

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – November 29, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Jennifer Saunders, City Attorney's Office; Mike Scott, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority; Deb Loveland, Minnesota Teen Challenge; Dave Hautman, Franklin Nicollet Liquor; Rob Helmerich, Rand Management; Arlene Storandt, Eddie Chambers, Karen Ives, Lee Scholtus, Jerry Paulson, Rochelle Peyton, Aria Bommer, Amanda Hilligoss, John Ryser, Jill Ferguson, Robert Fischer, and safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_scco@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

| Agenda item | Notes/decisions | Follow up |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Announcements</p> <p>Contact SSCO to volunteer or for more info.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Due to the upcoming holidays, the Safety committee has changed its regular schedule and will instead meet on Thursday, 12/20, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave. ▪ After more than eight years of dedicated service to the neighborhood, Community Probation Officer Bobbi Harrington has taken a new job as a parole officer in Brooklyn Center. Harrington sent a message to committee members, stating that she has enjoyed working with them and has come to think of many of them as friends and that she will miss the neighborhood and seeing their friendly faces. Harrington has offered to help SSCO with any offenders who are on parole from prison. Jean Schwalen will keep Harrington updated about events and issues in the neighborhood. Probation Officer Terra Rother will join Schwalen in the Stevens Square Community Probation office starting on 1/6/13. | <p>Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 12/20, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</p> |
| <p>Minneapolis Police report – CPS Chelsea Adams</p> | <p>Chelsea Adams distributed copies of a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during October. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 robberies of person: 10/17, 8:20 p.m., at 19th & Clinton in which two male suspects, one with a knife, grabbed a victim from behind and stole medication; 10/28, 7 p.m., in a parking lot at the Village Center Mall, 1816 Nicollet Ave, in which at least four male suspects ran up to a victim from behind, hit him, and stole his bag. ▪ 2 domestic aggravated assaults. ▪ 2 burglaries: 10/21 at 1828 Clinton Ave in which a bike was stolen from a garage with no sign of forced entry; 10/28 at 1926 3rd Ave in which an apartment was burglarized, perhaps by a known suspect. ▪ 4 motor vehicle thefts: 10/6 at 1811 1st Ave; 10/20 at 1905 1st Ave, recovered in Elk River, two suspects arrested; 10/25 at 504 Ridgewood Ave in which a suspect stole the victim's keys and vehicle; 10/27 at 17th & 1st, found on fire on 11/8 on the 3300 block of Vincent Ave North. ▪ 2 stolen vehicles recovered: 10/15 at 1728 2nd Ave in which beat officers stopped a vehicle which was stolen on 10/14 from the 2400 block of Stevens Ave, found marijuana and an open bottle of alcohol inside, and arrested three suspects: Anthony Johnson, Erik Green, and Calvin Rallings; 10/25 at 1925 Nicollet Ave, Loring Nicollet Center, recovery of a vehicle which was stolen at 15th & Nicollet on 9/28. ▪ 6 thefts from motor vehicles: 10/7 at 1900 Stevens Ave; 10/9 at 18th & 1st; three incidents on 10/14 at 122 West Franklin Ave; 10/15 at Franklin & LaSalle. ▪ 8 other incidents of theft. <p>Trends include theft of 1990s Hondas and theft of GPS units and after-market stereos from vehicles.</p> <p>Adams reported on a rape which occurred on 11/19 at 4 a.m. in Stevens Square Park, 1801 Stevens Ave. This case is under investigation by the Sex Crimes Unit. Additional patrols have been assigned to the area, especially during late night and early morning hours. Contact Adams for the name and phone number of the investigator if you have any information about this crime. Adams reported that a suspect has been arrested for another rape which occurred on the same date at West River Parkway & 27th Ave South, although the incidents are not believed to be connected.</p> <p>Adams provided information on signing up for the 5th Precinct "e-alert list" and The Spotlight, the 5th Precinct e-newsletter. She also presented information for block leaders on signing up for MPD "action alerts".</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 or contact Sara.Metcalf@Minneapolismn.gov</p> |

Adams provided information on Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood from January to October for the past four years:

| January to October | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Homicide | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Rape | 6 | 7 | 9 | 6 |
| Robbery | 16 | 20 | 28 | 13 |
| Aggravated assault | 15 | 19 | 29 | 14 |
| Burglary | 30 | 32 | 41 | 30 |
| Theft | 101 | 103 | 140 | 146 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 20 | 24 | 17 | 32 |
| Arson | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 190 | 206 | 265 | 242 |

Total Part 1 crime in the neighborhood for the first ten months of this year has declined about 8% compared to 2011. Violent crime and burglary has dropped significantly (rape -33%, robbery -57%, aggravated assault -51%, burglary -26%) and other property crime has increased (theft +4%, motor vehicle theft +88%). Adams reported that other neighborhoods are experiencing a similar trend in regard to motor vehicle theft.

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 since August, 2011. So far, 14 have been convicted and sentenced.

SSCO's Google maps and lists of arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, from 10/22/12 to 11/25/12 showed 9 [alcohol-related arrests](#) (23 in 2011), no narcotics-related arrests (11 in 2011), and no prostitution-related arrests (none in 2011). Year to date, there were 220 alcohol-related arrests (200 in 2011), 74 narcotics-related arrests (135 in 2011), and 2 prostitution-related arrests (10 in 2011). For the period from 10/22/12 to 11/25/12, SSCO's Google maps showed 28 police reports for the [Nicollet corridor](#) (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St), 6 for the [Stevens Square Park area](#) (Stevens Ave to 2nd Ave, 17th St to Franklin Ave), and 15 for the [Clinton sector](#) (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave).

Contact SSCO to receive the list of offenders charged with felonies for selling drugs to undercover officers in the neighborhood.

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.

Priority concerns / hot spots / chronic offenders

- Narcotics-related loitering and traffic in the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave), especially at 19th & 3rd – In response to neighborhood concerns, the 5th Precinct assigned extra patrols (in addition to the beat officers and community response teams) to the area during certain times of day and then placed a mobile police camera at the northeast corner of 19th & 3rd, which will probably be there for up to ten days. Community members report that this police response has made a huge, positive difference in the area: suspicious vehicle traffic and pedestrian loitering has been practically eliminated from 19th & 3rd. There is information that some of the narcotics activity may have shifted to 19th & Clinton and Franklin & Clinton. Adams asked for recommendations on other locations in the neighborhood for the mobile police camera. Suggestions included 19th & Clinton, Franklin & Clinton, the City of Lakes building at 110 East 18th St, Franklin & Nicollet (to discourage aggressive panhandling at bus stops), and directly in front of the Third Avenue Market at 1905 3rd Ave.
- 110 East 18th St – Construction at this vacant, fenced, and boarded building began on 11/12. Crews are currently removing asbestos and repairing the roof.

SSCO's monthly chronic offender update included cases involving:

- [Ahmed Haji-Mohamud](#) (10 arrests in the area in the past two years, 35 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 9/13/12 open bottle at 2200 3rd Ave, Fair Oaks Park; 9/27/12 open bottle at 22nd & Nicollet.
- [Frank Killwright](#) (10 arrests in the area in the past four years, 23 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 8/28/12 consuming alcohol in public at 2200 3rd Ave, Fair Oaks Park.
- [Brandon Miller](#) (40 arrests in the area in the past eight years, 40 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 4/3/12 5th degree felony possession of drugs at 2312 Blaisdell Ave.

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.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Walter Weyaus Sr (27 arrests in the area in the past eight years, 22 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 6/18/12 consuming alcohol in public at 19th & Nicollet; 8/22/12 aggressive panhandling at Franklin & Lyndale. ▪ Theodore Jerry (8 prior convictions in Minnesota) – 4/4/12 felony sale of simulated narcotics at Franklin & 4th. ▪ Erik Green (5 arrests in the area in the past two years, 4 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 10/15/12 tampering with a motor vehicle and possession of marijuana in a motor vehicle at 1728 2nd Ave; 10/15/12 possession of drug paraphernalia at 325 East Franklin Ave, Wendy's Restaurant. ▪ Bryan Godfrey (3 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 5/9/12 graffiti damage to property at 18th & 1st. ▪ Alpheaus Putmon (16 arrests in the area in the past eight years, 29 prior convictions in Minnesota) – 8/20/12 consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & Nicollet. | |
| <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"> ▪ Charles Bailey – in custody for a review hearing on a 3rd degree burglary case on 11/29, restricted from the area by court order. ▪ James Black – released from prison on 11/19, set for hearing in Mental Health Court on 12/4. ▪ Darryl Brooks – case set for trial on 2/25/13, on probation until 8/5/13. ▪ Joseph Conklin – two cases set for court on 12/3, on probation until 8/16/13. ▪ William Ernst – released from the workhouse on 11/28. ▪ Larry Harper – in custody for a felony drug sale case set for court on 1/4/13, on probation for motor vehicle theft and 4th degree burglary. ▪ Ahmed Hired – in the workhouse until 1/11/13. ▪ Frank Killwright – in the workhouse until 12/11, another case set for court on 12/12. ▪ Dejuan McFarland – serving a 45-day sentence in the workhouse on consecutive weekends, restricted from the area by court order. ▪ Randy McNellis – released from the workhouse on 11/7, on probation until 10/11/13. ▪ Alpheaus Putmon – on probation until 10/29/13, restricted from the area by court order. ▪ Farid Suleiman – in custody on \$10,000 bail in Sherburne County for a felony theft case set for court on 12/17, on probation until 7/30/13, active bench warrant out of Bloomington. <p>Saunders spoke about the work of Probation Officer Ron Cunningham who supervises the Downtown 100 top offenders. Having a probation officer assigned to supervise all 5th Precinct chronic offenders, including those on the CLEAN list, would make a big difference in terms of getting better results from the courts.</p> | <p>Jennifer.Saunders@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p> |
| <p>Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt</p> | <p>Arlene Storandt reported that, from 10/26 to 11/29, 10 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 24 shifts, contributing a total of 78 hours. On 11/3, Block Patrol teams patrolled 19th & 3rd during the opening reception for a gallery show at Stevens Square Center for the Arts. On Election Day, 11/6, Block Patrol teams carried "Vote Today" signs and directed voters to the polls. On 11/10, a Block Patrol team participated in the "surveys and s'mores" get-together in Stevens Square Park. Storandt shared a story from the Block Patrol log.</p> | <p>Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol. Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p> |
| <p>Building Safety Improvement program – application for matching grant from 1900 Stevens Condo Association</p> | <p>SSCO received an application for a matching grant of up to \$1,000 from its Building Safety Improvement program from 1900 Stevens Condo Association. Committee co-chairs and staff explained the purpose of the program and reviewed the types of projects which are eligible and ineligible. A representative from the condo association explained the projects for which funding was requested: 1) intercom / entry system upgrade (\$5,780 cost) and 2) surveillance camera system (\$555 cost for a four-camera system which meets program guidelines). CPS Chelsea Adams performed a security audit at the property and shared her findings, including: installation of security cameras at the front and rear doors and in the common areas of the basement would enhance building security; the proposed intercom / entry system upgrade with key fob readers and electric door strikes would help residents more easily and effectively monitor and control access to the building. There have been several break-ins at the building recently plus an attempted theft from motor vehicle in the rear parking area.</p> | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | <p>Staff reviewed the bids submitted by vendors to the condo association and explained the staff recommendation from SSCO's executive director regarding the application: 1) the three components of the intercom / entry system (entry panel, key fob readers, key fobs) are ineligible (except for the strike plates) because the program guidelines do not allow funding for "security systems"; 2) the surveillance camera system is eligible for funding, although the committee should consider whether it's in the neighborhood's interest to fund the two cameras in the basement common areas. There was a discussion about the intercom / entry system and whether it constitutes a "security system", a phrase which is not defined in the guidelines. Staff said that an online search for "apartment building security system" turned up many references to intercom and entry systems. Committee members said that information, however, is not sufficient to provide guidance to either applicants or the committee in deciding what qualifies for funding. There was a discussion about revising the program guidelines to provide a definition of "security systems" before making a decision about this application. There was a suggestion that the committee table the application until the guidelines could be revised. Staff suggested that approach could create the appearance that the guidelines were being amended in order to fund this specific application and emphasized that there's no guarantee that amended guidelines would allow funding for an entry / intercom system.</p> <p>The condo association rep offered to withdraw the application (pending the approval of the condo association board) until the issue could be resolved and pointed out that the guidelines established a limit of one grant per recipient, so the two projects (entry / intercom and cameras) could not be split into two separate applications. There was a discussion of the timeline involved if the committee took that approach: 1) revise the program guidelines at its 12/20 meeting; 2) make a recommendation to the SSCO Board for its 1/8/13 meeting; 3) go ahead with the new guidelines (if approved by the Board) at its 1/24/13 meeting. The committee decided to proceed along those lines and consider at least three revisions to the program guidelines: 1) define "security systems" in the list of ineligible projects; 2) change or eliminate from the list of eligible projects the phrase "some upgrades of existing hardware that enhance the safety of the building"; 3) make it clear that this program is for residential properties only. The condo association rep withdrew the application pending the outcome of this process.</p> | |
|--|--|--|

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.