

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – February 25, 2010, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Michele McGaughey and Ken Strobel, co-chairs; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Chris Dixon, City Attorney’s office; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Mary Gunderson, Judy Austin, Laura Blue Bird, Jerry Paulson, Eddie Chambers, Charles Rosensteel, Aaron Szczech, Howard Penas, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_ssc@yahoo.com or 612-874-2840)

Meeting agendas and minutes are at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Agendas_and_Minutes/

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements – contact SSCO to volunteer or for more info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Art Squared fundraiser to benefit SSCO: Saturday, 3/13, 7 to 10 p.m., at Tillie’s Bean, 1931 Nicollet Ave, featuring local art for sale and raffle, live art, live music, wine, beer, light appetizers. Tickets: \$5 in advance (on sale at Tillie’s Bean), \$8 at the door. http://www.sscoweb.org/documents/Artsquaredpostercolor.pdf ▪ City Council Member Robert Lilligren was unable to attend this meeting. He will attend the 3/25 Safety meeting. ▪ Michele McGaughey thanked Council Member Lilligren and Officer Hubert for resolving a parking problem on the 1800 block of Clinton Ave which had made it difficult for firefighters to gain access to the area during an incident on 2/14. 	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 3/25, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.
Community Probation report – Probation Officers Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen	<p>Jean Schwalen reported that one of her clients, CLEAN sheet offender Kenneth Nickaboine, recently made a cameo appearance on ABC TV’s Nightline show in a segment about treating obsessive compulsive disorder which was filmed in Minneapolis. Bobbi Harrington reported that she added CLEAN sheet offender Joseph Conklin to her caseload.</p> <p>A manager at Starbucks Coffee wants community members to know that she is willing to work with SSCO to fix any problems at or around the shop which don’t require action at the corporate level. There were suggestions to invite Starbucks staff to accompany Block Patrol on a shift; to share Google maps of Nicollet corridor police reports with Starbucks management; and to address concerns such as the proliferation of litter, loitering on the property, and allowing persons who are not customers to have access to the water pitcher.</p>	<p>Contact info: Jean.C.Schwalen@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8212</p> <p>Bobbi.Harrington@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8075</p>

<p>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Chris Dixon</p>	<p>Chris Dixon distributed copies of the updated 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet, which is at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/docs/Pct5CLEAN.pdf Four new offenders, all Stevens Square regulars, have been added to the list: Maxim Chance, Harry Leftbear, Damon Moore, and Robert Yellow Wolf. 23 of the 30 offenders on the list are chronics in Stevens Square and are on the list at the request of SSCO.</p> <p>Dixon met with Judge Mark Wernick, the head of the County Criminal court, to ask that the misdemeanor offenses of “consuming alcohol in public” and “loitering in possession of an open bottle” be added to the bail schedule, giving police the ability to book offenders in jail for these crimes. SSCO asked Dixon to pursue this matter and has submitted a letter in support of this request. Dixon’s research has shown that the top 11 alcohol offenders in the precinct have a history of not responding to citations for these offenses, with an average of three bench warrants issued per offender per year. Judge Wernick agreed to bring the request to the judicial committee which sets the bail schedule.</p> <p>At its February meeting, the SSCO Board approved the committee’s motion to ask its City Council member and State legislators to amend the law to prohibit public consumption of alcohol-based mouthwash and cough syrup. Dixon has researched the issue and found that there are no city ordinances in the country which regulate such behavior. The issue is usually handled on a voluntary basis, with communities asking store owners not to sell alcohol-based mouthwash to inebriates or not to sell it on days when alcohol sales are prohibited. The City Attorney’s office is not excited about addressing this issue via ordinance due to a number of legal obstacles – including the problem of regulating the consumption of products which are not meant to be consumed – and is probably not willing to proceed unless the City Council provides direction. Under the definition of “intoxicating liquor” in State statute, it is almost impossible to get convictions for mouthwash consumption, and therefore such cases are no longer being prosecuted in Minneapolis. There was a discussion about how the problem could be addressed, including: focusing on the disorderly conduct which often results from intoxication regardless of the source of the alcohol; framing the issue as a public health matter to protect inebriates, since mouthwash contains a number of hazardous or toxic ingredients; asking local merchants to limit or control the sale of mouthwash; and educating the public about the effect of mouthwash consumption on inebriates who panhandle for money.</p>	<p>Contact info: Christopher.Dixon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5402</p>
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Minneapolis Police
report – Crime
Prevention
Specialist Chelsea
Adams

- Chelsea Adams provided a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during January. There were:
- 1 robbery of person: 1/21, 9:25 p.m., at 1900 3rd Ave in which a suspect hit a victim with a metal bar after the victim tried to verbally stop the suspect from prying open the door of this apartment building. The suspect took the victim's wallet and the victim's credit cards were later used; there may have been two other suspects involved. (A community member came upon the victim, who was trying to find someone to call 911 for help because he had been robbed and injured.)
 - 1 aggravated assault: 1/17, 12:05 a.m., at 1926 3rd Ave in which a party spilled onto the streets from an apartment and became a fight, with shots fired and several persons wounded. An arrest was made but most involved were uncooperative with police. This incident was discussed at the 1/28 Safety meeting. The tenant of the apartment in question moved out at the end of January and there have been no further complaints or incidents at this address.
 - 1 business burglary: between 1/5 and 1/20 at an office in 1905 Stevens Ave in which checkbooks and other items were stolen.
 - 3 apartment burglaries: 1/26 at 1728 3rd Ave in which a screen was cut and window forced open; 1/30 at 1800 3rd Ave in which entry was forced to an apartment, which was ransacked; 1/31 at 20 Groveland Ave in which an apartment door was forced open and a TV stolen.
 - 2 motor vehicle thefts: 1/25 at 1707 3rd Ave; 1/25, 8:20 p.m., at 1801 3rd Ave in which a vehicle left running with the keys locked inside was stolen and then recovered on 1/26 at 3:10 a.m. at 2200 Lyndale Ave (SuperAmerica) in the possession of CLEAN sheet offender [Jessica Lou Matt](#), who was arrested and charged with motor vehicle theft and receiving stolen property.
 - 2 thefts from motor vehicles: 1/19 at Franklin & Lyndale; 1/25 at 1915 Lyndale Ave.

Two suspects have been arrested recently in the Whittier neighborhood for burglary-related offenses. Manuel Hernandez Ayala (8/15/59) was arrested on 2/20 for possession of burglary tools but has not been charged yet. Contact Adams to submit a community impact statement regarding Michael Eugene Slayton (7/8/59) who is charged with receiving stolen property in an apartment burglary incident on the 2200 block of Pleasant Ave on 1/9.

Adams provided information about preventing identity theft, some of which is available at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/docs/identity.pdf> There was a discussion about failed efforts to persuade the State to provide an i.d. card for senior citizens to use for discounted Metro Transit services; the current practice requires seniors to show a Medicare card, which contains a social security number. Adams will follow up on this.

Officer Alice White has been assigned to the second Franklin Ave day beat position. She will work the same shift, but in a separate squad, as Officer Deb Hubert. Staff thanked Inspector Eddie Frizell for filling this position, the circumstances of which he discussed at the January Safety meeting.

SSCO's Google maps and lists of arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, from 1/25/10 to 2/21/10 showed 18 alcohol-related arrests (15 in 2009), 10 narcotics-related arrests (8 in 2009), and 1 prostitution-related arrest (1 in 2009). Year to date, there have been 32 alcohol-related arrests (22 in 2009), 13 narcotics-related arrests (16 in 2009), and 7 prostitution-related arrests (1 in 2009). For the same period, SSCO's Google maps showed 14 police reports for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave) and 40 for the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St). Information in text format is at <http://>

Contact info:
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673-2819

Contact SSCO to receive
printed or e-mailed copies of
the Google maps, which are
updated weekly. The e-
mailed versions now include
links to mugshots of chronic
offenders.

Priority concerns, hot spots, chronic offenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There were two motor vehicle thefts and two apartment burglaries in the vicinity of 18th & 3rd during the last week of January. ▪ Ryedelle Reginald Loving (3/10/89), who had been charged with a number of domestic assaults and protection order violations at an address in the neighborhood, is in custody on \$10,000 bail for 3rd degree felony possession of a controlled substance. ▪ SSCO submitted a community impact statement in regard to CLEAN sheet offender Darryl Brooks (8/29/64) who was arrested for public urination and disorderly conduct at Chicago Dentists, 2120 Nicollet Ave, on 2/9/10. Brooks, who is the top offender in the neighborhood with 37 arrests here in the past six years, was conditionally released to a treatment facility in Wadena pending a court appearance on 3/25/10. Since Brooks is under no court-ordered supervision, Probation Officer Harrington has offered to intervene in the case if Brooks is seen in the area in violation of his conditions. ▪ Level 3 sex offender Brent Murray Spafford (8/13/80), who was residing on the 1900 block of 1st Ave, has been in custody since 2/3/10 for a parole violation. The nature of this violation is confidential and not available to the public. On 2/25/10, Spafford's parole was revoked for 90 days and he was returned to prison. Upon release, Spafford is expected to initially reside at a halfway house before establishing a residence on his own. It is uncertain whether Spafford will return to the address on 1st Ave. Further information on Spafford is at: http://info.doc.state.mn.us/publicview/er/Inmate.asp?OID=204745 <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update featured cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Damon Moore (Level 3 sex offender): 12/24/09 theft at 2001 Nicollet Ave, CVS Pharmacy. ▪ Leanne Marie Kehoe: 1/18/10 loitering with intent to commit prostitution, possession of drug paraphernalia, and violating conditions of release at 1900 1st Ave. ▪ Harry Paul Leftbear: 12/18/09 public urination and indecent conduct at 1 West Franklin Ave, Jimmy John's; 12/22/09 consuming alcohol in public at 22nd & Nicollet; 1/13/10 trespassing and consuming alcohol in public at 12 West 22nd St. ▪ Curtis Batton: 2/17/10 littering at 1814 Nicollet Ave, AM Food Market. 	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.
Restorative Justice Community Action report	A community conference to address alcohol and trespassing offenses in south Minneapolis neighborhoods (including cases from Whittier and Stevens Square-Loring Heights) is scheduled for 3/4 at 5:30 p.m. at a location in Whittier. To sign up, contact Taryn Runck. http://www.rjca-inc.org/	Contact info: Taryn Runck TRunck@rjca-inc.org 746-0784
Block Patrol report – Judy Austin	From 1/29/10 to 2/24/10, 9 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 17 shifts, contributing a total of 58 hours. Two shifts were cancelled. The Block Patrol guidelines and application are at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Block_Patrol/	Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol.

<p>Coordinator report – Dave Delvoye</p>	<p>SSCO received a number of complaints from residents regarding the way the City implemented the winter parking restrictions on 2/11: residents were given less than 24 hours notice, and the automatic e-mails, text messages, and phone calls were sent after the ticketing began; dozens of vehicles in the neighborhood were ticketed, leading some to conclude that the City acted quickly in order to raise revenue; no attempt was made to find ways to allow emergency vehicle access to narrow streets which would not seriously inconvenience a huge number of people in densely populated neighborhoods; and nothing has been done in the meantime to plow and widen the residential streets in order to lift the parking ban. There were further complaints about the poor plowing of alleys. There was a suggestion to dig out any buried fire hydrants so that firefighters can find and access them easily in case of an emergency.</p> <p>A neighborhood resident contacted SSCO with concerns about the way some residents of apartment buildings respond to fire alarms and suggested that property managers or SSCO sponsor a training session by the Fire department or distribute information about how to prevent fires and what to do in case of a fire. Information is at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/fire/Fire_SafetyBrochures.asp , http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/fire/fire-prevention.asp , http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/fire/Fire_KidSafety.asp Committee members suggested incorporating fire prevention or fire extinguisher demonstrations into community events such as Red Hot Art and Cinema & Civics.</p>	
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Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.