

Community Safety meeting minutes – February 27, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.



Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Anne Forsyth-Gillette and Judy Gartland, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Todd Loining, Rena Dudgeon, Chelsea Adams, Christine Patino, Minneapolis Police department; Jennifer Saunders, City Attorney’s Office; Abbie Plouff, Whittier Alliance; Tracy Fuller, Minnesota Teen Challenge; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Amanda Hilligoss, Natasha Villanueva, Dee Tvedt, Jerry Paulson, and safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_ssc@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

Note: A sheet with some of the information presented at this meeting is available from SSCO on request. Contact the safety coordinator at dave_ssc@yahoo.com or 874-2840.

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcement	New Neighborhood Probation Officer Judy Gartland introduced herself. Judy has worked for Corrections for 14 years performing a variety of jobs including supervising offenders and conducting pre-sentence investigations. She is glad to be working in the community and looks forward to participating in the good things happening in the neighborhood.	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 3/27, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.
Minneapolis Police update – Inspector Todd Loining; Sgt Rena Dudgeon; CPS Chelsea Adams, Officer Christine Patino	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: 1) A list and map of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during the past month showed no home or apartment burglaries. Three violent crimes were reported in the Clinton sector. The tires/wheels were stolen from two parked vehicles in separate incidents in different areas of the neighborhood. 2) A month-by-month graph of 6,615 smart phone thefts reported in Minneapolis from the beginning of 2010 to the present showed a large increase during the spring and summer of 2013; the numbers tend to drop off during winter months. 3) A new interactive crime mapping program, with information updated daily, is available at the MPD web site. 4) Winter parking restrictions are in effect: do not park on the even side of non-Snow Emergency routes.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> Anyone who is a victim of a violent crime (including theft from person) should call 911 – not 311 – to report the incident as quickly as possible with a thorough description of the suspect. The Council on Crime and Justice operates a 24-hour crime victim hotline (612-340-5400) and offers a brochure with a purse/wallet inventory form on which to record credit card and other information to report in case of theft or loss. Call 911 to report – but do not confront – any person who is suspiciously lurking, loitering, prowling, or casing an area. It is better to trust your instincts and ask that police respond and check out a situation than to ignore it. Be skeptical of anyone who uses elaborate stories to explain their suspicious behavior. A recent 5th Precinct detail resulted in the arrest of a suspect for stealing a "bait bike" placed at Franklin & Nicollet. It's best to secure a bike with a durable U-lock; chain locks can be more easily cut by thieves.</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</p>
Community Attorney update – Assistant City Attorney Jennifer Saunders	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Jennifer Saunders: 1) 5th Precinct CLEAN list. One individual on the list has been extradited to Iowa on felony drug charges; two others are in custody for separate incidents of felony assault of a police officer. 2) Stevens Square beat officers arrested a well-known offender (24 prior convictions in Minnesota for theft) this month for 3rd degree burglary at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave. The person was convicted and sentenced to 20 months in prison.</p>	Jennifer.Saunders@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402

<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. No drug-related arrests have occurred in this area for the past four and a half months. The 5th Precinct continues to focus on this area; officers made three arrests here for stolen vehicle offenses in the past month, one of which also involved illegal possession of a handgun. Arrests for drug offenses in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, this year are down 75% compared to last year.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Illegal consumption of alcohol in the neighborhood. Arrests for these offenses in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, this year are down 33% compared to last year.</p> <p><u>Community concerns</u> There have been a number of weather-related complaints this month regarding City snow plowing and removal, parking restrictions, and snow- and ice-covered streets and sidewalks. Report street and sidewalk problems to 311.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol report – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 1/24 to 2/27, 5 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 7 shifts, contributing 17 hours. Cold temperatures and poor sidewalk conditions kept participation down. Block Patrol teams door-knocked 99 apartments in four buildings, spoke with the residents of 28 units, signed up 11 residents for the SSCO e-mail list, and handed out applications to two potential Block Patrol volunteers. The door-knocking project will continue through March.</p>	<p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>
<p>Topics for discussion</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by staff: Draft recommendations for the SSCO Strategic Plan of ways to enhance the Safety committee and Block Patrol in order to better cope with the needs of the community.</p> <p><u>Action</u> The committee discussed and voted to approve the recommendations below, which will be submitted to the SSCO Board at its 3/4/14 meeting. A program evaluation is under way to determine to what extent the Safety committee and Block Patrol meet the needs of the community and how the committee and Block Patrol can be enhanced to improve their performance and better cope with those needs within the framework of SSCO's Strategic Plan.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Recommendations for the Safety committee</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The committee will experiment with ways to enhance the value and appeal of its monthly neighborhood safety meetings for community members. 2) The committee will explore ways to better present and promote its accomplishments in a positive manner while making the detailed crime information it compiles available only on request. 3) The committee will maintain and expand its active partnerships with law enforcement agencies, local businesses, nonprofit organizations, rental property owners, and condo associations. 4) The committee will partner with the Community Engagement committee to encourage and support block leaders and organizers with their National Night Out events. 5) The committee will work with the Community Engagement committee regarding safety-related content for an updated SSCO web site. 6) The committee will compile and provide safety information for SSCO's marketing plan. 7) The committee will participate in the process of updating SSCO's Strategic Plan for 2014 – 2015. 8) The committee will explore ways to develop new leaders for all safety-related activities. 	

Recommendations for Block Patrol

- 1) Block Patrol will partner with the Community Engagement committee to organize special walks (such as a neighborhood tour for new residents), special events (such as the substation open house), and other community outreach projects (such as door-knocking).
- 2) Block Patrol will work more closely with the Community Engagement committee to define its role at existing events such as Cinema & Civics and Red Hot Art, including ways to interact with attendees.
- 3) Block Patrol will seek the assistance of the Community Engagement committee to improve and expand its approach to publicity and recruiting.
- 4) Block Patrol will work with Stevens Community Apartments to better publicize its rental rebate program for residents who participate in Block Patrol and promote this program to other rental property owners.
- 5) Block Patrol will track and publicize its interaction with residents, including providing information and assistance.
- 6) Block Patrol will review its guidelines and update them to include any changes in the way the group operates.

The committee rejected the directive in the SSCO Strategic Plan that it organize an annual [National Night Out](#) (NNO) event for the entire neighborhood. The intent of NNO is to expand and strengthen the city's network of block and apartment clubs – which organize small areas – and is focused on reinforcing the partnership between citizens and police to combat crime. NNO is not meant to be a community-wide event. (See recommendation no. 4 for the Safety committee above.)

Suggestions During the discussion, a number of ideas emerged which the committee agreed deserve further exploration, including:

- Promote the committee's monthly meeting as a "Community Safety Meeting". There may be some confusion as to whether the meeting is only open to "committee members" or to everyone in the community.
- Come up with special topics for meetings which might appeal to more community members.
- Post the meeting agenda in the neighborhood and online to invite community members to attend and to make it clear that everyone is welcome to participate.
- Make it clear that it's okay for attendees to come late or leave early for the meetings, depending on their schedules.
- Help the 5th Precinct recruit more block and building leaders in the neighborhood.
- Work with the Community Engagement committee to revive the historic walking tours of the neighborhood.
- Use video-posting web sites to document and promote Block Patrol's activities.
- Post laminated copies of the SSCO community standards of behavior at all apartment and condo buildings in the neighborhood.

The committee will continue this discussion at its 3/27 meeting.