

Community Safety meeting minutes – October 23, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.



Present: Ken Strobel and Laura Blue Bird, co-chairs; Anne Forsyth-Gillette, Hennepin County Community Probation; Todd Loining, Mike Frye, Adrian Infante, Aimee Colegrove, Brianna Garman, Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police department; Nikki Appelbaum, City Attorney's office; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Tracy Fuller, MN Adult & Teen Challenge; Dave Hautman, Franklin Nicollet Liquor; John Louis, Jerry Paulson, John Ryser, Michele McGaughey, Kathleen Hicswa, Jill Ferguson, , and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoeye (dave_ssc@yahoo.com)

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"> ▪ Designs for new playground equipment at Stevens Square Park were presented. The proposal goes to the Park Board for approval on 11/5. If approved, construction will begin in the spring. ▪ SSCO's Fall Fest is set for 10/26, 1 to 3 p.m. in Stevens Square Park. ▪ SSCO has partnered with three other neighborhood associations along Nicollet Ave on the Nicollet Votes project with the goal of engaging community members to increase voter participation. ▪ In response to community concerns about crime in the area, the 5th Precinct arranged for the Park police to place a mobile police camera in Stevens Square Park. Thanks to heavy and consistent enforcement by the 5th Precinct and Park police, alcohol-related arrests in the park are down 66.7% compared to last year. Inspector Loining stated that the camera will be removed soon but that he is working to have another camera placed on 3rd Ave as soon as one becomes available. Park police have 3 mobile cameras and MPD has 16. ▪ Upcoming Community Safety meeting dates: 11/20, 12/18. 	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 11/20, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – Inspector Todd Loining, CPS Chelsea Adams, Sgt Mike Frye, Sgt Adrian Infante, Officers Aimee Colegrove, Brianna Garman, Community Attorney Nikki Appelbaum, Probation Officer Anne	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Todd Loining in regard to staffing the Franklin – Nicollet beat in 2015: After the shift bidding process is complete, Stevens Square will have the same beat officers overall. The selections have been made and everything is in place and ready to go. Loining is very pleased to be able to keep Officers Colegrove and Garman in that position. As a whole, the 5th Precinct will have an additional ten officers within two to six months as a result of the four current and scheduled Police Academy classes which will bring MPD's level of sworn officers back up to 860 by the latter part of 2015. Loining will also be able to continue staffing day and night Community Response Teams (CRT) in the precinct.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: A list and map of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during the past month showed three robberies of person (10/5 at Franklin & Nicollet, 10/8 at 18th & Nicollet, 10/18 at Franklin & 1st), one aggravated assault (10/7 in which a victim of a gunshot wound was found in a vehicle which was stopped on the 1900 block of 3rd Ave for a traffic violation), two burglaries (10/10 at 1707 3rd Ave, 10/13 at 500 Ridgewood Ave), eight incidents of theft or shoplifting, and one motor vehicle theft (10/11 at 19th & 3rd). None of the violent crimes involved victims from the neighborhood, and the victim of the aggravated assault refused to cooperate with police and the case was closed. Year to date, serious crime in the 5th Precinct is down in every category except aggravated domestic assault compared to last year.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: Follow-up on incidents discussed in previous meetings, including charges against</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>

Forsyth-Gillette	<p>offenders involved in the 9/17 robbery at 124 Groveland Ave and the 9/18 aggravated assault in Stevens Square Park allegedly targeting Somali victim(s). John Iverson has pled guilty to criminal vehicular homicide in the 2/3/14 death of a bicyclist on the 600 block of West Franklin Ave; sentencing is set for 11/20 and community impact statements are due by 11/7. Contact Chelsea Adams or SSCO staff to submit a statement to the court explaining how this crime affected you.</p> <p><u>Introduction</u> by Nikki Appelbaum: Appelbaum introduced herself as the new 5th Precinct Community Attorney and gave a brief account of her career: graduated from law school in the early 2000s, worked as a law clerk for the Minneapolis City Attorney's office, served as a clerk for Hennepin County Judge Wieland, prosecuted drug crimes for the Hennepin County Attorney's office, moved to Chicago and later to Los Angeles, returned to the Twin Cities and worked as a judge's clerk until taking a position on one of the City Attorney's trial teams. Appelbaum is happy to be here and sees the community attorney position as a great opportunity to take a more proactive role in the criminal justice process, working with police officers and community members on the issues and problems which concern them directly.</p> <p>Appelbaum provided information on the outcome of a case involving the theft of a police bait vehicle in the area, updated the committee on the status of several 5th Precinct CLEAN list offenders, and discussed recent cases involving two offenders who are now restricted from the area as a condition of release.</p> <p>Anne Forsyth-Gillette spoke about a recent incident in which her colleague was targeted by an intoxicated aggressive panhandler outside their office on East 19th St. The suspect was arrested by Officer Garman and SSCO has submitted a community impact statement asking that the person be restricted from the area. Forsyth-Gillette said that she loves working in the neighborhood and is not going anywhere.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff: From January through September, violent crime in the neighborhood dropped 12.5% and property crime increased 3.6% compared to last year. This includes a 57.2% drop in criminal sexual assaults and a 20% decline in aggravated assaults. Burglaries are down 29.2% and motor vehicle thefts have dropped 14.3% in the neighborhood compared to 2013. The total number of Part 1 crimes reported this year is exactly the same as the number reported last year: 178.</p> <p>Staff made available the results of five criminal cases SSCO has been tracking.</p>	
Neighborhood-related safety ideas and concerns	<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. There were 12 police reports in this area in the past month, including two drug-related arrests (10/1 at 2000 3rd Ave, 10/18 at Franklin & Clinton). No violent crimes were reported. Reports indicate that complaints regarding 1900 Clinton Ave will soon be resolved. Arrests for drug offenses in the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, are down 42.9% compared to last year.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> In response to complaints regarding several rental properties on the 1900 block of Stevens Ave, SSCO compiled and analyzed information supplied by police and found that two addresses in particular had generated a large number of calls for police service plus a number of police reports and arrests. One of the properties – 1913 Stevens Ave – was placed on the City Problem Properties list in February. It appears that one or two units in both of these properties may account for the majority of the complaints. SSCO staff will continue to follow up on these issues.</p>	

	<p><u>Community concern</u> Illegal consumption of alcohol in the neighborhood. Arrests for alcohol offenses in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, are down 41.1% compared to last year. Total arrests in this area for alcohol, drug, and prostitution offenses are down 42% compared to last year.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 9/26 to 10/23, 14 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 24 shifts, contributing 55 hours. Two new members joined Block Patrol.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams: conducted surveillance at five addresses where there have been complaints about suspicious traffic, loitering, disturbances, or possible drug dealing; spoke with over four dozen community members on the streets; observed the new 3-D string art on a chain link fence near Nicollet Ave & I-94; watched an exciting game of Kubb being played in the park; asked a Metro Transit squad to check on a person who kept walking into traffic; spoke with a performer at an open mic event at a neighborhood coffee shop; called a rental property manager about suspicious activity at an apartment building; watched a well-known neighborhood offender loitering at Franklin & Nicollet numerous times; called 311 to report a dead deer – actually, it was a fawn – which had been dumped on a boulevard; waved and smiled at the mobile police camera in the park; reported to Xcel Energy three pairs of shoes hanging from a power line; watched two Metro Transit squads respond to an incident on a bus; spoke with two St Stephen's street outreach workers who were patrolling on bikes and invited them to attend a Community Safety meeting; checked on a person in a wheelchair who seemed to have difficulty navigating crosswalks; watched a person repeatedly putting his shirt on and taking it off while running through traffic; admired a drawing – actually, a numbered art print – which was stapled to a wooden utility pole; spoke with volunteers planting grass at a Public Housing high rise; followed up on a tip from our neighborhood probation officers about a suspicious group loitering in a commercial parking lot, who were gone when the team arrived; saw a large, shiny object in the top branches of a dead tree in the park and were unable to agree on what it was; said "no" to a panhandler who demanded a dollar; received a "drive-by thank you" from a passenger in a taxi; called 911 to report four persons smoking weed and causing a disturbance in the park – and then cancelled the call when they finished smoking and settled down; reported lights out and graffiti to 311; gave directions to a lost pizza delivery driver; attempted to give directions to two persons from Denver who could not agree on exactly where they were going; frequently spoke with our neighborhood beat officers and probation officers; were approached by a Park police officer responding to a complaint about an intoxicated person in the park; called 911 to report two persons who were physically fighting in the park, and then cancelled the call after the persons noticed the team and then stopped fighting and left the area; saw a sign in the window of a cell phone shop: "Pay your all phone pill here. With a great? welcome."; spoke with a well-known and loved neighborhood resident who came up with a new slogan for the organization: "Beware Stevens Square".</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_ssco@yahoo.com or Dave at 874-2840</p> <p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>
<p>Community Safety plan – progress report</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff: a review of, and update on, some of the strategies from the Community Safety plan. Block Patrol leaders plan to schedule meetings with volunteers over the course of the winter to review the recommendations of the program evaluation and decide what changes to implement and how to go about that. The group will seek the approval of all current volunteers before making any changes to the program.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> about a recommendation in the Community Safety plan: "The Safety committee will explore ways to better present and promote its accomplishments in a positive manner while making the detailed crime information it compiles available only on request." That information includes the complete, detailed list of Part 1 crimes reported by Adams; the full update on CLEAN list offenders reported by Appelbaum; year-to-date table and chart of Part 1 crimes</p>	

	<p>comparing this year to last; year-to-date table and chart of livability crime arrests comparing this year to last; links to SSCO's Google maps of police reports and arrests for the past month; summaries of SSCO's community impact statements; and detailed information about the outcome of the criminal cases SSCO tracks.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the potential benefits of making this information – which, unlike the meeting minutes, is not posted on the SSCO web site – more easily accessible. Making this information more widely available could better show the context in which the committee operates, it could help the committee promote its accomplishments by making clear the nature and extent of the problems it faces, and it could give community members a clear and unedited picture of what's happening here and what the organization and law enforcement are doing.</p> <p>A number of community members argued that withholding certain information unless requested shows a lack of transparency in the organization, as if the information were harmful and access to it needed to be controlled. The consensus of the group was to err on the side of transparency and accessibility when it comes to making this information available. Staff will look at how this could be accomplished, perhaps by including a link to the information sheet in the meeting minutes.</p>	
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Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.