



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

**Community Safety meeting minutes – November 17, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.**

Present: Aaron Szczech and Corwin Morton, co-chairs; Abdi Salah, Ward 6 City Council Policy Aide; Corey Grandner, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Eric Dison, Brianna Garman, Chelsea Adams, Carl Valdez, Minneapolis Police department; Matt Wilcox, City Attorney's office; Mindy Mueller, Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge; Tonya Lenox, St Stephen's Street Outreach; Kirstin Wiegmann, Reverie Café + Bar; John Ryser, Jerry Paulson, Ken Strobel, Ruth Martin, Lisa King, Maureen Wells, one person who did not sign in, 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"> <li>▪ Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 12/15, 6 p.m., at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</li> <li>▪ The SSCO Board approved the committee's recommendation to send a community impact statement to the Chief Judge of Hennepin County District Court asking that two offenses (consuming alcohol in public and open bottle) be removed from the payables list. Matt Wilcox stated that Mayor Betsy Hodges met with the Chief Judge on 11/1 and spoke in favor of SSCO's recommendation. The meeting reportedly went well. We should know in a couple of months whether the Chief Judge decided to act on the recommendation. Wilcox thanked SSCO for submitting a statement regarding the issue.</li> <li>▪ The follow-up discussion on the project to combat street harassment is now planned for the 12/15 Community Safety meeting.</li> <li>▪ A community member asked that meeting attendees be informed if a reporter is in attendance at any Community Safety meeting. SSCO staff agreed to do that. The community member was misquoted in an article published in <i>City Pages</i> about the 10/27 meeting, although a reporter from that publication was not present and had not contacted the community member. A reporter from <i>Southwest Journal</i> was at that meeting and identified herself at the beginning.</li> </ul>	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 12/15, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – 5 <sup>th</sup> Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams, Sgt Eric Dison, Officer Brianna Garman, Chaplain Carl Valdez, Community Attorney Matt Wilcox,	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: In the past three weeks in Stevens Square – Loring Heights, there were two robberies of person (10/30 at Franklin &amp; Clinton; 11/10 at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; Nicollet), one aggravated assault (10/30 at 1801 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave), one business burglary (10/31 at Twin Cities Wireless, 1841 Nicollet Ave), two garage burglaries (11/8 at 1828 Clinton Ave), one apartment burglary (11/13 at 1906 Clinton Ave), two motor vehicle thefts (10/29 at 1917 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave for which a 27-year-old male who was on supervised release from prison for a weapons offense was arrested in Bloomington; 10/30 at 1800 Clinton Ave), two incidents of shoplifting (11/7 and 11/15, both at Family Dollar Store, 1816 Nicollet Ave), two thefts from motor vehicles (11/1 at 17<sup>th</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup>; 11/11 at Groveland &amp; Pillsbury), one bike theft (10/29 at 1800 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave), and three other incidents of theft.</p> <p>Adams provided information about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 8 package thefts reported in the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct since 10/27 and suggested ways to have packages delivered securely, such as being held at Fed Ex or UPS offices for pick up;</li> <li>▪ preventing <a href="#">motor vehicle theft</a> by not leaving a vehicle running unattended;</li> <li>▪ keeping <a href="#">safe during the holidays</a> such as by avoiding scams, keeping one's home / garage secure, and never leaving anything of value (especially gift items) in an unattended vehicle;</li> </ul>	<p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p><a href="#">Crime Prevention Resources</a></p> <p><a href="#">911 / 311 information</a></p> <p>Matthew.Wilcox@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p>

<p>Probation Officer Corey Grandner</p>	<p>A community member volunteered to be the MPD block leader for 17<sup>th</sup> &amp; 1<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p>There was a question about how to deal with aggressive panhandlers, and whether income from that activity needs to be declared to the IRS. Matt Wilcox stated that the City's ordinance prohibiting aggressive solicitation is no longer being enforced due to a recent ruling by the U. S. Supreme Court which found a similar ordinance in another city to be unconstitutional due to restrictions on free speech. MPD can sometimes use other City ordinances such as interfering with traffic to address panhandling problems. There was a question about how to deal with harassment on the street targeting women. MPD can arrest a suspect for disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor, if a victim is offended by the behavior and is willing to fill out a citizen's arrest form. If the victim is unwilling or unable to do that, a witness to the incident who was offended can also make a citizen's arrest. The court process can deter a victim from pursuing a disorderly conduct case. The <a href="#">Sexual Violence Center</a> has produced a <a href="#">flyer</a> about ways for bystanders to interrupt street harassment. SSCO and Whittier Alliance recently began a project to combat street harassment – contact Whittier Alliance at 871-7756 for information about upcoming meetings. There was a question about whether there were enough officers on the street to deal with the level of crime in the city. Eric Dison reported that 25 new officers have been on the street in the past week.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Matt Wilcox: Update about Stevens Square offenders who are on the <a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> Precinct CLEAN list</a>. Harry Leftbear (11/25/60) and Lavell Love (6/13/63) were recently released from the workhouse. Leftbear is on supervised probation. Corey Grandner reported that his client William Ernst (11/22/65) was arrested by MPD on 11/15 for warrants for failing to report to the workhouse. He thanked officers for their work in quickly apprehending clients who have violated probation conditions.</p>	<p><a href="#">CRT</a> line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716</p>
<p>Ward 6 report: City Council Policy Aide Abdi Salah</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Abdi Salah: Council Member Abdi Warsame was unable to attend the meeting. Salah passed around copies of the Ward 6 November newsletter and spoke about what's been happening in the ward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opportunity Center, Five15 on the Park Building, 515 5<sup>th</sup> Ave South: The ground-breaking ceremony occurred on 10/28 for this center in Cedar-Riverside for education and job opportunities for youth.</li> <li>▪ SafetyNetTracking System: Council Member 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 by some Fire department rigs. For information about the system and the cost, call 311.</li> <li>▪ Public Accommodation Anti-Discrimination Enforcement Resolution: On 10/19, the City Council 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.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">2017 City budget</a>: Public hearings on the proposed budget are scheduled at 6:05 p.m. on 11/30 and 12/7 at City Hall, Room 317.</li> <li>▪ Transit Assistance Program: Metro Transit has launched a pilot program to provide \$1 rides to qualified low income residents of the Twin Cities. For details, go to <a href="http://www.metrotransit.org/tap">http://www.metrotransit.org/tap</a></li> <li>▪ Islamaphobia Town Hall: About 150 people attended the event on 11/2 which was hosted by Council Members Warsame and Frey and featured a panel discussion about ways to fight bigotry and promote respect and inclusiveness.</li> <li>▪ Public safety initiatives: The Mayor, with Warsame's support, has proposed \$1 million in community-based strategies to enhance public safety in the 2017 budget. This includes \$200,000 for a mental health co-responders pilot program in which mental health professionals will be teamed with police officers in responding to mental health crises; \$290,000 for Group Violence Intervention project offering support services to the most violent</li> </ul>	<p>Abdi.Warsame@minneapolismn.gov</p> <p>673-2206</p> <p><a href="#">Ward 6 web site</a></p>

	<p>offenders who want to leave crime behind; \$500,000 for community-driven public safety strategies targeting youth violence in the West Broadway corridor and Little Earth. The Mayor has recommended hiring 15 new police officers; Warsame and other Council Members are interested in increasing that number. A community member stated that the City needs to address the causes of crime in order to stop it, and not just move it from one place to another.</p>	
<p>Neighborhood-related safety ideas and concerns</p>	<p><u>Community concern</u> Drug-related loitering and traffic in the Clinton sector (3<sup>rd</sup> Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave), especially at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were 15 police reports in this area during the past month, compared to nine in the previous four weeks. That is the largest number of incidents in this area on a month-to-month basis this year. There were two violent felonies (10/30 aggravated robbery at Franklin &amp; Clinton; 11/8 aggravated assault at the BP Service Station, 2000 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave), one apartment burglary, two garage burglaries, one motor vehicle theft, and three thefts from motor vehicle reported. Three suspects were arrested for possession of burglary tools at the BP Service Station, 2000 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, at 2:50 a.m. on 11/12. There were no narcotics-related arrests.</p> <p>In the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St, arrests for narcotics-related offenses are down 25% compared to last year. Alcohol-related arrests in this area are down 34% compared to last year. In regard to Part 1 (serious) crimes reported in the neighborhood, violent crime is up 5% and property crime is down 19.5% compared to last year. Robberies have increased 53.8%, from 13 last year to 20 this year. Adams reported that a number of the robberies started out as shoplifting incidents which escalated when thieves or their accomplices attacked store employees who were trying to stop suspects from leaving.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 10/28 to 11/17, 10 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 9 shifts, contributing 36 total hours. Four new volunteers joined Block Patrol. Block Patrol volunteers helped staff SSCO's Fall Harvest Festival in the park on 10/29. On Election Day, Block Patrol teams helped get out the vote in the neighborhood. From noon until 6 p.m., teams held "Vote Today" signs and assisted 29 voters in finding their polling locations. Volunteers had an opportunity to vote during the shifts.</p> <p>During the past three weeks, Block Patrol teams spoke with over a hundred community members on the streets and at events; frequently spoke with our Franklin-Nicollet beat officers; disposed of five syringes and two small, empty plastic bags which a neighbor found on the ground near a bus stop at Franklin &amp; Nicollet; received information about a male who is allegedly living inside the ATM space near Starbucks on Nicollet Ave and using the space as a restroom – four days later, a team saw paramedics from an ambulance respond to the ATM space and remove a male who fit the description; picked up about six pounds of trash on the street during a shift, including eight empty liquor containers; called 911 to report two suspicious persons in a minivan (a male sitting in the driver seat, a female on the floor behind him) which was parked, with the side door open, in the contract lot to the north of the hardware store on Nicollet Ave – an officer responded and took no action; on Election Day, listened to a male at Franklin &amp; Nicollet who complained at length about never having been able to vote due to the fact that he was either incarcerated or on felony probation during elections – and it's just not fair.</p> <p>During a late afternoon shift on 11/4, a woman with a child approached a team in Stevens Square Park and angrily advised the team to stop wasting its time watching people in the park and instead to focus on the real problem: a squirrel had just run off with her Kit Kat candy bar.</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><a href="#">Application and guidelines</a> are at the SSCO web site.</p>