

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Community Safety meeting minutes – January 28, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Laura Blue Bird, co-chair; P J Bensen and Morgan Miller, Hennepin County Probation; Chelsea Adams and Brianna Garman, Minneapolis Police department; Keith Rowland and Jeff Johnson, Minneapolis Park Police; Nikki Appelbaum, City Attorney's office; Meg Barke, St Stephen's Human Services; Wendy Lowry and Geanna Roth, Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Julian Gray, Fades of Gray; Jerry Paulson, Howard Penas, Bruce Sikkema, Corwin Morton, John Ryser, Mary Sheppard, Ken Strobel, Emma Erspamer, Ted Hunter, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoe

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"> ▪ Probation Officer Anne Forsyth-Gillette has taken a job with the Pre-Trial Conditional Release unit downtown. She had been a neighborhood probation officer in Stevens Square since September, 2013. Anne – who participated in Block Patrol, Community Safety meetings, Law Enforcement Group, and other neighborhood projects and events – said that it was a pleasure working with community members and appreciates all they have done to keep the neighborhood safe. A new Stevens Square probation officer will be on the job in about a month. ▪ Winter Fest – which is sponsored by the Minneapolis Park & Rec Board, Citizens for a Loring Park Community, and Friends of Loring Park – is set for 2/11, 6 to 8 p.m., at the Loring Park Community Center, 1382 Willow St. The event features free horse-drawn carriage rides, snow shoeing, ice skating, outdoor bonfire with s'mores and other refreshments, holiday crafts, and a dance performance. ▪ Next Community Safety meeting: 2/25. 	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 2/25, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – CPS Chelsea Adams, Officer Brianna Garman, Park Police Sgt Keith Rowland and Sgt Jeff Johnson, Community Attorney Nikki Appelbaum, Neighborhood Probation Supervisor P J Bensen,	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: A list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood from 12/18/15 to 1/28/16 included two rapes (each involving a male suspect and a female victim), one robbery (1/6 in the alley behind the Third Avenue Market, 1905 3rd Ave), three burglaries (1/13 to 1/16 at 1811 1st Ave, 1/17 at 214 Groveland Ave, 1/18 at 216 Ridgewood Ave), two motor vehicle thefts (12/19 and 1/3, both at 19th & 2nd), two thefts from motor vehicles (12/21 at 1801 LaSalle Ave, 1/16 at 325 Ridgewood Ave), three shoplifting incidents (at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave, in which suspects were arrested including Darryl Brooks, the top neighborhood offender with 47 arrests in the area in the past eleven years), and four other incidents of theft. No aggravated assaults were reported.</p> <p>Adams provided updates on two incidents the committee has been tracking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mohamed (or Mohammed) Ali Elmi (1/1/90) has been charged with kidnapping, three counts of 1st degree criminal sexual conduct, and two counts of 1st degree aggravated robbery in an incident on the 1800 block of 2nd Ave on 8/4/15. Elmi, who has been in custody on \$500,000 bail since 8/5/15 at the Hennepin County jail and is also being held without bail for violating parole on a burglary conviction, is set for trial on 2/16. ▪ Eugene Watkins (8/31/96) pled guilty to 1st degree murder in an incident from 5/6/15 at 2101 3rd Ave, in which he allegedly tried to rob a drug dealer in an apartment at that building which resulted in the shooting death of the dealer and the wounding of Watkins. Sentencing is set for 3/7. 	<p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p>Crime Prevention Resources</p> <p>911 / 311 information</p> <p>Nicole.Appelbaum@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p> <p>CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at</p>

<p>Probation Officer Morgan Miller</p>	<p>Adams presented the Part 1 (serious) crime numbers for the neighborhood for 2015, along with the numbers for each year going back to 2006. Compared to 2014, the total number of crimes reported dropped 19.6%. Robberies declined by 40% and aggravated assaults were down 17.3%. Burglaries increased 45.8%. For 2015, Stevens Square – Loring Heights (with 201 crimes reported) was the 33rd highest crime neighborhood in the city, which has 88 neighborhoods. This doesn't take into account the predominance of property crimes here, as opposed to violent offenses. For example, looking at the numbers going back to 2006, 78% of the total crimes reported in Stevens Square – Loring Heights were property crimes. Information going back to 1998, compiled by SSCO, showed that the total number of all crimes reported in the neighborhood in 2015 was the lowest number recorded during that entire period, with motor vehicle thefts also at a record low. Robbery, for example, was down 78.5% compared to 1999.</p> <p>Adams provided other information about becoming a block or apartment building leader; preventing motor vehicle theft by not leaving one's vehicle running unattended – there have been a number of such vehicle thefts reported in the precinct; preventing theft of packages delivered to one's home; and security for residents of apartment buildings.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Nikki Appelbaum: Update on 5th Precinct CLEAN list offenders. Dahir Yussuff Aden (1/1/85) has been added to the list and has three cases pending. Sharee Barrett (7/10/81) is in custody on \$20,000 bail for burglary and has nine misdemeanor cases also set for court on 2/26. Appelbaum asked SSCO to submit an updated community impact statement regarding Barrett and requested statements from affected businesses in the area. Darryl Brooks (8/29/64) has two cases, including a gross misdemeanor, set for court on 3/21. Ahmed Abdi Hired (1/1/86) is in custody on \$30,000 bail for felony domestic assault out of St Louis Park. David Omurwa (12/10/84) is doing well on supervised probation in HOMES court. Ellery Charging Thunder (2/20/54) is on supervised probation to Morgan Miller and has been ordered to report to the workhouse on 2/2 to serve part of his sentence for gross misdemeanor trespassing.</p> <p>SSCO staff made available summaries of outcomes of cases from the neighborhood involving five offenders. As an experiment, staff included photos of the sentencing judges in the cases in addition to photos of the offenders, and asked if this was something the committee would like to continue to see. Most participants saw value in having the judges' photos included, although law enforcement staff cautioned the group to keep in mind 1) that probation officers, for example, often have a lot of influence in determining a sentence and 2) that certain judges are assigned to specialty courts dealing with specific categories of offenders (veterans, the homeless, the mentally ill) or offenses (drugs, DWI) and that the outcomes in those courts can be custom-designed to address an individual's problems in an effort to help reduce their criminal behavior.</p> <p>SSCO staff made available a list of the top neighborhood offenders of 2015, those who had been arrested here five or more times: Sharee Barrett, 7/10/81 (9 arrests); Ahmed Abdi Hired, 1/1/86 (7 arrests); Ahmed Adan Ali, 1/1/80 (6 arrests); Mohamed Hassan Ali, 1/1/79 (6 arrests); Omar Abdirahman Ibrahim, 1/1/90 (6 arrests); Abdisemed Mohamed Ali, 1/1/70 (5 arrests). Most of these 39 arrests took place in neighborhood parks, community gardens, and commercial districts. In 2014, only one person met the top offender criteria, accounting for five arrests total.</p>	<p>specific addresses or locations): 673-5716</p>
<p>Neighborhood-related safety ideas and concerns</p>	<p><u>Community concern</u> Suspicious males causing problems at and around Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge (MNTC), 1717 2nd Ave. Staff from MNTC reported on a series of recent incidents which have caused great concern among staff and female residents. On 1/8, a shooting involving occupants of two vehicles occurred at 18th & 2nd and was witnessed by MNTC residents; police responded but no arrests were made. Ongoing aggressive harassment perpetrated by groups</p>	

of mainly Somali males has affected the safety of residents and staff. Some of those involved stay at a nearby apartment building; others wander into and out of the area on foot. Incidents include: loitering on MNTC property and refusing to leave; approaching staff getting out of vehicles in the parking lot; approaching vans transporting residents and staff; attempting to get residents to leave MNTC and go with them; propositioning residents for sex; offering to provide a ride to residents in exchange for sex; following and specifically targeting residents for harassment, to the extent that residents need to be prepared to physically defend themselves or to run away in order to escape them; yelling obscene remarks through the fence at visitors, including children; breaking into vehicles in the parking lot; causing employees who park elsewhere in the neighborhood to fear for their safety. Some of the males appear to be engaged in sex trafficking. Some of them may be under the influence of drugs such as khat. Some of those involved could be on the CLEAN list or the 2015 neighborhood top offender list – some residents could identify them by sight, but their names are unknown. At this time, residents are no longer allowed outside due to the imminent threat presented by these males. Staff worry that this activity will soon lead to the facility gaining a reputation as unsafe due to criminal behavior in the neighborhood.

The group discussed possible responses to these problems: MNTC plans to install [security cameras](#) and post [No Trespassing signs](#). Use the [Trespass notice form under State statute](#) to trespass individuals from the property for a year; if the suspect has been identified, ask the Franklin – Nicollet beat officers to serve the trespass notice to him. Call 911 for a police response to incidents in progress. Suspects may be charged with disorderly conduct if there is a victim willing to make a police report. Park police can charge suspects with disorderly conduct under [Park ordinance](#) – which is greater in scope than the City's ordinance and the [State statute](#) – if the offense occurs in the park. The rental property company which owns the nearby apartment building has not been helpful so far; SSCO staff will contact them. Adams offered to conduct a security check at MNTC, talk with staff and residents about the situation, and provide information about those who conduct self-defense and personal safety workshops. Contact the [Sexual Violence Center](#) and check on the resources they have available. Block Patrol has been watching the property and today saw a group of seven males walking southbound through the alley behind the MNTC facility. SSCO will follow up with MNTC staff in regard to having its residents [join Block Patrol](#) as a way to help deal with these problems.

The project to combat street harassment might also pertain to this situation. MNTC staff expressed interest. Right now, SSCO staff is waiting for a response from [MCAD](#) student organization(s) about whether they would like to co-sponsor and host the initial community discussion about street harassment.

Community concern Drug-related loitering and traffic in the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave), especially at 19th & 3rd. There were seven police reports in this area during the past month, compared to five in the previous month. There were no narcotics-related arrests. One robbery of person occurred in the alley behind the Third Avenue Market. One misdemeanor assault was reported at 18th & 3rd. Two motor vehicle thefts – both involving a vehicle running with the key in the ignition – occurred at the BP Service Station, 2000 3rd Ave. No burglaries or aggravated assaults were reported.

In the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, there were 53 narcotics-related arrests or citations in 2015, the same number as occurred in 2014. The number of arrests / citations was down 85.6% compared to 2006.

Community concern Illegal consumption of alcohol in the neighborhood. During 2015, there were 121 alcohol-related arrests or citations in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, compared to 120 in 2014. The number of

<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p>arrests / citations was down 69.3% compared to 2009.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 12/18/15 to 1/28/16, 5 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 17 shifts, contributing 28 total hours.</p> <p>During 2015, 16 Block Patrol volunteers contributed 565 hours total. A core group of 7 volunteers each contributed more than 24 hours. Block Patrol door-knocked 382 units in 19 apartment buildings. Block Patrol organized an open house at the Stevens Square Police Substation, helped plan and staff the National Night Out event in the park, and participated in other community events including Cinema & Civics, Red Hot Art, Dog Days of Winter, a personal safety and self-defense workshop, the 5th Precinct open house, and the Fall Harvest Festival. Block Patrol earned \$435 from the sale of beverages at summer events.</p> <p>Total Block Patrol participation from 2000 to 2015: 199 volunteers contributed 18,433 hours.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams spoke with a couple dozen community members on the streets; were accompanied on a shift by a grad student who also works for the Park police; conducted surveillance of drug houses on 3rd Ave and 4th Ave; watched our beat officers ticket and tow a car on Clinton Ave that was involved in a hit-and-run incident; patrolled the Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge property on 2nd Ave in response to complaints about suspicious males loitering in the area; spoke with our beat officers at the police substation who reported that the City wifi network was down; watched three males involved in suspicious transactions outside the Mall Center; crossed paths numerous times with well-known offender Sharee Barrett; noticed that the biff had been removed from the park for the winter; assisted drivers throughout the neighborhood in understanding the City's snow emergency parking rules; watched kids playing in the snow in the park; called our beat officers regarding a group of five suspicious males on Nicollet Ave pouring vodka into juice bottles; saw the disgusting aftermath of a large number of crows roosting in trees around the park – bird droppings everywhere, including parked vehicles covered with it; admired the twelve new beer taps at Reverie Café and Bar, formerly known as The Nicollet.</p> <p>Block Patrol will door-knock apartment buildings once a week during February and March to share information about the neighborhood and to recruit new volunteers.</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> <p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>
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Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.