

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – February 23, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave

Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Robert Lilligren, Ward 6 City Council; Matt Clark, Aimee Colegrove, Nick Hwang, and Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Chris Dixon, City Attorney’s Office; Malcolm Williams, Plymouth Church; Kristin Unterseher, Starbucks Coffee; Julian Gray, Fades of Gray; Lucy Minn, Lupe Development; Mary Gunderson, CVS; Arlene Storandt, Jill Ferguson, Eddie Chambers, Howard Penas, Gretchen Webber, Dale Reisdorph, Paul Soderquist, Leland Miller, Suzanne Rosenthal, Chris Neumeier, Jerry Paulson , and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_ssc@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"> ▪ SSCO and Minnesota Church Center are sponsoring community yoga classes every Thursday from 3/1 to 4/19, 6 to 7 p.m., in the conference room at the Minnesota Church Center, 122 West Franklin Ave. The cost is \$40 for all eight sessions or drop in for \$7 per class. To register or for more information, contact licensed instructor Elizabeth Young at lizabethyoung@gmail.com ▪ On 3/2 from 7 to 9 a.m., KBEM Jazz 88 FM DJ Ed Jones will broadcast live from The Nicollet, 1931 Nicollet Ave. This is part of the station's "In the Neighborhood" series which celebrates the stories of vibrant Twin Cities neighborhoods. ▪ The annual Art Squared fundraiser for SSCO is set for 4/21 at The Nicollet, 1931 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park will take place on 6/6, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27, and 7/11. ▪ The Red Hot Art festival is set for 7/28 and 7/29 in Stevens Square Park. 	<p>Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 3/22, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</p>
<p>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Chris Dixon</p>	<p>Chris Dixon distributed copies of the 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet and updated the committee on some of the offenders active in Stevens Square, six of whom are restricted from the area by court order and seven of whom are in jail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patrick Addy – 11 cases set for court on 5/21/12. ▪ Charles Bailey – 4 cases set for court on 3/1/12, will request geographic restrictions. ▪ Darryl Brooks – set for sentencing on 6/6/12. ▪ Joseph Conklin – 1 case set for court on 3/22/12 and 2 cases set for court on 4/3/12. ▪ Kathleen Croud – restricted from the area by court order. ▪ Anthony Ford – active warrants for 6 cases. ▪ Maurice Giles – in jail for robbery, hold without bail. ▪ Larry Harper – on probation for 2 felony cases, review hearing set for 3/5/12, restricted from the area by court order. ▪ Ahmed Hired – 5 cases set for court on 3/14/12, will request geographic restrictions. ▪ Frank Killwright – has a new case which will be set for court. ▪ Ronald King – in the workhouse until 3/6/12, restricted from the area by court order. ▪ Lynn Love – on probation until 5/26/12, no longer restricted from the area. ▪ Jessica Matt – restricted from the area by court order. ▪ Brandon Miller – 10 cases set for court on 3/20/12, will request geographic restrictions. ▪ Kenneth Nickaboine – deceased ▪ Maurice Patterson – active warrants for 3 cases for failing to report to the workhouse, will serve 365 days when apprehended. ▪ Alpheaus Putmon – 1 case set for court on 3/1/12. ▪ Addis Swift – restricted from the area by court order. ▪ Frederick Washington – in the workhouse until 3/12/12. ▪ Robert Yellow Wolf – restricted by court order from the area from Grand Ave to Stevens Ave, 26th St to 31st St. 	<p>Christopher.Dixon@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p>

	<p>In response to a question, Dixon explained that loitering with intent to commit a crime, such as in possession of an open bottle of alcohol or to buy or sell narcotics, is a misdemeanor. Loitering per se is not illegal. Some behaviors associated with loitering can be addressed through the enforcement of other offenses such as trespassing or interfering with pedestrian traffic.</p>	
<p>Minneapolis Police report – Inspector Matt Clark, CPS Chelsea Adams, Officers Aimee Colegrove and Nick Hwang</p>	<p>Chelsea Adams distributed a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during January. She noted that there were few violent crimes, and that none of the victims of those crimes was from Minneapolis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 criminal sexual assault – 1/12 at an address on the 1900 block of 3rd Ave in which the victim of a physical assault was unsure whether a sexual assault also took place and became uncooperative with police. ▪ 1 aggravated robbery of person – 1/11, 9:45 p.m., at 1806 LaSalle Ave in which two male suspects caught a victim who was wearing headphones by surprise, assaulted the victim, and stole a cell phone. ▪ 1 2nd degree assault with a dangerous weapon – 1/7, 6 p.m., at 18th & Nicollet, in which a victim who was stabbed in the back of the head was uncooperative with police. ▪ 2 apartment burglaries – 1/15 at 1818 LaSalle Ave in which a suspect entered an unlocked apartment and stole a camera: Ernest John Dobbert (7/17/60) was arrested for burglary; 1/19 at 432 Ridgewood Ave in which an unknown suspect entered an adjacent room and broke through a sheetrock wall to gain access to the victim's apartment. ▪ 1 business burglary – 1/31 at 1812 Nicollet Ave, Hot Wireless, in which a suspect broke into the business and stole phones: Ryan Laquinn Williams (12/18/69) was arrested for burglary. ▪ 6 motor vehicle thefts: 1/2 at 1920 Stevens Ave; 1/3 at 1921 3rd Ave; 1/7 at 331 Ridgewood Ave; 1/20 at 1920 4th Ave; 1/23 at 1707 3rd Ave; 1/27 at 220 East 19th St. ▪ 2 thefts from motor vehicles – 1/2 at 1920 Stevens Ave; 1/28 at 18th & Nicollet. ▪ 1 other theft – 1/11 at 1806 LaSalle Ave. <p>Block leader training is set for 2/27 at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and 3/6 at 11 a.m. to noon at the 5th Precinct, 3101 Nicollet Ave. Contact Adams to sign up. Recent trends in the 5th Precinct include: theft of stained glass windows from vacant houses; theft of copper, especially pipes from vacant houses and downspouts from occupied houses and businesses; theft of HVAC units (for the copper coils inside), primarily from commercial properties. Call 911 to report suspicious activity and thefts. The Police department works with utilities such as Xcel Energy to reduce copper theft and with businesses such as recyclers to stop the sale of stolen copper. It is a crime to remove solid waste – such as metal items – from commercial dumpsters without permission; the 5th Precinct's Day CRT (Community Response Team) has been enforcing that law in the neighborhood. Contact Adams to arrange for a free home security survey. The city has suggestions about how to deal with problems at vacant houses.</p> <p>Matt Clark thanked Adams for the awesome work she performs for the community and reported that it's been a pretty quiet winter in the 5th Precinct so far: violent crime is down 10% compared to last year. The precinct is focused on reducing property crimes, especially burglary and motor vehicle theft, which are up 19% compared to last year. Law enforcement and neighborhood staff are meeting on 3/12 with Council Member Lilligren to follow up on issues of concern to the community, including: Loaves and Fishes at St Stephen's, which has seen a big change in its clientele since making some recent changes in regard to the behavior allowed at its free evening meal; Starbucks Coffee, which has posted No Trespassing signs and improved the monitoring of its patio; and Franklin Nicollet Liquor, which generates a large 911 call load compared to other liquor stores in the precinct. Tibet Kitchen, 1833 Nicollet Ave, has been open for several months but does not have a liquor license yet. Council Member Lilligren gave Clark credit for getting directly involved in the licensing process and amplifying the community's concerns by developing license conditions and a business management plan which will allow the new business owners to succeed and become positive contributors to the neighborhood. Clark thanked SSCO for providing the neighborhood feedback needed to support the strong conditions. The owners have cooperated with Licensing staff and signed off on all of the conditions, which include: operating hours of 11 a.m. to midnight (2 p.m. opening on Sunday); two off-duty police officers from 8 p.m. to closing Thursday through Sunday; one security guard from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Monday through Wednesday; and no "happy hour" or drink specials after 8 p.m. Lilligren said that these are the strictest guidelines he has seen imposed on a liquor license since he has been in office. The City Council is expected to approve the liquor license on 2/24. The business has not rented any parking spaces from Plymouth Church. The idea is to take it slowly, support the business, ask the owners to be responsible, and balance good business practices with the need for community safety.</p>	<p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</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>Crime Prevention Resources</p> <p>911 / 311 information</p>

	<p>SSCO made copies available of a list of 22 offenders who have been charged with felonies for selling drugs to 5th Precinct Night CRT (Community Response Team) undercover officers in the neighborhood. Most of these offenders have been charged by complaint, after the fact. So far, five have been convicted and sentenced. An updated list will be made available at each Safety committee meeting. This is an ongoing project which began in August, 2011, in response to the increase in street drug dealing in the Clinton sector as a result of the 3rd Precinct's move to clean up Peavey Park and Franklin & Chicago; the most recent undercover buy occurred on 2/3/12 at Franklin & 4th. Clark thanked SSCO for compiling the data and tracking all the cases. The Stevens Square – Whittier Law Enforcement Group is tracking all the information and outcomes as the cases get charged. SSCO staff thanked Clark, Night CRT Sgt Sara Metcalf and her team, and all the others in law enforcement who have been involved in this phenomenally successful project. Lilligren said that this is an example of how the partnership among police, city and county prosecutors, and neighborhood groups has responded successfully to community concerns. Most of the cases should be resolved this spring.</p> <p>There was a question about the Police department's bait vehicle program. Without going into detail, there have been a number of successful bait vehicle operations in the neighborhood in the past several years. This is a continuing program: bait vehicles are parked in areas which have experienced a lot of motor vehicle thefts with the intent of catching car thieves.</p> <p>There was a suggestion that stickers, with a message about calling 911 to report criminal activity, be produced and placed over the out-of-date phone number on the Stevens Square drug-free zone signs. There was a discussion about whether to update the information on the signs or to remove them entirely since many are damaged or illegible. Staff will check on the County Attorney's current policy about getting enhanced sentences for narcotics crimes committed in drug-free zones.</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 1/23/12 to 2/20/12 showed 6 alcohol-related arrests (6 in 2011), 5 narcotics-related arrests (10 in 2011), and no prostitution-related arrests (none in 2011). Year to date, there were 16 alcohol-related arrests (9 in 2011), 8 narcotics-related arrests (12 in 2011), and no prostitution-related arrests (2 in 2011). For the period from 1/23/12 to 2/20/12, SSCO's Google maps showed 25 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 (17th St to Franklin Ave, Stevens Ave to 2nd Ave), and 17 for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave).</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>Priority concerns / hot spots / chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1913 Stevens Ave – The problem regarding drug dealing at this building appears to have been resolved after police executed forced entry search warrants at two apartments on 1/27/12 and arrested three people. There are reports that there are still security issues at the building following the raid. Call 311 to report problems with locks or security doors if the landlord refuses to fix them. ▪ Loud parties – There was a question about the best way to deal with complaints about loud parties in apartment buildings. Call 911 to get a police response and to establish a record of complaints. Document the date, time, and nature of each call. Bring the problem to the attention of the property owner. If the problem persists, contact the precinct Crime Prevention Specialist (CPS) with the details. If there are incidents which occurred between 10 p.m. and 6 p.m., the CPS may send a warning letter to the property owner stating that further incidents can lead to fines and, ultimately, the loss of the rental license. ▪ Drug dealing – There was a question about how to respond to drug dealing in apartment buildings. Call 911 to report disturbances and suspicious traffic in progress. Call the precinct CRT line (673-5716) to report detailed complaints and information about drug houses. Notify the property owner about the situation. The Minnesota Multi Housing Association also provides tenant and landlord resources for dealing with problems at rental properties. <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update included cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Krissy Stillday (19 arrests in the area in the past seven years) – 7/20/11 5th degree assault and trespassing at 2000 Nicollet Ave, Starbucks Coffee. ▪ Jason Pedlar – 1/11/12 theft at 2001 Nicollet Ave, CVS. ▪ Rico Bassett – 10/29/11 burglary of business at 1816 Nicollet Ave, Family Dollar Store. 	<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>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jules Chomilo – 11/14/11 gross misdemeanor 4th degree assault of a police officer and obstructing the legal process at 2000 Nicollet Ave, Starbucks Coffee. ▪ Mahamed Khalif (5 arrests in the area in the past two years) – 9/29/11 3rd degree felony sale of drugs at Franklin & 4th. ▪ William Vann – 10/5/11 3rd degree felony sale of drugs at Franklin & 4th. 	
<p>Ward 6 report – City Council Member Robert Lilligren</p>	<p>Robert Lilligren reported on a number of items of interest to the neighborhood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He is participating in the planning of the Neighborhoods USA Conference which will take place in Minneapolis in 2013. ▪ The Local, 931 Nicollet Mall, is donating \$1 to the Friends of the Skyway Senior Center every time a person checks in at The Local on Facebook during February. ▪ John Fruetel is the new Minneapolis Fire Chief. ▪ He provided an update on the closing of the Sabo Bridge over Hiawatha Ave. ▪ The Legislature has passed a bill mandating community notification when a Level 3 sex offender moves into a halfway house, thus eliminating a loophole in the existing law. ▪ Animal Care and Control has established a pet license reward program which includes a discount card for pet-related items at participating businesses for those who have licensed their pet(s). ▪ On 2/24, the City Council will consider allowing the Police department to hire more officers due to the current high rate of attrition. ▪ There has been no court ruling yet regarding the city's revocation of the rental licenses of the UPI Management properties, which include the apartment buildings at 1816, 1820, and 1830 Stevens Ave. The city is working toward a solution benefiting tenants who may be affected if the city wins the case. <p>As a result of the 2010 census, the process of redrawing the lines of the City Council wards and Park districts in the city is underway. Lilligren passed around copies of a map showing a proposal that impacts the neighborhoods of the current 6th Ward, splitting Stevens Square-Loring Heights (along 1st Ave) into the new 10th and 6th Wards. Redistricting information is available at the city web site. Citizens are invited to attend two public meetings to review draft proposals and share their input: 2/29, 5 to 7 p.m. at Webber Community Center, 4400 Dupont Ave North; 3/1, 5 to 7 p.m. at Hosmer Library, 347 East 36th St. Ken Strobel reported that the SSCO Board has passed a motion asking that the Redistricting Group adjust the ward boundaries to keep the Stevens Square-Loring Heights neighborhood in a single ward and not split it between two wards.</p> <p>There was a question about how Census workers get access to apartment buildings, and what to do when a Census worker keeps returning after a resident has asked repeatedly not to be bothered. It is legal for a Census worker to be in an apartment building on business as long as someone lets the person in. This is not an issue that involves the property owner, who cannot prohibit Census workers from being in a building.</p>	<p>Robert.Lilligren@Minneapolismn.gov</p> <p>673-2206</p> <p>Ward 6 web site</p> <p>Office hours at 1925 Nicollet Ave: third Monday of each month, 9:30 a.m. to noon, except for city holidays. Call to make an appointment.</p>
<p>Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt</p>	<p>Arlene Storandt reported that, from 1/27 to 2/23, 8 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 16 shifts, contributing a total of 47.5 hours. Block Patrol and the SSCO Outreach and Events coordinator continued the winter door-knocking campaign to promote SSCO and recruit new volunteers. During this period, Block Patrol teams door-knocked 223 apartments in 8 buildings, spoke with 77 residents, and signed up 51 to receive the SSCO e-mail newsletter.</p>	<p>Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol.</p> <p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.