



Community Safety meeting minutes – February 26, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Ken Strobel, co-chair; Rena Dudgeon, Chelsea Adams, Isaiah Davis, Minneapolis Police department; Nikki Appelbaum, City Attorney's office; Julian Gray, Fades of Gray; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; April Kelly, Stevens Community Apartments; Jerry Paulson, Corwin Morton, John Ryser, Gale Jorgensen, 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
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Safety meetings are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. 	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 3/26, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
<p>Updates from law enforcement partners – Sgt Rena Dudgeon, CPS Chelsea Adams, CSO Isaiah Davis, Community Attorney Nikki Appelbaum</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: A list and map of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during the past month showed one robbery of business (1/27, 7:30 p.m., 440 Ridgewood Ave in which a male suspect was arrested for robbing a pizza delivery driver at knifepoint), one aggravated assault (2/21 at 1707 3rd Ave involving acquaintances), two burglaries (2/5 at 1827 LaSalle Ave; 2/6 at 20 Groveland Ave), one motor vehicle theft (2/3 at 1827 Lasalle Ave), one bike theft (2/1 at 18th & 1st), three thefts from motor vehicles (1/25 at 1800 LaSalle Ave; 1/26 at Groveland & Nicollet; 1/27 – 1/29 at 18th & Stevens), and three other incidents of theft.</p> <p>The Lyndale Neighborhood Association is sponsoring a Personal Safety and Self Defense workshop on 3/10, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the 5th Precinct, 3101 Nicollet Ave.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Nikki Appelbaum and Cheslea Adams on the outcome of several cases from the neighborhood, including Anthony Merschdorf (7/4/78) who pled guilty to a 9/17/14 robbery at 124 Groveland Ave and received a three-year stay of imposition; Calvin Rallings (6/20/79) who pled guilty to a 11/13/13 misdemeanor weapons violation at 24th & Clinton and received a 90-day stayed sentence; Larry Charles Townsend (6/20/52) who pled guilty to a 1/10/15 disorderly conduct case at Frattallone's Ace Hardware and received a 90-day stayed sentence and is on supervised probation. SSCO submitted community impact statements to the court in regard to cases involving Eric Robinson and Jeffrey Blake. Appelbaum reported on the status of four individuals featured on the 5th Precinct CLEAN list.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff: Spreadsheet/charts of Part 1 (serious) crimes reported annually in the neighborhood from 1998 to 2014. Fewer burglaries and motor vehicle thefts were reported in 2014 than in any other year since 1998. Compared to the years with the largest number of these crimes reported, all categories of Part 1 crime in the neighborhood were down significantly in 2014, including burglary (-61.7% compared to 1998), motor vehicle theft (-72.4% compared to 2001), other theft (-39.2% compared to 1999), total property crimes (-45.4% compared to 1999), rape (-58.4% compared to 2000 and 2011), robbery (-65.2% compared to 1999), aggravated assault (-33.4% compared</p>	<p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p>Nicole.Appelbaum@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</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>

	<p>to 2013), total violent crimes (-50% compared to 1999), total property crimes (-45.4% compared to 1999), and total Part 1 crimes (-46.4% compared to 1999).</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 7 police reports in this area in the past month, compared to 11 in the previous month. There were no drug-related arrests. No violent felonies, three misdemeanor assaults, and one felony property crime (motor vehicle theft) were reported. Arrests for drug offenses in the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, have increased from 2 last year to 6 this year.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Illegal consumption of alcohol in the neighborhood. Arrests for alcohol in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, have increased from 6 last year to 7 this year. Total arrests in this area for alcohol, drug, and prostitution offenses have increased from 8 last year to 13 this year.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Thefts of packages delivered to apartment or condo buildings by the Postal Service or private carriers may be emerging as a bigger problem in the area. Nationwide, the trend has been linked to the growth in online shopping. The best solution is to have rental offices receive deliveries, but that is often not a realistic option. There was a discussion about having lock boxes in entryways which could be accessed by delivery drivers, although that solution raises other questions about getting keys to the lock box to the right people and making sure that no one breaks into the lock box in order to gain entry to the building. There was a report that deliveries of prescription medicine to residents of a Public Housing high rise in the neighborhood were sometimes being stolen; the drivers leave the packages outside the resident's door if no one answers.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 1/23 to 2/26, 9 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 20 shifts, contributing 48 hours. A student from the Humphrey Institute, who is studying law enforcement issues, accompanied a team on an evening shift. A Block Patrol team participated in the Dog Days of Winter event on 1/24 in Fair Oaks Park.</p> <p>On four evenings in February, Block Patrol teams and Neighborhood Activities Group volunteers door-knocked 176 apartments in 9 buildings, spoke with 54 residents, signed up 17 people for the SSCO e-mail list, and gave out 8 Block Patrol applications to interested residents.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams: spoke with about three dozen community members on the streets; reported street and alley lights out, overflowing dumpsters, and an abandoned couch in the street to 311; frequently spoke with our beat officers and neighborhood probation officers; called St Stephen's street outreach workers on a subzero afternoon to assist a wheelchair-bound male who crossed Franklin Ave mid-block through heavy traffic and then panhandled drivers waiting in the drive-thru lane at Wendy's, one of whom gave him a glove; assisted a friendly UPS driver who was delivering a towering stack of packages to a condo building; called 911 to report a domestic dispute on 1st Ave between a male and female which turned violent when the female, in response to a shouted insult, pepper-sprayed the male and chased him down the street – a Park police squad responded but the combatants had disappeared; walked a vulnerable neighborhood resident home after dark; spoke with a property manager about suspicious activity involving a resident at and around an apartment building; sought shelter from the cold at neighborhood coffee shops, the mall center, a fast food restaurant, a rental office, and a laundromat; watched a well-known offender waiting at Franklin & 1st while his companion went to the liquor store and made a purchase – they subsequently walked downtown; came upon the remains of a burned, charred Christmas tree in the park; watched a</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_ssco@yahoo.com or Dave at 874-2840</p> <p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>

	<p>well-known offender, who was intoxicated and barely able to walk, go into and come out of the liquor store – empty handed – in 35 seconds; watched an employee of a bar and restaurant escort a very intoxicated female out of the business – the employee then went to get his car and offered her a ride home.</p>	
<p>Community Safety plan – progress report</p>	<p>The initial planning meeting regarding SSCO's partnership with Little Earth took place on 1/29. The project involves educating new Hennepin County Criminal Court judges about the impact of livability crimes on the community. The group agreed on the content and format of the meetings with the judges. Each organization will host one meeting. Further details (dates, time, etc) have yet to be determined.</p> <p>The committee continued its discussion of whether to ask the Sexual Violence Center (SVC) to make a presentation to the community about how to combat street harassment, especially harassment of females by males who are strangers. Community members agreed that this problem is prevalent in the neighborhood, especially during the warmer months – they had either been a victim of this kind of harassment or had witnessed it. SVC staff would be able to make a presentation about the options available for dealing with this problem, with the explicit understanding that not every strategy is going to fit every person's comfort level. It is beneficial for the community to acknowledge this problem and to hold a public discussion about what's happening and what could be done to reduce it or stop it. Police and community members are aware of residents from Stevens Square – Loring Heights and Whittier who have moved away because of constant harassment on the street. This is a big problem for those who encounter this behavior frequently.</p> <p>Community members raised some questions about the presentation by SVC, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would using the name of the Sexual Violence Center have a negative or positive impact on participation? ▪ How should it be publicized? ▪ What kind of printed information about the topic would be provided by SVC? It would be useful to have something to share with those unable to attend. ▪ Where and when would it be held? Suggestions included The Nicollet coffee shop, the auditorium at St Stephen's Human Services, MCAD, Plymouth Church, or some other venue in the neighborhood with the capacity to handle a potentially large audience. It needs to occur at a location which is accessible by public transit and close enough for neighborhood residents to walk. Consider providing transportation for disabled residents. ▪ What format should be used for the presentation? Suggestions included a community forum with open discussion or a presentation with time for questions and answers. <p>By consensus, the committee decided to go ahead with the project and directed staff to return next month with recommendations in regard to the questions above. Staff will work with the committee co-chairs on this task and will consult with other SSCO staff and committees.</p>	

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.