of denatured alcohol, such as that contained in mouthwash, is not prohibited by the state because it is not intended for human consumption. Dixon said that the City Attorney is looking into a legal fix for this loophole, either through amending the state statute or passing a city ordinance. There was a discussion about whether consumption of substances which are inherently harmful to people needs to be specifically prohibited under law, and how and where one might draw the line. There was agreement that this behavior is a problem among a number of chronic inebriates who frequent the neighborhood. On a motion by Mary Gunderson, seconded by Laura Blue Bird, the committee recommended that SSCO ask its City Council member and State legislators to amend the law to prohibit public consumption of alcohol-based mouthwash and cough syrup. Individuals are also encouraged to contact their elected officials about this issue.</p>	<p>Contact info: Christopher.Dixon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5402</p>
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<p>Minneapolis Police report – Inspector Eddie Frizell, Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams</p>	<p>Chelsea Adams presented the 2010 neighborhood policing plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2009 crime statistics: decreases from 2008 in aggravated assault (-43%), motor vehicle theft (-24%), burglary (-33%), and other theft (-9%), thereby far exceeding the performance measures set in the 2009 policing plan. Robberies increased 35% from 17 to 23, with a big jump occurring in November and December (7 in 2009 compared to 0 in 2008). For annual statistics on Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood from 1998 to 2009 visit http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Crime_Information/documents/CODEFORcrimesannually_001.pdf ▪ Neighborhood concerns: livability crimes, loitering at bus stops, security camera system for Nicollet Ave. Based on numbers compiled by SSCO, arrests for livability crimes in the area increased by 3.5% overall in 2009, thus exceeding the performance measures. Alcohol arrests were up 10.7%, narcotics arrests down 15.5%, and prostitution arrests up 22%. ▪ 2010 neighborhood policing strategies: reducing burglaries; targeted livability enforcement; police security camera system for Nicollet Ave; beat officers; collaborative efforts with Metro Transit police. ▪ SSCO commitment: continue the work of Law Enforcement Group; educate community members to report crimes and suspicious activity to 911 and to CRT (narcotics investigations, 673-5716) as appropriate; continue to operate Block Patrol and host Safety committee meetings. ▪ 2010 performance measures: 5% decrease in burglaries; 2% decrease in robberies; 2% increase in arrests for livability crimes. <p>A link to the neighborhood policing plan will be added to the SSCO web site as soon as it's posted online by MPD.</p> <p>Adams provided a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during December. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 robberies of person: 12/5, 11:25 p.m., at 19th & 1st in which two suspects in a vehicle pulled up to victims standing by a parked vehicle and demanded money at gunpoint; 12/8, 6:10 a.m., 1912 3rd Ave, in which two suspects pulled up in a vehicle, forced a victim who was doing maintenance behind this building into his own vehicle at gunpoint, and began driving to the north side with the intention of finishing robbing the victim, who eventually jumped out of the vehicle and ran and hid; 12/26, 10:25 p.m., at Ridgewood & Pleasant in which a suspect on the sidewalk jumped a victim from behind and stole the victim's wallet, keys, and cell phone. ▪ 1 robbery of business: 12/21, 7:20 p.m., at 19th & Nicollet in which two suspects who were passengers in a taxi held a handgun to the driver's head, demanded money, and took the driver's cell phone. ▪ 1 rape: 12/4, 11:25 p.m., at an address on the 1900 block of 3rd Ave in which a female victim stated that she followed an unknown male suspect to his apartment where he raped her. ▪ 1 arson: 12/4, 6:10 a.m., in which a vehicle was set on fire at 1801 2nd Ave. ▪ 3 apartment burglaries: 12/12 at 1816 Stevens Ave; 12/28 at 1926 3rd Ave; 12/24 – 12/30 at 1706 2nd Ave. ▪ 2 motor vehicle thefts: 12/8 at 1912 3rd Ave (part of the robbery incident described above); 12/18, 401 Ridgewood Ave. ▪ 2 thefts from motor vehicles: 12/4 at 1800 Clinton Ave; 12/4 at 17th & 1st. <p>There were no recent reports of laundry room burglaries in the area.</p> <p>The committee welcomed Inspector Eddie Frizell, the commander of the 5th Precinct. Frizell, who had been the sector lieutenant for the area including Stevens Square-Loring Heights a couple of years ago, said it was great to be back in the 5th Precinct after his stint running the Police Academy. Officers are working hard to eliminate crime in the area, trying to make sure that offenders active in the 3rd Precinct don't gain a foothold on this side of 35W. Franklin Ave day beat Officer Deb Hubert is doing an outstanding job, putting up phenomenal arrest numbers in the area. The MPD, including the precinct commanders, are trying to do more with less as a result of recent budget cuts. Frizell believes that staffing beat patrol positions is crucial to reducing crime and establishing and maintaining good relationships with the community. However, due to new contractual limitations, only 10% (instead of the previous 20%) of the sworn officers in the 5th Precinct can now be assigned at the discretion of the precinct commander to those kinds of jobs, including beat patrols and the community response team (CRT). The Franklin Ave day beat is down to one officer; the other officer is on a three-month career enrichment program and Frizell may have contractual power to put him back on the beat when he returns. The precinct is using statistical analyses and models to help make decisions about where to deploy increasingly limited resources to areas where the need is greatest, which are called focus zones. It's crucial for police to establish partnerships</p>	<p>Contact info: Chelsea.Adams@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2819</p> <p>Eddie Frizell@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-3422</p>
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<p>Priority concerns, hot spots, chronic offenders</p>	<p>Shooting at 1926 3rd Ave – Just after midnight on 1/17, police were dispatched to 1926 3rd Ave on a report of shots fired in the area. A 23-year-old male was arrested and booked for 2nd degree assault with a dangerous weapon, but has not been charged. Two victims were identified: a 17-year-old female and an 18-year-old male. The male victim was admitted to HCMC five hours after the initial call but refused to cooperate with police. Police identified 13 other persons who were at the scene, one of whom was listed as a victim of 5th degree assault. A vehicle parked on Franklin Ave over a block away was hit by two rounds, presumably from this incident. There was a discussion about some of the details of this incident, and the concerns of community members were shared. Representatives of the apartment building owner and property management company reported that the tenant at whose apartment the incident apparently began has agreed to vacate the premises on 1/31/10. Eviction proceedings for non-payment of rent were already under way when the incident occurred, and the complaint was amended to include the reports of bodily harm and property damage which resulted from the shooting. An off-duty officer working security will be at the property on the nights of 1/28, 1/29, and 1/30.</p> <p>SSCO’s monthly chronic offender update featured cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Curtis Batton: 8/3/09 trespassing and open bottle at 1800 Stevens Ave; 8/11/09 possession of liquor in a park at 2200 3rd Ave, Fair Oaks Park; 8/25/09 consuming alcohol in public, violation of the city drug ordinance, and littering at Franklin & Stevens. ▪ Maxim Chance: 1/5/10 5th degree assault at 2000 Nicollet Ave, Starbucks Coffee. ▪ John Dye: 8/6/09 trespassing at 1929 3rd Ave; 8/14/09 consuming alcohol in public at 24th & Nicollet. ▪ Ronald King: 12/22/09 consuming alcohol in public at 22nd & Nicollet. 	<p>Contact SSCO to receive a printed or e-mailed copy of the monthly chronic offender update, which features the outcome of court cases resulting from arrests in the area along with the names of the sentencing judges and mugshots of the offenders.</p>
<p>Restorative Justice Community Action report</p>	<p>A community conference to address livability offenses in south Minneapolis neighborhoods is scheduled for 3/4 at 5:30 p.m., location to be determined. RJCA facilitator training is set for 2/19, 2/20, 2/21, and 2/25. For information about attending this four-day training session or about participating in the community conference, contact Taryn Runck. http://www.rjca-inc.org/</p>	<p>Contact info: Taryn Runck TRunck@rjca-inc.org 746-0784</p>
<p>Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt</p>	<p>Hank Jensen, manager of the CVS store at 2001 Nicollet Ave, thanked Block Patrol volunteers for doing a great job at making the neighborhood safer and especially keeping their eyes on Franklin & Nicollet. Jensen dropped off CVS gift bags containing a number of items for all active Block Patrol volunteers as a way to demonstrate his appreciation.</p> <p>From 12/11/09 to 1/27/10, 10 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 21 shifts, contributing a total of 92.5 hours. Two shifts were cancelled.</p> <p>During 2009, 27 Block Patrol volunteers contributed a total of 993 hours. Ten volunteers contributed more than 24 hours of service. Over the past ten years, 157 volunteers participated in Block Patrol, contributing a total of 13,515 hours. Thanks to everyone who has made Block Patrol one of SSCO’s most important and successful projects since 1991! Chelsea Adams said that SSCO has a reputation among police for being the best organized neighborhood in the city when it comes to crime prevention and reduction.</p> <p>There was a discussion about ways to recruit more Block Patrol volunteers, especially by improving the group’s appeal to new residents and providing more incentives to volunteers. The number of volunteers has been dropping for the past two years, mostly because the number of new recruits is not keeping pace with the number of volunteers (14 in 2008 and 13 in 2009) who have moved out of the neighborhood, although the number of dedicated, core volunteers has not declined significantly.</p> <p>The Block Patrol guidelines and application are at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Block_Patrol/</p>	<p>Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol.</p>