



Community Safety meeting minutes – December 18, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Ken Strobel, co-chair; Anne Forsyth-Gillette, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Rena Dudgeon and Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police department; Nikki Appelbaum, City Attorney's office; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Dave Hautman, Franklin Nicollet Liquor; Jerry Paulson, John Ryser, Howard Penas, Corwin Morton, Arlene Storandt, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoe (dave_ssc@yahoo.com)

Note: A sheet with some of the information presented at this meeting is available at this [link](#) or by request.

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Safety meetings are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. ▪ SSCO's semi-annual meeting and free pancake breakfast is set for 12/20, 10 a.m., at Plymouth Church. 	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 1/22, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – Sgt Rena Dudgeon, CPS Chelsea Adams, Community Attorney Nikki Appelbaum, Probation Officer Anne Forsyth-Gillette	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Nikki Appelbaum: Year-end review of those who will be retained, removed, and added to the 5th Precinct CLEAN list. The intent is to identify – and devote law enforcement resources to – those who are currently causing problems in the community. Anne Forsyth-Gillette is supervising one of these individuals and working to arrange chemical dependency and mental health evaluations for him.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff: Should SSCO partner with Little Earth of United Tribes on a project to educate new Hennepin County Criminal Court judges about the impact of livability crimes on the community? Robert Lilligren, the CEO of Little Earth, invited SSCO to participate in this project: although the two neighborhoods have significantly different demographic characteristics – including age, ethnicity, and income – they share a common focus on preventing and reducing livability offenses (such as alcohol, drug, and prostitution-related crimes, disorderly conduct, aggressive panhandling, public urination, etc.) in their communities. Little Earth is a subsidized housing complex along Cedar Ave between East 24th St and East 26th St which was founded in 1973 and has nearly 1,000 residents, half of whom are under age 21. Currently, 98% of the residents are Native Americans with very low income. Participating in this project would meet the recommendation in SSCO's strategic plan for the committee to maintain and expand its active partnerships with other organizations.</p> <p>Community members discussed and commented on the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Judges in court often only hear about the defendant and his or her needs and rarely ever hear about how the defendant's criminal behavior affects the community. This would be a way for judges to put a face to the victims of these crimes. It is important for the community's voice – not just that of the defendant – to be heard by judges and taken into account in the process. ▪ The project would be a good way for SSCO to make connections with residents in the 3rd Precinct who have the same kinds of issues. ▪ Judges would be more likely to make good decisions if they understood what both the community and the defendant need for a successful outcome, which is to encourage the defendant to demonstrate better behavior in the community. ▪ New judges might be more open to listening to the community and taking that viewpoint into account when making decisions. 	<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>

- Little Earth has been active on issues related to the court system for a long time and has some experience in these matters.
- Judges need to understand that these offenses cause harm to the community and that not taking them seriously exacerbates the problems.
- It might be wise also to include a neighborhood from the north side in this project to show that livability offenses have a widespread impact in the city.
- If successful, this could be a pilot project with subsequent participation by neighborhoods and other groups throughout the city.

On a motion by Howard Penas, seconded by Corwin Mortin, the committee decided to partner with Little Earth of United Tribes on a project to educate new Hennepin County Criminal Court judges about the impact of livability crimes on the community.

Staff will contact Little Earth to arrange a meeting to plan the project and decide on what format and venue to use in meeting with judges. The Community Safety co-chairs and Block Patrol leaders will be part of this process.

Presentation by Chelsea Adams: The [Sexual Violence Center](#) (SVC) is a countywide nonprofit organization which provides support for those who have been impacted by any kind of sexual violence regardless of gender or income. The organization staffs a 24-hour crisis line (612-871-5111) and provides counseling, support groups, and medical and legal advocacy. Among the problems SVC addresses is street harassment. A number of women in Stevens Square – Loring Heights and Whittier have spoken recently of being verbally harassed, accosted, and/or followed by male strangers – often with sexual overtones or intent – in public places along Nicollet Ave, Franklin Ave, Nicollet Mall downtown, and at bus stops. It appears that several women have moved out of the area in order to escape this kind of frequent harassment on the streets. Would it be useful for SVC to present information about how to combat this problem at a community meeting or forum?

Community members agreed that street harassment can be a problem here, expressed support for this idea, and asked for more information. It's unclear what specific advice or tools SVC provides to community members other than advocating for the anti-violence strategies of [Green Dot](#). Adams and SSCO staff will do more research and report the information at the 1/22 Community Safety meeting. Adams suggested that the neighborhood organizations consider sponsoring a presentation, perhaps at The Nicollet coffee shop, if it comes to that; it can be complicated for MPD to sponsor presentations by outside groups.

A community member stated that if anyone is being harassed or in any other danger on the street, they can find a safe haven at any of the 29 Minneapolis Public Housing towers in the city, two of which are in Stevens Square (1707 3rd Ave, 1920 4th Ave). Staff or volunteers at these buildings can provide assistance, document incidents, and call 911.

Presentation by Chelsea Adams: A list and map of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during the past month showed two sexual assaults (both involved acquaintances of some sort, not strangers), two robberies of person (12/5 at Franklin & 1st, 12/17 at 18th & Stevens), one aggravated assault (11/26 at 1827 LaSalle Ave), three burglaries (11/23 – 25 at 1926 Pleasant Ave, 12/4 at 1707 3rd Ave, 12/4 – 7 at 600 West Franklin Ave), and one motor vehicle theft (12/17 at 18th & 3rd).

Adams distributed information about ways to stay safe during the [holiday season](#), [report tips to police](#) and [problems to 311](#) via text with smart phone apps, and [register a bike](#) via 311. She also distributed copies of the 5th Precinct resource list and

	<p>information about online crime prevention resources.</p> <p>Adams reported that there have been widespread complaints about packages delivered by the Postal Service and other delivery companies being stolen from the entry ways and porches of apartment buildings and houses. The problem appears to peak during the run-up to the holidays. If possible, those receiving packages who are not at home should try to arrange for a neighbor to sign for them or bring them in, ask their apartment company to receive package deliveries (some in the neighborhood already do this), or arrange to pick up the packages at the carrier's office or distribution center. If a package which has been delivered to your address goes missing, file a police report via 311.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff: From January through November, violent crime in the neighborhood dropped 20.4% compared to last year. This includes a 55.6% decline in sexual assaults and a 40% drop in aggravated assault. Burglaries are down 35.5% and motor vehicle thefts have dropped 16.7% compared to 2013. The total number of Part 1 crimes reported this year is down 4.5%.</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 11 police reports in this area in the past month, compared to 10 during the previous month. There was one drug-related arrest, a traffic stop on 12/5 at Franklin & 3rd. Three violent crimes (attempted theft from person, misdemeanor assault, sexual assault) and three property crimes (two apartment burglaries, one business burglary) were reported. Arrests for drug offenses in the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, are down 30.6% compared to last year.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> SSCO continues to monitor a number of rental properties on the 1900 block of Stevens Ave. There have been no police reports for those addresses since 9/30.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Illegal consumption of alcohol in the neighborhood. Arrests for alcohol offenses in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, are down 37.7% compared to last year. Total arrests in this area for alcohol, drug, and prostitution offenses are down 36.3% compared to 2013. Alcohol-related arrests in Stevens Square Park are down 50% compared to last year.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 11/21 to 12/18, 11 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 19 shifts, contributing 52 hours. Seven Block Patrol members participated in a holiday cookie exchange. The total number of Block Patrol volunteers and hours for 2014 will be presented at the 1/22/15 meeting.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams: spoke with over 30 community members on the streets; reported street lights out, graffiti, and overflowing dumpsters at an apartment building to 311; reported holiday lights out to the Nicollet Ave Special Service District; frequently spoke with our beat officers and neighborhood probation officers; encountered the same person three times within an hour on Nicollet Ave asking for cash, the use of our phone, and cigarettes; received thanks from five neighborhood residents for keeping the neighborhood safe; gave directions to visitors to St Stephen's Human Services, the Money Exchange, and the nearest convenience store; called 911 to report an emotionally disturbed person on Clinton Ave; found a syringe at 18th & Nicollet and disposed of it; enjoyed a number of "nice, fun patrols with no happenings!"</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_ssko@yahoo.com or Dave at 874-2840</p> <p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>