

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – December 20, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Robert Lilligren, Ward 6 City Council; Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Matt Clark and Tony Diaz, Minneapolis Police department; Jennifer Saunders, City Attorney’s Office; Malcolm Williams, Plymouth Congregational Church; Chris Holm, Stevens Community Apartments; Dave Hautman, Franklin Nicollet Liquor; Stefanie Toftey, Eddie Chambers, Jerry Paulson, John Ryser, Jill Ferguson, Robert Fischer, Aaron Szczech, Howard Penas, and safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_sscoweb@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
<p>Announcement</p> <p>Contact SSCO to volunteer or for more info.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2012 year-end crime and arrest statistics for the neighborhood will be presented at the committee's 1/24 meeting. 	<p>Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 1/24, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</p>
<p>Minneapolis Police report – Assistant Chief Matt Clark, 5th Precinct Inspector Tony Diaz</p>	<p>Matt Clark, who has been promoted to Assistant Police Chief, introduced Tony Diaz, the new Inspector for the 5th Precinct. Diaz has most recently been the day shift lieutenant for the precinct and has been in charge of the community response teams (CRT). Clark said that Diaz is the most qualified person to take over the precinct and that he already knows the job. Clark said that he has appreciated working with SSCO and the non-profit, business, and rental property owners in the area. These community collaborations, such as the recent focus on 19th & 3rd, have been successful. Violent crime has decreased significantly in the neighborhood this year. Tony Diaz spoke about what's in store for the precinct in the new year: Michael Friestleben has been promoted from sergeant to lieutenant and will be assigned to the 4th Precinct; day CRT will continue to be staffed with three officers and a sergeant; night CRT will continue to target areas of community concern throughout the precinct; the day beat patrols will be staffed by current beat officers Aimee Colegrove and Brianna Garman, who will be joined by former Uptown beat officers Adam Chard and Rob Illetschko. Diaz thanked the Safety committee and Block Patrol for providing strong, consistent support for police efforts in the neighborhood. The committee congratulated Clark and Diaz on their promotions.</p> <p>Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams, who was unable to attend the meeting, provided copies of a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during November. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 rape: 11/19, 4 a.m., in Stevens Square Park, for which there is no new information beyond what was presented at the 11/29 meeting. ▪ 4 apartment burglaries: 11/5 at 1818 LaSalle Ave; 11/9 at 1706 Stevens Ave; 11/10 at 1706 2nd Ave; 11/16 at 1805 1st Ave. ▪ 1 motor vehicle theft: 11/27 at 130 East 18th St. ▪ 4 incidents of theft from motor vehicles: 11/23 at 17th & 2nd; 11/23 at 1705 Stevens Ave; 11/25 at 1810 3rd Ave; 11/25 at 1706 Stevens Ave. ▪ 6 other incidents of theft, including a theft from person on 11/2, 4:10 p.m., at Franklin & Harriet. <p>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, 15 have been convicted and sentenced.</p> <p>SSCO's Google maps and lists of arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, from 11/26/12 to 12/16/12 showed 6 alcohol-related arrests (1 in 2011), 3 narcotics-related arrests (1 in 2011), and no prostitution-related arrests (none in 2011). Year to date, there were 226 alcohol-related arrests (201 in 2011), 77 narcotics-related arrests (136 in 2011), and 2 prostitution-related arrests (10 in 2011). For the period from 11/26/12 to 12/16/12, SSCO's Google maps showed 31 police reports for the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St), 5 for the Stevens Square Park area (Stevens Ave to 2nd Ave, 17th St to Franklin Ave), and 9 for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave).</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> <p>Contact SSCO to receive the list of offenders charged with felonies for selling drugs to undercover officers in the neighborhood.</p> <p>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.</p>

<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"> ▪ Patrick Addy – in the workhouse until 12/21, three cases set for court on 2/12/13. ▪ Charles Bailey – in custody for a review hearing on a 3rd degree burglary case on 1/10/13, restricted from the area by court order. ▪ Joseph Conklin – two cases set for court on 1/14/13, on probation until 8/16/13. ▪ Anthony Ford – one case set for court on 3/26/13, on probation until 8/24/13. ▪ Larry Harper – in custody for a felony drug sale case set for court on 1/4/13, a motor vehicle theft case set for a parole violation hearing on 1/7/13. ▪ Ahmed Hired – in the workhouse until 2/10/13. ▪ Frank Killwright – released from the workhouse on 12/11, active warrant. ▪ Harry Leftbear – released from the workhouse on 12/15, on probation until 8/9/13. ▪ Randy McNellis – cases set for court on 12/21, 12/27, 1/7. ▪ Brandon Miller – released from prison on 12/17, on parole until 4/15/13. ▪ Maurice Patterson – released from the workhouse on 12/18. ▪ Alpheaus Putmon – on probation until 10/29/13, restricted from the area by court order, three new theft cases from the past week pending. ▪ Farid Suleiman – set for sentencing on 1/23/13 for a felony theft case from Elk River. <p>SSCO submitted a community impact statement in regard to chronic offender Michael Mathis on 12/11/12; copies were passed around.</p>	<p>Jennifer.Saunders@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p>
<p>Priority concerns / hot spots / chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Narcotics-related loitering and traffic in the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave), especially at 19th & 3rd – There are reports that the area has been quiet and that loitering and suspicious vehicle traffic has declined. The mobile police camera at 19th & 3rd was removed today. <p>SSCO’s monthly chronic offender update included cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Devon Holt (4 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 10/24/11 3rd degree felony drug sale at 422 East Franklin Ave. ▪ Dejuan McFarland (7 arrests in the area in the past year, 30 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 7/5/12 aggressive panhandling and possession of drug paraphernalia at Franklin & Nicollet; 7/26/12 interfering with traffic at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ Carl Williams (13 arrests in the area in the past eight years, 12 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 8/30/12 trespassing and interfering with traffic at 2020 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Troy Fait (5 arrests in the area in the past year, 8 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 10/3/12 loitering with intent to buy or sell narcotics and possession of liquor in a park at 2200 3rd Ave, Fair Oaks Park; 11/19/12 possession of liquor in a park and consuming alcohol in public at 2200 3rd Ave, Fair Oaks Park. 	<p>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.</p>
<p>Block Patrol report – Jill Ferguson</p>	<p>Jill Ferguson reported that, from 11/30 to 12/20, 9 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 15 shifts, contributing a total of 39 hours. Block Patrol has started a project to identify the locations of all the surveillance cameras in the neighborhood. Block Patrol will share this information with the 5th Precinct. Ferguson shared some stories from the Block Patrol log.</p>	<p>Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol. Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>
<p>Ward 6 report – City Council Member Robert Lilligren</p>	<p>Robert Lilligren reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For the second year in a row, Minneapolis led the nation in National Night Out participation: more than 65,000 residents gathered at 1,219 events. ▪ New Police Chief Janee Harteau has appointed her executive management team: Matt Clark, Assistant Chief; Eddie Frizell, Deputy Chief of Patrol; Kris Arneson, Deputy Chief of Investigation Bureau; Travis Glampe, Deputy Chief of Professional Standards; Lucy Gerold, director of the Leadership and Organizational Development Division. (Clark, Frizell, Arneson, and 	<p>Robert.Lilligren@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2206</p>

	<p>Gerold have all been commanders of the 5th Precinct.) Harteau has also appointed new precinct inspectors: Bryan Schafer, 1st Precinct; Bruce Jensen, 2nd Precinct; Michael Sullivan, 3rd Precinct; Michael Kjos, 4th precinct; Tony Diaz, 5th Precinct. Chief Harteau has attended more Ward 6 neighborhood meetings than all the other chiefs in the past 11 years combined.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minneapolis has submitted an application to the State requesting that all data collected by the Police department's automated license plate reader system be temporarily classified as not-public data. The City has also requested that the 2013 Legislature classify this data as private. These moves stem from concerns that criminals could use this data to determine the travel patterns of victims of domestic violence, vulnerable adults, and others in order to commit crimes. ▪ The Fire department will accept applications for new firefighters in 2013 to prepare for the retirement of many long-time firefighters in the coming years. ▪ The City Council has approved a budget for 2013, with overall spending down about 3% from 2012. The property tax levy will increase by 1.77%; 70% of homeowners will not be affected by this increase. The Police department budget will increase by \$2.5 million, allowing for ten more officers to be hired. The department is still looking for a sustainable funding source for the Crime Prevention Specialist positions. Some funding was allocated to help support the Project Lookout crime prevention program at Public Housing high rises. Since 2002, the City has paid down \$241 million in debt. Reforms in the funding of pensions have saved the City \$20 million in 2012. ▪ The City has received a grant from the Partnership for a Healthier America and the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association to host more of the popular "Open Streets" events in which commercial streets are closed to motor vehicles for several hours in order to open the streets for use by pedestrians, bikers, and others. ▪ Public voting has begun in the new art competition to transform the Convention Center plaza. Voting is facilitated through a Facebook page and ends on 1/7/13. ▪ Tax reform during the upcoming legislative session could result in increased Local Government Aid allocations to the City. <p>There was a discussion of parking and traffic problems in the vicinity of 19th & Clinton, including bottlenecks involving school bus traffic on streets which are too narrow to accommodate two parking lanes and two traffic lanes. There were also complaints about eastbound traffic on Franklin Ave backed up for blocks due to vehicles turning left to access the highway at 5th Ave; the traffic signal timing does not allow enough vehicles to complete the turn per cycle. Lilligren said that the City has new signal timing technology that might be able to relieve some of the problems. The City has also received a grant from Transit for Livable Communities to look at ways to make Franklin Ave in the area more hospitable to the shared use of the road by bikes and motor vehicles. This could be a way to address the left turn problems on Franklin at 5th.</p> <p>There was a discussion about snow plowing and how the City's operations do not take into account the population density and shortage of on-street parking spaces in the neighborhood. The lack of curb-to-curb plowing and the failure to completely clear the streets of snow create a serious hardship for those who live and work here and sometimes result in parking restricted to one side of the street in order to allow access for emergency vehicles. Lilligren said that the goal is to customize snow removal to the needs of each area of the city, which is difficult to achieve. The Public Works department has made some improvements, but the results are often inconsistent: for example, some snow emergency routes are well cleared, but others are not. The goal is to plow the streets from curb to curb. Property owners are responsible for clearing sidewalks and storm drains; report violators to 311. Residents are asked to please clear snow away from fire hydrants.</p>	<p>Ward 6 web site</p>
Restorative Justice Community Action report	An RJCA client contributed eight hours of community service in the past month picking up trash and litter in the neighborhood. Cynthia Prosek is the new program manager.	Call 746-0780 RJCA web site
Building Safety Improvement program	As a result of the discussion at the 11/29 meeting , the committee considered three proposed revisions to the guidelines of the Building Safety Improvement program . SSCO's executive director submitted the following recommendations to the committee:	

- 1) **In the list of projects not eligible for funding, eliminate the phrase "security systems" and instead add "building entry systems", "intercom systems", and "alarm systems".**

Property owners have a primary responsibility to provide secure entry systems to their buildings. Funding such systems is not within the scope or intent of SSCO's Building Safety Improvement program. However, some of these security-related systems do qualify as an eligible cost under SSCO's residential loan program, which is intended to augment the Building Safety Improvement program with expanded items.

- 2) **In the list of projects eligible for funding, eliminate the phrase "Some upgrades of existing hardware that enhance the safety of the building."**

For the most part, the program guidelines are specific about projects which are or are not eligible. Revisions to the guidelines throughout the program's history have been in the direction of making eligibility more, rather than less, specific and clear. This phrase in the guidelines is too vague and open to interpretation and can lead to confusion on the parts of both the applicants and the committee about what exactly is covered.

- 3) **In the overview of the program, insert the word "residential" into the first sentence: "The SS-LH NRP Building Safety Improvement Program aims to support residential property owners and tenants in their efforts to increase the safety of the neighborhood through improvements to their buildings and environs."**

This change will make it clear that the program is for residential properties only, which has been the intent of the program from the start. SSCO has a commercial loan program for other businesses.

There was a discussion and questions about these recommendations, specifically in regard to funding only projects which benefit the neighborhood and not just the owner or residents of a single property.

On three separate motions – one for each of the recommendations above – made by Howard Penas and seconded by Eddie Chambers, the committee recommended that the SSCO Board approve the changes to the guidelines of the Building Safety Improvement program.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.