



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

**Community Safety meeting minutes – February 23, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.**

Present: Corwin Morton and Aaron Szczech, co-chairs; Abdi Salah, Ward 6 City Council office; Chelsea Adams, Brian Anderson, Brianna Garman, Nick Kapinos, and Carl Valdez, Minneapolis Police department; Corey Grandner, Hennepin County Probation; Mindy Mueller, MN Adult & Teen Challenge; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Tiffany Lindquist, Mint Properties; Jill Ferguson, Jerry Paulson, Ken Strobel, John Ryser, Ashlynn, and SSCO staff Steve Gallagher and Dave Delvoye ( dave\_ssco@yahoo.com )

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

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SSCO's <a href="#">Winter Warm-Up Neighborhood Social</a>: 3/16, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., <a href="#">Reverie Café + Bar</a>, 1931 Nicollet Ave, featuring live music, delicious food, raffle prizes, drinks with friends and neighbors, and a silent auction of local artists' works.</li> <li>▪ Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 3/23, 6 p.m., at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</li> </ul>	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 3/23, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – 5 <sup>th</sup> Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams, Lt Brian Anderson, Officer Brianna Garman, Recruit Nick Kapinos, Chaplain Carl Valdez, Probation Officer Corey Grandner	<p><u>Presentation</u> by CPS Chelsea Adams: The following crimes were reported in the past month in Stevens Square – Loring Heights: one robbery of person (2/12, midnight, at 1912 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave in which a male suspect robbed a female victim at gunpoint), one aggravated assault (2/1 at Franklin &amp; Lyndale for which 27-year-old Gustavo James Best was arrested for kicking, spitting on, and biting a police officer who was trying to get him out of the roadway), four burglaries (1/29 at MetroPCS, 1812 Nicollet Ave; 2/6 at 1700 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave; 2/16 at MetroPCS, 1812 Nicollet Ave; 2/14 at 1915 1<sup>st</sup> Ave), 4 motor vehicle thefts (2/11 at 1827 Nicollet Ave; 2/11 to 2/16 at 242 West Franklin Ave; 2/21 at 516 West Franklin Ave; 2/16 to 2/19 at 102 East 19<sup>th</sup> St), one theft from motor vehicle (2/17 at 1728 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave); and four other incidents of theft.</p> <p>Lt Brian Anderson asked community members to please lock their vehicles when parked and leave nothing of value inside; about half of all such thefts in the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct involve unlocked vehicles. Police receive numerous reports of unknown suspects checking for and rummaging through unlocked vehicles – call 911 if you witness suspicious activity. Adams distributed copies of a sheet detailing the costs to a victim of <a href="#">theft from motor vehicle</a>, including fixing a broken window (about \$200), stolen credit cards being used by the thief in an hour or less (\$100 to \$500), credit cards or other documents being used to perpetrate identity theft, and the impact of identity theft on a victim's credit score. Don't leave purses, wallets, or any documents containing personal identity information inside a parked vehicle. Don't leave <a href="#">vehicles parked and running</a> unattended.</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Attorney Matt Wilcox was unable to attend the meeting and sent copies of the <a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> Precinct CLEAN list</a>: Sharee Barrett (7/10/81) was released from the workhouse on 2/8 and has gross misdemeanor trespassing and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burglary cases set for court on 3/20. Darryl Brooks (8/29/64) is on supervised probation for gross misdemeanor trespassing with a new trespassing offense set for court on 3/7.</p> <p>Neighborhood Probation Officer Corey Grandner reported that his client William Ernst (11/22/65) will be released</p>	Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819  <a href="#">Crime Prevention Resources</a>  <a href="#">911 / 311 information</a>  Matthew.Wilcox@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402  <a href="#">CRT</a> line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716

	<p>from the workhouse on 3/6/17. Grandner announced that he will be transferring to the north side soon and will miss working with the neighborhood. He promised to introduce Drew Kirch, the new probation officer assigned to this area, at an upcoming Community Safety meeting. Community members thanked Grandner for his service to the neighborhood and wished him well.</p>	
<p>Neighborhood-related safety ideas and concerns</p>	<p><u>Should the neighborhood take a position on legislative proposals to allow liquor stores to sell alcohol on Sundays?</u>  This topic was raised at the 1/27 Community Safety meeting and, considering the neighborhood's long effort to reduce alcohol-related crime, was tabled to allow notification of community members about the discussion. The SSCO Board discussed the topic at its 2/6 meeting and is willing to consider a recommendation from the Safety committee.</p> <p>SSCO staff provided information about arrests for alcohol-related offenses in the area from 2011 to 2016 sorted by day of the week. Of 943 arrests, 2.2% occurred on Sundays, 13.9% on Mondays, 20.1% on Tuesdays, 16.4% on Wednesdays, 18.3% on Thursdays, 17.6% on Friday, and 11.2% on Saturdays. The small number of arrests on Sundays (21 over six years, 2.2% of the total) could reflect the fact that liquor stores are closed, that police enforcement and staffing may be lower, and that chronic drinkers may switch to mouthwash (up to 27% alcohol) on Sundays. There may also be other variables which could account for the numbers.</p> <p>The bill to allow liquor stores to open for limited hours (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) on Sundays was approved by the State House of Representatives on 2/20; State Rep Karen Clark voted in favor. A similar bill was amended to include two minor changes (open at 11 a.m.) and passed by the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee on 2/22 with a vote of 7 to 4 with a recommendation that the Senate pass the bill. State Senator Jeff Hayden is a member of this committee and voted in favor.</p> <p>It is known that Franklin Nicollet Liquor, 2012 Nicollet Ave, is opposed to the change but will open on Sundays, if the law is changed, to keep pace with its competitors.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the issue, which included the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff noted that only two community members commented on the issue since the last meeting, one in favor of the change, the other stating that the legitimate concerns of the neighborhood regarding a potential increase in alcohol offenses may not be a factor in most communities in the state.</li> <li>▪ If the bill passes, there's no way to predict what will happen in the neighborhood since alcohol crimes are already declining here.</li> <li>▪ Liquor stores in states surrounding Minnesota are open on Sundays and one does not hear of similar concerns there.</li> <li>▪ Considering the number of treatment facilities in the area, it makes sense to oppose the change because of the potential impact on that population.</li> <li>▪ Currently, grocery stores are allowed to sell beer with 3.2% alcohol content on Sundays, which does not seem to be a problem.</li> <li>▪ If the bill passes, liquor stores will have to be open on Sundays in order to compete.</li> <li>▪ A number of community members don't drink alcohol so they may not care either way about the issue.</li> <li>▪ If the bill passes and has a negative effect on the neighborhood, would police be willing to increase or shift staffing on Sundays to deal with the problem?</li> <li>▪ The existence of special rules for liquor sales on Sundays is due to religious beliefs, and the State has no business imposing those beliefs on society in regard to a product that's sold legally on other days.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It's the job of the Safety committee to look out for the well-being of the neighborhood, and Sunday liquor sales will not be good for this community.</li> <li>▪ It's pretty probable that the change is going to occur no matter what the committee does.</li> </ul> <p>When the discussion ended, a co-chair called for a motion. There was no response. The co-chair again called for a motion, and, after there was no response, moved on to the next item of business.</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 nine police reports in this area during the past month. There were no arrests for narcotics-related offenses. There was one shots fired incident (1/29 at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>), one aggravated robbery of person (2/12 at 1912 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave), and one burglary (2/6 at 1700 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave). No aggravated assaults, motor vehicle thefts, or thefts from motor vehicle were reported.</p> <p>Year to date in the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St, there were 6 arrests for narcotics-related offenses (the same number as last year) and 8 for alcohol-related offenses (compared to 6 last year).</p> <p>A community member reported on a hit-and-run incident outside of the neighborhood which involved a vehicle and a pedestrian. The victim, who was brushed by the vehicle and not injured, was unable to get police to make a report. There was a discussion about how 911 operators and police deal with these kinds of incidents.</p> <p>SSCO staff made available information about the outcome of cases involving three offenders active in the area.</p>	
<p>City Council Ward 6 report – Policy Aide Abdi Salah</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Policy Aide Abdi Salah: Council Member Warsame's contributions to the 2017 City budget include support for :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$800 million dollar for 20-year projects to repave city streets and improve neighborhood parks. Currie, Peavey, and Matthews Parks will receive significant investment.</li> <li>▪ Almost \$1 million in funding for community policing strategies, including \$100,000 for Ventura Village and Phillips West.</li> <li>▪ \$14.5 million for affordable housing developments.</li> <li>▪ Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center, including educational and workforce resources; the ribbon cutting is set for 3/12. There was a discussion about how to access those resources and about organizations working on the same issues.</li> <li>▪ 4-H Stem Program, an urban 4-H program for youth in Ward 6.</li> <li>▪ \$100,000 for the Civil Rights department to investigate and act on complaints about discrimination and hate crimes. There was a question about whether the Police department works with Civil Rights to identify potential hate or bias crimes.</li> <li>▪ \$150,000 to fund programs related to preventing domestic violence.</li> <li>▪ An ordinance restricting retail businesses from packaging items in plastic carryout bags, which goes into effect on 7/1.</li> <li>▪ A Safe and Sick Time ordinance mandating that employers provide certain benefits to employees who work in Minneapolis.</li> <li>▪ A proposal to mandate that employers – with certain exceptions – provide a \$15 minimum wage to employees who work in Minneapolis, which has not been enacted yet.</li> </ul>	<p>Abdi.Warsame@minneapolismn.gov 673-2206 <a href="#">Ward 6 web site</a></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A Target Market Program to make it easier for certain small businesses to bid on City contracts.</li> <li>▪ Initiatives to fight bigotry and Islamophobia.</li> </ul> <p>CM Warsame's priorities for 2017 include "defending Minneapolis as a sanctuary city" and "working with residents to identify public safety and community policing priorities".</p> <p>There were discussions about a number of other topics, including grants from the federal government and Minnesota to develop affordable housing projects on the north side and near the VA Hospital; redevelopment of a certain vacant building on East Franklin Ave in Ventura Village; and efforts by the City's Disabilities Advisory Committee to make all park facilities accessible.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 1/27 to 2/23, 11 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 17 shifts, contributing 54 total hours. 1 new volunteer joined Block Patrol.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams spoke with several dozen community members on the streets; spoke with our Franklin-Nicollet beat officers and watched them cite a male at Franklin &amp; Nicollet for open bottle; delivered crime alerts about robberies to neighborhood businesses; picked up trash and litter; visited the Sisters Camelot free food bus parked on Nicollet Ave; followed – and eventually lost track of – a male suspect who was reportedly harassing people on Nicollet Ave; noticed that the pay phone at 22<sup>nd</sup> &amp; Clinton is gone; reported new graffiti on commercial buildings in the neighborhood to 311; door-knocked 107 units in an apartment building to publicize SSCO and recruit new volunteers.</p> <p>During the noon shift on 2/16, a Block Patrol team encountered the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile at the BP Service Station at Franklin &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>. The team approached, spoke with Wienermobile staff – Lizzie (the driver) and Isaac – and asked if they could have a ride. Within a minute or two, the team was on board the Wienermobile, cruising through the Phillips and Whittier neighborhoods, singing the Oscar Mayer song, and waving at passing pedestrians and vehicles. The Wienermobile's "horn" plays the Oscar Mayer jingle. After about 15 minutes, the Wienermobile dropped the team off in front of SSCO's office on Nicollet Ave. Each team member received a free bouquet of flowers which were left over from an event at the Convention Center. Lizzie and Isaac said that they were heading out to tour small towns in North Dakota and then moving on to Colorado for two weeks. They said that there were only six Wienermobiles in the entire world – this one had custom license plates from Wisconsin which read, "Big Bun".</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>

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.