



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

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

Present: Corwin Morton and John Littlejohn, co-chairs; Kathy Waite and Jennifer Neale, Minneapolis Police department; Matt Wilcox, City Attorney’s office; Drew Kirch, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Emily Venell, Plymouth Congregational Church; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Michelle Bruch, Southwest Journal; Jerry Paulson, Ken Strobel, John Ryser, Paul Soderquist, Michael Lyght, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoe (dave_sso@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"> ▪ SSCO’s Fall Clean Sweep: 10/28, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., meet in Stevens Square Park. ▪ SSCO’s Halloween Harvest event: 10/31, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in Stevens Square Park. ▪ Election Day: 11/7, polling places are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. ▪ Indigenous Food Tasting free event: 10/28, 1 to 4 p.m. at Minneapolis American Indian Center, 1530 East Franklin Ave, hosted by Dream of Wild Health. ▪ Next Community Safety meetings: 11/30 at 6 p.m. and 12/21 at 6 p.m. 	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 11/30, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – 5 th Precinct Inspector Kathy Waite, Crime Prevention Specialist Jennifer Neale, Community Attorney Matt Wilcox, Probation Officer Drew Kirch	<p><u>Presentation</u> by CPS Jennifer Neale, the new Crime Prevention Specialist for the neighborhoods in the northern part of the 5th Precinct: Neale introduced herself and said that she started her career with MPD in 1996, worked in the 5th Precinct from 1998 to 2006, then took some time off to care for her two children, and returned last year to work as a CPS in the 3rd Precinct. She just started her job in the 5th Precinct last week and is getting to know community members here. She thanked CPS Jennifer Waisanen and former CPS Chelsea Adams for helping her get oriented and settled in to her new job. Neale presented information on Part 1 (serious) crimes reported in the neighborhood over the past month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 aggravated assaults (two incidents at Third Avenue Market, 1905 3rd Ave, on 10/9 in which a female suspect was arrested for threatening an employee with a gun and on 10/24 in which a female suspect hit the owner of the business in the head with a rock; plus a domestic assault at an undisclosed address on 10/8); ▪ 2 burglaries of business (10/8 at Net Supermarket, 1845 Nicollet Ave; 10/14 at a condo building at 522 Ridgewood Ave); ▪ 1 theft from person (10/24 attempt to take a dog from a person on Franklin Ave between Blaisdell and Pillsbury); ▪ 5 thefts from motor vehicles, four of which involved unforced entry (10/8 at 209 East 19th St; 10/9 at 500 Ridgewood Ave; 10/13 at 17th & 2nd; 10/18 at 1921 3rd Ave; 10/19 at 1900 LaSalle Ave); ▪ 2 motor vehicle thefts – both had keys in the ignition (10/6 at 18th & Nicollet; 10/6 at 19th & 2nd); ▪ 5 other incidents of theft. ▪ No robberies or home burglaries were reported. <p>Neale provided information about how to prevent cell phone theft; security experts recommend that passwords for e-mail and other accounts with sensitive information contain at least 30 characters. She also warned against leaving vehicles running with a key in the ignition, a common occurrence during cold weather months and an opportunity for car thieves. Open ignition is a petty misdemeanor and drivers who leave their vehicles running and unattended can be</p>	<p>Crime Prevention Resources</p> <p>911 / 311 information</p> <p>Matthew.Wilcox@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p> <p>CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716</p>

fined for violating that ordinance.

Presentation by 5th Precinct Inspector Kathy Waite: Theft is up in the 5th Precinct and is having a significant impact on the community: please lock your doors, including vehicles, garages, houses, apartments. Regarding theft from motor vehicle: keep no valuables in sight; don't leave firearms in a vehicle; watch for suspicious persons looking into vehicles and call 911 to have police respond; know your neighbors so that you can more easily identify persons who don't belong on your block and call 911 to report suspicious persons. Motor vehicle theft is up significantly citywide.

Regarding the pattern of robberies of person in July and August involving suspect(s) approaching unseen from behind and strangling victims until unconscious, investigators have determined that the location and method used in such crimes has shifted although there is only minimal description of suspect(s).

Police have received many complaints in this area about groups of people, often intoxicated, who loiter, trespass, and behave in a disorderly manner. Many of those involved need help from social service providers to overcome the challenges they face, often including homelessness, mental illness, and chemical dependency. Police end up dealing with the effect of these issues on the streets and sometimes displace the problem from one location to another without being able to solve it. Waite appreciates the efforts of Plymouth Church and SSCO in reducing trespassing at that and other properties in the neighborhood.

Presentation by Community Attorney Matt Wilcox: Cases from the neighborhood involving offenders Valerie Foote (2/23 open bottle at Franklin & Nicollet) and Eloy Stier (4/16 shoplifting at Wedge Community Co-op, 2105 Lyndale Ave) were recently resolved. Foote (1/15/83) is in HOMES Court and Stier (8/4/87) may be assigned to Probation Officer Drew Kirch for a felony domestic assault case. Four offenders, who are often part of the groups of intoxicated persons causing trouble in the neighborhood, have been added to the [5th Precinct CLEAN list](#): Jane Bringsthem (2/25/57), Armondo Day (10/5/74), Lamar Lee Jones (4/16/78, arrested in the neighborhood this afternoon for three warrants for trespassing and 5th degree assault), and Brian Whitebird (12/8/68, with an active warrant for trespassing). Wilcox said that all of those involved in the large groups causing problems in the area have now been identified and added to various CLEAN lists, which qualifies them for special attention from the City Attorney's office and supervised probation if they are conditionally released following sentencing. Wilcox reported on the status of others on the CLEAN list who are part of these groups: David Brenner (7/5/75) has two warrants for probation violations; Ellery Charging Thunder (2/20/54) is in jail pending HOMES Court review after he was charged with five new offenses over the past month; Harry Leftbear (11/25/60) failed to appear in HOMES Court and has 16 warrants; Rachael O'Gorman (12/24/76) is in jail for a probation violation.

Discussion Why are these groups hanging out in the neighborhood? Factors may include the proximity of a liquor store, bus stops where they loiter for hours at a time, and an environment where their behavior may be tolerated or ignored and where no other group engaged in criminal conduct is dominant. The groups have been around for some time, but only since they have been displaced from "the triangle" (the area where Lyndale and Hennepin Aves converge, north of Franklin Ave) have they been present here all day and into the night. Although many of those engaged in this behavior are in HOMES Court, that does not appear to alter their conduct or affect where they hang out. Offering social services to clients who don't want help puts the problem back on the police and the community. Keep in mind that the different groups who caused even more trouble in the neighborhood during 2015 and 2016 have not returned to the area in a significant way this year.

	<p>Another way to discourage the presence of these groups is to keep the area clean: pick up trash and litter, which annoys them because it demonstrates that someone cares about this community. A number of individuals are actively hostile to anyone trying to improve the neighborhood; a community member picking up trash outside of Starbucks at Franklin & Nicollet was recently assaulted by a suspect on a bike who yelled, "Gotcha!", after punching the person in the head. Keeping Nicollet Ave from 18th St to Franklin Ave clean is key to establishing and maintaining community control of this area. Plymouth Church, for example, does a great job on their block. Other property or business owners need to step up. SSCO volunteers have formed a group to pick up trash and litter on Saturday mornings; other persons work on their own with the same goal. The Nicollet Avenue Service District cleans the area twice a week and empties trash containers, but the level of litter that accumulates on Nicollet calls for daily response. Why not bring the Downtown Improvement District south to Franklin Ave? These are not difficult problems to solve if we all work together. Contact SSCO if you have any ideas to share or want to volunteer with clean-up projects.</p>	
<p>Neighborhood-related safety ideas and concerns</p>	<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 8 police reports in this area during the past month, compared to 11 during the previous month. There was one narcotics-related arrest (10/14 at Franklin & 3rd) and one theft from motor vehicle (10/13 at 1921 3rd Ave). No robberies of person, burglaries, or motor vehicle thefts were reported. The two aggravated assaults at the Third Avenue Market (see the summary on page one, above) are of great concern to community members. CPS Neale and Sgt Eric Dison will check in with the owner.</p> <p>Year to date, in the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, there have been 34 narcotics-related arrests compared to 38 in 2016. Alcohol-related arrests in the same area are down 41.1%, from 73 in 2016 to 43 this year.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> Trends in arrests for livability offenses in the area, like those mentioned above. Prostitution arrests, for example, have declined from 105 in 2005 to 0 for the past three and a half years. CPS Neale stated that this does not mean that street prostitution has gone away; instead, it has gained a strong hold on sections of Lake St east of 35W, where businesses and community groups are working with police to try to stem the tide of illegal activity which is jeopardizing the well-being of those neighborhoods. Cameras and other surveillance technology are being used by both police and private citizens and businesses to monitor and counter what's happening. Given the wrong circumstances, the problem could return to this area. SSCO staff said that a group of neighbors and business owners has started a citizens patrol along Lake St and surrounding blocks to reclaim their streets from those engaged in drug and prostitution activity. Strong and consistent enforcement of livability crimes by police in Stevens Square – with the support of the community organization – has been the key to crime reduction here. Identifying and dealing with those who commit these offenses is a successful strategy. The 5th Precinct's beat officers have contributed significantly to this success. Inspector Waite asked what effect the closing of the Franklin Ave bridge over I-94 has had on the neighborhood. It may be too soon to tell.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 9/29 to 10/26, 13 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 20 shifts, contributing 54 hours. 3 new volunteers joined Block Patrol.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams: spoke with dozens of community members on the streets; spoke with our Lyndale Ave beat officers; frequently patrolled the park, LaSalle Community Garden, bus stops along Nicollet Ave, Groveland Ave by Plymouth Church, and the parking lot by the Third Avenue Market; spoke with the owner of the</p>	

Third Avenue Market about a person who pulled a handgun and threatened an employee inside the business – the person was arrested and charged with terroristic threats; observed a number of "homeless camps" on MNDOT property from 2nd Ave to LaSalle Ave, including one location with two mattresses on the ground; picked up trash and litter; often encountered groups of up to 20 intoxicated people loitering at bus stops, in parking lots, and at other locations on and near Nicollet Ave; during a rainy afternoon shift, saw a male in the park who had thrown a blue cloth blanket into a tree and was standing under it, trying not to get wet; saw chronic offender M. A. F. panhandling people who were sitting in parked cars along the 1800 block of Nicollet Ave – he appeared to be unsuccessful; spoke with the person who called 911 regarding the arson fire at the apartment building at 1500 Park Ave and who later pointed out the perpetrator to police; saw a squad marked "Detox" patrolling 3rd Ave on a Friday afternoon; watched a group of intoxicated people sitting on a bus bench at Franklin & Nicollet – they did not appreciate being observed, and shouted and swore at the team repeatedly.

During the 3 p.m. shift on 10/13, a team was approached by an intoxicated male in the park who had lost his phone and wanted to go to detox. Two team members spoke with him and tried to calm him down while the team leader called 911 and asked that a squad be sent to check on his welfare. A Park Police officer responded and asked the team if the male had tried to assault them. The team said no, and asked why. The officer said that he had encountered the male in the park about ten days ago while responding to a report of an assault – apparently the male was not arrested because the victim had fled from the area and could not be located.

During the noon shift on 10/26, the owner of the Third Avenue Market waved a team over and told them about an incident which occurred on 10/24 at about 6:45 p.m. A woman, who is known in the area, was loitering inside the market and the owner told her to leave. The woman left the store and then returned, carrying a large rock. The woman then hit the owner on the head with the rock, causing a wound which required twelve stitches. The owner decided not to press charges, but had the woman trespassed from the property.

On 10/23, a team conducted an inventory of streetlights out in the neighborhood east of Nicollet Ave: 13 reported to 311 on 4/25 were still out, plus the 4 reported to 311 on 9/19. SSCO staff reported the problem to the Ward 6 City Council Member and staff for the third time on 10/24 and asked for help to expedite the repair process. This is a public safety issue; serious crime – especially robbery and theft – has increased substantially in the neighborhood this year through July, the most recent month for which MPD data is available. As of 10/26, there has been no response.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:15.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.