

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>

Safety Committee minutes – October 24, 2013, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.



Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Anne Forsyth-Gillette, Hennepin County Community Probation; Rena Dudgeon and Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police department; Jennifer Saunders, City Attorney’s Office; Ron Martin, Licenses and Consumer Services; Claire Steinberg, Loring Nicollet Alternative High School; April Kelly, Stevens Community Apartments; Dave Hautman, Franklin Nicollet Liquor; Julian Gray, Fades of Gray; Thubten Tadin, John Holsten, and Mark Lowry, Tibet Kitchen; John Ryser, Jerry Paulson, Howard Penas, George Demars, Kerwin Jefferson, Antonio Trujillo, Arlene Storandt, and safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_ssc@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Due to the upcoming holidays, the committee will meet on 11/21 and 12/19. The regular meeting schedule, on the fourth Thursday of the month, will resume in January.▪ Block Patrol is planning an open house celebration for the Stevens Square police substation at 1905 1st Ave on 11/23 from 1 to 5 p.m. Details and publicity will be forthcoming. A planning meeting will be scheduled soon and anyone who would like to participate should contact SSCO (dave_ssc@yahoo.com or 874-2840).▪ Residents interested in becoming a crime prevention block leader should contact SSCO. CPS Chelsea Adams has offered to organize one-hour training sessions in the neighborhood if there is sufficient interest.▪ City Council Member Robert Lilligren sent an apology for being unable to attend this meeting.	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 11/21, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.
Tibet Kitchen license request – License Inspector Ron Martin, business owner Thubten Tadin	<p>Ron Martin announced that the owners of Tibet Kitchen, 1833 Nicollet Ave, have requested changes to the conditions of their license: 1) to remove the requirement that they hire an off-duty officer from 8 p.m. to midnight from Thursday through Sunday and 2) to extend the closing time from midnight to 2 a.m. The license was granted in August, 2012. The business would still provide an on-site security guard every night of the week. SSCO staff distributed copies of the 911 calls for service report for that address from 1/1/13 to 10/22/13, which shows seven calls regarding disturbances, customer trouble, intoxicated person, or suspicious person and one report of a burglary of business.</p> <p>Mark Lowry, a security guard who works at the business five nights a week, distributed copies of a statement on behalf of the business: "Since taking over the Gangchen and starting Tibet Kitchen, there have been several stipulations made by the licensing department that have negatively impacted our financial viability. The reputation and issues at this address are from the previous owner. The previous owner utilized inadequate and insufficient security. These inadequacies were resolved when we took control of the establishment. We are being unfairly restricted based on things that happened before we took over and that were out of our control. Our record speaks for itself and the lack of 911 calls and incident reports reflect the improvements that we had made prior to the stipulated license. We ask that we be judged by our success not the failure of the previous owners." Security staff can handle any issues at the business; an off-duty officer is not needed and requiring one has caused a serious financial impact on the business.</p> <p>A customer described the establishment as a family-run business with a diverse clientele and a respectful staff. There has been no violence or other problems there. An off-duty officer is not necessary and the business should be able to operate until 2 a.m. like other bars and restaurants in the area.</p>	

Another customer who has lived in the area for twenty years asked why the restrictions were put in place since the owners of Tibet Kitchen have no direct ties to the previous business at that address and there have been no problems since they began operating the bar and restaurant. Chelsea Adams stated that there had been issues with the previous business, Gangchen, in 2010 and 2011 related to assaults and other violent incidents. Two homicides occurred in a parking lot across Nicollet Ave. This created a negative perception of the business in the neighborhood.

Thubten Tadin, an owner of Tibet Kitchen, stated that, although he had no knowledge of any previous problems, he had an effective security plan in place. The license restrictions, which are hurting the business financially, were supposed to be lifted after a year if there were no problems. SSCO staff said that when the Safety committee was reviewing the request to change the license conditions in March and April of 2013, he learned that Licensing was planning to deny the request due to a citation against the business. It appears that Minneapolis police had responded to a situation on the 1800 block of Nicollet Ave and learned that no off-duty officer was present, in violation of the license conditions. It turned out that the off-duty officer scheduled for that day was unable to report to work and the scheduler at the 5th Precinct did not send a replacement. Since this was not the fault of the business, the citation was dismissed and the case was closed. Martin and Rena Dudgeon recommended that Tibet Kitchen staff inform Licensing as soon as possible when a situation like that occurs and the business is trying – but is unable – to comply with the conditions.

If the business hours are extended to 2 a.m., security staff would be on site from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Martin asked how the business would handle its responsibility to take care of any issues within 100 feet of the restaurant without the presence of an off-duty officer. A security guard is required to patrol the area every 30 minutes. John Holsten, Tibet Kitchen's security manager, stated that security staff would make sure that no one loitered outside and would stay until 2:30 a.m. to make sure that customers dispersed. Right now, vehicles parked in the lot across Nicollet Ave in which the business rents parking spaces are towed after midnight. A community member suggested that, since certain events at Gangchen had attracted late night crowds which caused problems, the presence of an off-duty officer might prevent such incidents. Martin asked the owner whether there were any other license restrictions he wanted removed. The owner is okay with the requirement that the business not offer happy hour discounts after 8 p.m.

Adams and Martin reminded the committee that its discussion earlier this year had come down to two potential options: either keep the off-duty officer requirement and approve the 2 a.m. closing or eliminate the off-duty officer requirement and retain the midnight closing. In any case, Licensing staff will take the neighborhood's recommendation and comments into account, but the ultimate decision is made by the City Council.

The committee discussed a number of options. Martin stated that license conditions could be removed and then later reinstated or altered if documented problems develop and result in citations against the business. In any case, the conditions will require that the business provide security staff every night. In response to a question, the owner stated that the business loses a lot of revenue by not being able to operate even between 1 and 2 a.m. and said that it is unfair to keep the current restrictions in place. One of the customers stated that there is a petition with between 500 and 1,000 signatures in support of lifting the restrictions from this family owned business.

The committee decided to vote on two options:

	<p>1) Recommend that Licensing remove the requirement that Tibet Kitchen hire an off-duty officer from 8 p.m. to midnight from Thursday through Sunday and extend the closing time from midnight to <u>2 a.m.</u>, with the stipulation that the issue be reviewed in six months in order to determine whether the current restrictions should be reinstated. This option received 9 votes.</p> <p>2) Recommend that Licensing remove the requirement that Tibet Kitchen hire an off-duty officer from 8 p.m. to midnight from Thursday through Sunday and extend the closing time from midnight to <u>1 a.m.</u>, with the stipulation that the issue be reviewed in six months in order to determine whether the current restrictions should be reinstated. This option received 1 vote.</p> <p>The committee's recommendation (the first option above) will be presented to the SSCO Board for consideration at its meeting on 11/5. There was a suggestion to post notices about the Board meeting in nearby apartment and condo buildings to give other concerned residents an opportunity to comment on this issue.</p>	
<p>Minneapolis Police report – Sgt Rena Dudgeon, CPS Chelsea Adams</p>	<p>Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams distributed copies of a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood from 9/27 to 10/24. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 robberies: 10/2, 2:30 a.m., inside an apartment at 137 East 17th St in which two suspects took rent money, the keys to a car, and then the car itself which was recovered on 10/5 after a traffic stop on the 1400 block of East 26th St; 10/5, 2:50 a.m., at Franklin & Nicollet in which two suspects robbed a victim of money at gunpoint and then assaulted the victim; 10/21, 9 p.m., at Franklin & Nicollet in which two suspects stole a bus rider's cell phone. ▪ 3 aggravated assaults: 10/5, 8 p.m., reported at Franklin & Nicollet (although the incident location is unknown) in which a victim received a puncture wound in his cheek during an altercation with suspects known to him; 10/5, 8:15 p.m., at Franklin & Blaisdell in which Isaiah Terrell Hall (11/2/80) was arrested for felony assault of an off-duty police officer after yelling racial slurs, repeatedly pounding his fists on the sidewalk, and punching the officer in the face; 10/14, 6:15 p.m., at 18th & 3rd in which suspects flashed a handgun at victims they allegedly had robbed earlier in the day in the 3rd Precinct, resulting in the arrest of Dejuan Cage (12/23/87) for robbery of person, 2nd degree assault with a dangerous weapon, and carrying a weapon without a permit. ▪ 1 criminal sexual assault – a possible sexual assault was reported, although the incident might not have occurred in Stevens Square or in the city. ▪ 4 burglaries: 9/27 condo burglary at 1800 LaSalle Ave; 10/5 attempted apartment burglary at 1818 LaSalle Ave; 10/4 to 10/7 attempted burglary at the Minnesota African American Museum, 1700 3rd Ave; 10/18 garage burglary at 1705 Stevens Ave. ▪ 2 motor vehicle thefts: 9/28 at 1808 Stevens Ave; 10/9 at Franklin & Lyndale. ▪ 19 other incidents of theft. <p>The Police department has launched MPD Tip 411, an app and text message service that allows people to send anonymous tips with their mobile devices to police. This is <u>not</u> meant to replace the 311 system or to report incidents in progress or chronic neighborhood livability concerns. It's a system whereby people can provide tips in order to prevent or solve crimes in Minneapolis. Other news: bikes can now be registered online at the City web site or via 311; on Halloween, MPD community engagement teams will be out visting with people enjoying the holiday.</p> <p>SSCO made copies available of a list of 23 offenders who have been charged with felonies for selling drugs to night CRT undercover officers along Franklin Ave from August, 2011, to April, 2012. So far, 19 of the 23 cases have been resolved.</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>

	<p>SSCO's Google maps and lists of arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, from 9/23 to 10/20 showed 20 alcohol-related arrests (27 in 2012), 11 narcotics-related arrests (13 in 2012), and no prostitution-related arrests (1 in 2012). Year to date, there were 178 alcohol-related arrests (211 in 2012), 70 narcotics-related arrests (74 in 2012), and 2 prostitution-related arrests (2 in 2012). For the period from 9/23 to 10/20, SSCO's Google maps showed 46 police reports for the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St), 14 for the Stevens Square Park area (Stevens Ave to 2nd Ave, 17th St to Franklin Ave), 15 for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave), and 4 for Loring Heights (Lyndale Ave to Pillsbury Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave).</p>	<p>Contact SSCO to receive printed or e-mailed copies of the Google maps, which are updated weekly. The e-mailed versions include links to mugshots of chronic offenders.</p>
<p>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Jennifer Saunders</p>	<p>Jennifer Saunders distributed copies of the 5th Precinct CLEAN list and updated the committee on some of the offenders active in Stevens Square, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amy Bengtson – in the workhouse until 12/4 for trespassing, open bottle, and disorderly conduct cases. ▪ Ellery Charging Thunder – in the workhouse until 11/1 for a gross misdemeanor trespassing case. ▪ William Ernst – theft case set for court on 10/29. ▪ Troy Fait – in the workhouse until 12/8 for open bottle and disorderly conduct cases. ▪ Anthony Ford – in the workhouse until 1/17/14 for criminal contempt of court (2) and consuming alcohol in public cases, then on probation for gross misdemeanor trespassing until 9/24/15. ▪ Ahmed Hired – on probation for possession of liquor in a park and open bottle until 9/6/14. ▪ Frank Killright – ordered to report to the workhouse on 10/29 to serve 45 days of a 90-day sentence for open bottle. ▪ Ronald King – in custody on \$1,000 bail for a trespassing case set for court on 10/28, six other cases set for court on 11/13. ▪ Brandon Miller – six cases (gross misdemeanor prostitution, trespassing, public urination, 5th degree felony drug possession, loitering, and theft) set for court on 11/7. ▪ Maurice Patterson – now on the 1st Precinct CLEAN list, four cases (possession of drug paraphernalia, open bottle, consuming alcohol in public, 4th degree felony assault of a police officer, felony violating a domestic order for protection, theft, and fleeing police on foot) set for court on 11/8. <p>Saunders reported that the Minnesota Supreme Court recently upheld the state's implied consent law in regard to sobriety testing in DWI cases, finding that a driver's choice to take a test is not coerced even though it is a crime to refuse. This leaves current procedures used by police and the courts in place in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in a Missouri case earlier this year which found that police usually need to attempt to obtain a search warrant before ordering blood alcohol tests of suspected drunken drivers.</p> <p>SSCO staff passed around copies of a victim impact statement submitted to the court in regard to Brandon Lee Cloud, against whom SSCO has a restraining order. Thanks to Saunders and the Stevens Square – Whittier beat officers, Cloud has been charged with violating the order on 9/30 and 10/9 by being in the Stevens Square-Loring Heights neighborhood, from which he is restricted.</p>	<p>Jennifer.Saunders@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p>
<p>Priority concerns / hot spots / chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stevens Square Park, 1801 Stevens Ave – 5th Precinct and Park police continue to focus on the park. Rena Dudgeon stated that aggressive enforcement by the beat officers beginning early in the year, at the request of SSCO, has made a big difference. Of the 20 alcohol-related arrests in the area in the past month, 2 of them occurred in Stevens Square Park, 2 in Fair Oaks Park, and 6 at Franklin & Nicollet. Total year-to-date alcohol-related arrests/citations in the area are down 18% compared to 2012. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Narcotics-related loitering and traffic in the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave), especially at 19th & 3rd – There were two narcotics-related incidents in this area in the past month: 9/23 at 18th & Clinton in which a male was cited for possession of drug paraphernalia; 10/14 at 18th & 3rd in which two males were cited for possession of drug paraphernalia. There was a complaint about periodic loitering along 19th St on the north side of the Third Avenue Market. Call 911 to report suspicious activity in progress. ▪ 1702 1st Ave, parking lot on the west side of 1st Ave between I-94 and 18th St – The property owner has not responded to complaints about the large amount of trash and litter in this area. As a result of reports to 311, City crews cleaned up a small part of the area. SSCO Clean Sweep volunteers cleaned up the rest on 10/19. Rena Dudgeon stated that police appreciate residents who pick up trash and litter in the neighborhood: it shows that people care for the area and that those seeking to cause problems are not welcome. It appears that, due to police enforcement and the onset of cold weather, people are no longer camping out and causing trouble in this area. <p>There was a complaint about dog waste throughout the neighborhood and especially in Stevens Square Park. Report dog owners who are in violation of City ordinance requiring waste pickup to Animal Care and Control at 311.</p> <p>SSCO’s monthly chronic offender update included cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Troy Fait (8 arrests in the area in the past two years, 11 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 8/28/13 disorderly conduct at 24th & Nicollet; 9/25/13 consuming alcohol in public at 18th & Stevens; 10/11/13 consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ Abdirahman Hassan Ali (3 arrests in the area this year, 6 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 7/5/13 possession of liquor in a park at 2200 3rd Ave, Fair Oaks Park; 7/29/13 possession of liquor in a park at 2200 3rd Ave, Fair Oaks Park; 8/9/13 tampering with a motor vehicle (bait vehicle) at 24th & Blaisdell. 	<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>Block Patrol report – Michele McGaughey</p>	<p>Michele McGaughey reported that, from 9/27 to 10/24, 12 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 14 shifts, contributing 54 hours. On 10/22, 7 Block Patrol volunteers attended a presentation at the 5th Precinct about burglary prevention and 911. McGaughey shared some stories from the Block Patrol log.</p>	<p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>
<p>Restorative Justice Community Action report</p>	<p>SSCO staff read a letter of apology submitted by an RJCA client to the community. Ken Strobel spoke about the program's process which requires offenders to meet with community members to discuss the impact of their offenses on the neighborhood. The offenders then agree to community service projects to repair the harm they have caused. The program is successful in addressing livability crimes and often helps get the offenders off the path to further criminal behavior.</p>	

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.