



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

Community Safety meeting minutes – October 27, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Aaron Szczech and Corwin Morton, co-chairs; Ward 6 City City Council Member Abdi Warsame and Policy Aide Abdi Salah; Mary Hogan, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Corey Grandner, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Kathy Waite, Eric Dison, Chelsea Adams, Carl Valdez, Minneapolis Police department; Matt Wilcox, City Attorney's office; Amy Anlauf, Loring Nicollet Alternative School; Wendy Lowry, Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge; Tonya Lenox, St Stephen's Street Outreach; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Kirstin Wiegmann, Reverie Café + Bar; Michelle Bruch, Southwest Jorunal; Anne Lehman, Aria Campbell, John Ryser, Jerry Paulson, Ken Strobel, Ruth Martin, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoeye

Note: A sheet with some of the printed 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"> ▪ SSCO's Fall Harvest Festival is set for Saturday, 10/29, from noon to 2 p.m. in Stevens Square Park. ▪ Next Community Safety meetings: Thursday, 11/17, and Thursday, 12/15. 	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 11/17, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – 5 th Precinct Inspector Kathy Waite, Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams, Sgt Eric Dison, Chaplain Carl Valdez, Community Attorney Matt Wilcox, Probation Officer Corey Grandner	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: In the past month in Stevens Square – Loring Heights, there were two robberies of person (10/7, noon, at Franklin & Garfield in which a person was robbed of his PlayStation at gunpoint; 10/22, 3:15 p.m., at 110 East 18th St in which a suspect hit a person from behind and robbed him), one robbery of business (10/25, 5:20 p.m., at Family Dollar Store, 1816 Nicollet Ave, in which an employee ran after a shoplifter who left the store and was maced by a second suspect outside), one aggravated assault (10/15, 12:20 a.m., at 19th & Nicollet in which a male suspect driving a car assaulted a person), four apartment or condo burglaries (10/13 at 16 East 19th St in which a suspect stole a wallet from a ledge by a partially opened window; 10/15 at 1824 Clinton Ave in which a suspect entered a condo unit through an open window and stole unlisted items; 10/22 at 209 East 19th St in which bags were stolen from an apartment; 10/18 at 520 Ridgewood Ave in which a 17-year-old male was arrested for burglarizing an apartment as he was leaving and encountered the resident returning), two shoplifting incidents at the Family Dollar Store, 1816 Nicollet Ave on 9/23 and 10/6, three thefts from motor vehicle (10/10 at 137 East 17th St; 10/10 at 1815 1st Ave; 10/21 at 1900 LaSalle Ave), two bike thefts (9/26 at 1810 3rd Ave; 10/5 at 1706 2nd Ave), and five other incidents of theft.</p> <p>Kathy Waite reported on a string of recent burglaries which occurred elsewhere in the 5th Precinct and resulted in the arrest of a suspect. She spoke about some of the safety challenges involved with the Halloween holiday, including persons who may be up to no good and wandering around wearing masks, false information on social media about parties at the homes of unsuspecting persons, and the need to drive slowly considering that many kids and other pedestrians will be out after dark.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Matt Wilcox: Update on cases from the neighborhood. Daryn Deshawn Kennedy (3/8/73) pled guilty to 2nd degree burglary at 1816 Stevens Ave and was sentenced to 30 months in prison. Ellery Charging Thunder</p>	Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819 Crime Prevention Resources 911 / 311 information Matthew.Wilcox@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402 CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716

	<p>(2/20/54), who is on the 5th Precinct CLEAN list, was arrested for a new offense recently by Sgt Dison. Melissa Bringsthem (6/12/77), who had just been released from jail, was arrested by Metro Transit police in the area on 10/26 for assault.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff and Matt Wilcox: A draft community impact statement (c.i.s.) from SSCO directed at Hennepin County District Court requesting that the Court rescind its order making "consuming alcohol in public" and "loitering with open bottle" payable offenses. The Mayor will meet with the Chief Judge of the District Court on 11/1 and this would be an opportune time to question the Judge's standing order which means that police no longer have the discretion to book offenders in the jail for those crimes; instead, it is now incumbent on the arrestee to set a court date or pay a fine. If the arrestee does not respond, no warrant is issued and no consequences for the offense are imposed.</p> <p>SSCO staff spoke about the impact of livability crimes in the neighborhood and the need to hold offenders accountable for the harm they cause to the community. For example, from 2005 to 2015, police made 2,950 arrests / citations for alcohol-related offenses in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St. The current strategies – developed by a community partnership with law enforcement agencies – have worked to reduce the number of arrests for these offenses and to hold chronic offenders accountable for their crimes. The Court's decision regarding payable offenses jeopardizes these successful strategies and undercuts the community's efforts to improve livability in the neighborhood.</p> <p>A community member spoke about the death of a brother who suffered from alcoholism and how an opportunity for treatment through the court process might have saved his life. Specialty courts are designed to provide such help to groups such as veterans or the mentally ill.</p> <p>Wilcox spoke about the Adult Detention Initiative which is focused on reducing the incarceration rate at the county jail. Limited jail space and concern for the affect of current policies on minorites and the mentally ill are driving this initiative. The standing order regarding payable offenses is part of this project and has produced some unintended consequences. SSCO staff stated that rescinding the order simply restores the discretion of police officers to book alcohol offenders in the jail and the authority to issue citations requiring a court appearance. A community member stated that any document such as the c.i.s. needs to be made accessible to all community members in whatever form is necessary to meet their needs.</p> <p>On a motion by Ken Strobel, seconded by Michele McGaughey, the committee recommended that the SSCO Board approve the Community Impact Statement: Stevens Square Community Organization asks that Hennepin County District Court rescind its order making "consuming alcohol in public" (Minneapolis Ordinance 364.40) and "open bottle" (Minnesota Statute 169.122) payable offenses. The motion passed with one abstention.</p> <p>Since time is of the essence and the Board does not meet until 11/1, SSCO's executive director has offered to poll the Board members via e-mail regarding the motion.</p>	
<p>Ward 6 report: City Council Member Abdi</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Abdi Warsame: Recent accomplishments and upcoming events. The Council Member passed around copies of Ward 6 newsletters and a press release and spoke about what's been happening in the ward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Islamaphobia Town Hall: 11/2, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2315 Chicago Ave. Council 	

Warsame	<p>Members Warsame and Frey will participate in a panel about ways to fight bigotry and promote respect and inclusiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opportunity Center: \$950,000 in funding from a variety of public and private sources for this center in Cedar-Riverside for education and job opportunities for youth has been secured and a ten-year lease for the building has been signed. Everyone is invited to attend the ground-breaking ceremony on 10/28 at 1:30 p.m. at Five15 on the Park Building, 515 5th Ave South. ▪ Public Accommodation Anti-Discrimination Enforcement Resolution: The City Council has approved this resolution, authored by Warsame, which allows the City Civil Rights department to not only investigate and enforce the law and but also to reach out and educate businesses about their rights and obligations to customers. ▪ SafetyNet Tracking System: Warsame and the Mayor launched a new Fire department program to help locate autistic children and vulnerable adults who wander off. These individuals can be given a bracelet to wear which emits a signal which can be picked up on some Fire department rigs. A similar program in Massachusetts has a good record of finding lost individuals in less than 30 minutes of a report being made. For information about the system and the cost, call 311. <p>The Council Member is following up on the issues presented at last month's meeting and will report back as progress is made. Warsame has met with the Mayor regarding a pilot project to partner mental health professionals with MPD officers to respond to crisis situations. Warsmae would like to begin the project in Stevens Square and Elliot Park, although the scope of the project has not yet been defined. Kathy Waite is also working on this project. SSCO staff reported that none of the 17 offenders mentioned at the 9/22 meeting have been arrested in the area in the past month.</p>	
Mary Hogan, Community Relations Officer, Immigration and Customs Enforcement	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Mary Hogan: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the investigative arm of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Hogan is part of a new program to gather feedback from the community to help ICE decide what it's going to do. This involves making presentations and connections to businesses, schools, and community groups and to explain and answer questions about what ICE does. The idea is to be accessible in a way that most federal law enforcement organizations are not. It can be difficult to contact the feds and actually speak with a human being. ICE is interested in receiving information from the public, and Hogan's job involves following up with investigators regarding questions and complaints. In most cases, ICE does not share the results of investigations with those who provided information.</p>	
Follow-up to the 10/24 Community Discssion about ways to combat street harassment	<p>Two community members who participated in the 10/24 discussion about ways to combat street harassment shared their perspectives and interests. One is a student and intern at Whittier Alliance. Street harassment includes a range of behavior from catcalling to unwanted touching. There is interest in working with the Sexual Violence Center (SVC) to figure out how to start combatting street harassment, including ways to prevent it and ways to cope with it. A task force is being formed to reach out to neighborhood businesses and ask them to offer "safe spots" for victims of street harassment, places where individuals can go to get away from a perpetrator. A community member suggested using the Public Housing high rises as "safe spots". Connecting with schools and young people is important, since much of the harassing behavior encountered on the streets is learned at a young age. There's an idea to work with students to create a public service announcement about street harassment.</p> <p>The other community member serves on the SSCO Board and has a long-time interest in the topic. Street harassment has different impacts on different people. One of the key points which came out of the discussion is the need to recruit males to educate other males about the problem and ways to stop it. SVC has produced a document, "Tips for</p>	

	<p>Interrupting Street Harassment", which could help accomplish that. It could be posted on sscoweb.org Another idea was to form a mother's group to help influence the views and behaviors of kids in regard to harassing others. There was a discussion about how best to publicize the issue. <i>Southwest Journal</i> may cover the topic.</p> <p>The Whittier task force plans to meet on 11/7 to discuss the project and how to move forward. The community member from Stevens Square will try to work with that group and agreed to report back to the SSCO Board of Directors. The Community Safety committee offered to provide its help and support as the project(s) take shape and agreed to table its own plan to develop a document to list options for combatting street harassment.</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 nine police reports in this area during the past month, compared to seven in the previous month. There was: one felony narcotic arrest (10/12 at 19th & 4th), one aggravated assault (53-year-old male arrested at Franklin & 3rd for domestic assault), and one burglary of dwelling (10/15 at 1824 Clinton Ave). No robberies or motor vehicle thefts were reported.</p> <p>In the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, arrests for narcotics-related offenses are down 25.5% compared to last year.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Illegal consumption of alcohol in the neighborhood. Year to date, there have been 73 arrests or citations for alcohol-related offenses in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, compared to 109 in 2015.</p> <p>In regard to serious crimes reported in the neighborhood, violent crime is down 10.3% and property crime is down 27.1% compared to last year.</p> <p>There was a question about why SSCO tracks police reports in the northern part of Whittier and not, for instance, in the southern part down to Lake Street or in the Loring Park neighborhood or downtown. In 2004 and 2005 when SSCO first began comprehensively compiling police reports, staff looked at all of Whittier and part of Loring Park neighborhoods and it appeared that the top offenders here were not significantly active (or being arrested) in those other areas. There seems to be a zone bounded by I-94 on the north and 24th St on the south, east of LaSalle Ave / Blaisdell Ave to 35W, that is frequented by offenders who are not as active elsewhere. 24th St may serve as an alternate east – west route to Franklin Ave and Lake St. SSCO is now able to determine whether offenders active here are also active in other areas by tracking cases through the Stevens Square – Whittier Law Enforcement Group. Contact SSCO at 874-2840 to receive weekly Google maps of police reports here.</p> <p>Sgt Eric Dison and Tonya Lenox from St Stephen's Street Outreach spoke about the problems in the area where Lyndale and Hennepin Aves merge north of Franklin Ave, especially the individuals camping out and panhandling passing vehicles and pedestrians. Street Outreach spends lots of time and resources dealing with this situation, but for the most part, the people involved don't want help. There are concerns that this behavior stigmatizes homeless people and reflects poorly on those St Stephen's is trying to help. Dison said that much of the property where the groups hang out belongs to MNDOT and that he has enlisted the help of the State Patrol in dealing with the problems. One issue that needs to be resolved is the lack of communication via dispatchers between MPD and Metro Transit police squads. Officers in both departments could back each other up more effectively if they knew where and why each other were being dispatched. To reach Transit police dispatch to request that squads be sent to an incident, call 349-7349.</p>	

	SSCO staff made available information about the outcome of criminal cases in the neighborhood involving two offenders.	
Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 9/23 to 10/27, 11 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 17 shifts, contributing 39 total hours. One guest, with two dogs, came along on a shift. One new volunteer joined Block Patrol. On 10/3, a Block Patrol team took a field trip to the Cleveland neighborhood and spoke with volunteers at their monthly Safety meeting.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ spoke with dozens of community members on the streets; ▪ frequently spoke with our Franklin-Nicollet beat officers; ▪ called 911 regarding four males at Franklin & Nicollet who were intoxicated, arguing and swearing loudly among themselves, and harassing passersby. Three of the males boarded a Metro Transit bus and left the area. The other male walked southbound on Nicollet Ave. The team then cancelled the call. ▪ called 911 regarding an intoxicated male in Stevens Square Park. Park police responded and the male was transported from the scene by ambulance. The male's two companions quickly left the area when the police arrived. ▪ called Metro Transit police regarding a group of eight people drinking vodka and blocking the sidewalk at a bus stop at Franklin & Nicollet. Two more people arrived with a shopping cart full of clothing with store tags still attached; they appeared to be selling the items. A physical fight broke out, instigated by a female and eventually involving five people. One of the five, who seemed to be the target, got on a southbound Metro Transit bus; the driver forcibly kept the others from boarding the bus. Eventually, the group wandered westbound on Franklin Ave and the team cancelled the call. 	<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>

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.