

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – February 28, 2013, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Robert Lilligren, Ward 6 City Council; Jean Schwalen and Tara Rother, Hennepin County Community Probation; Todd Loining, Brianna Garman, Rob Illetschko, and Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police department; Jennifer Saunders, City Attorney’s Office; Deb Loveland, Minnesota Teen Challenge; Dave Hautman, Franklin Nicollet Liquor; Julian Gray, Fades of Gray; Adam Campbell, Stevens Community Apartments; Eddie Chambers, Jerry Paulson, Robert Fischer, Jill Ferguson, Maureen Wells, Karen Ives, Lee Scholtus, Arlene Storandt, John Ryser, Howard Penas, and safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_ssc@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up																									
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The committee welcomed new Neighborhood Probation Officer Tara Rother. Rother is looking forward to getting to know the area and community members, and distributed copies of her business card. She can be reached at 879-8075 or Tara.Rother@co.hennepin.mn.us ▪ Art Squared, a fundraiser for SSCO, is set for the evening of 4/6 at The Nicollet coffee shop, 1931 Nicollet Ave. More information about this event will be forthcoming and SSCO's law enforcement partners will be invited to attend. 	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 3/28, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.																									
Minneapolis Police report – Lt Todd Loining, Officer Brianna Garman, Officer Rob Illetschko, CPS Chelsea Adams	<p>Todd Loining introduced himself and stated that he is in charge of day watch and day beat officers along with the day and night Community Response Teams (CRT) at the 5th Precinct.</p> <p>Chelsea Adams distributed copies of a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during January. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 sexual assaults: 1/9 at 8 p.m. at Pillsbury & Ridgewood in which a victim who is not from the neighborhood met the suspects online; 1/12 at an address on the 1900 block of 3rd Ave in which a vulnerable adult victim reported being assaulted by a known acquaintance. ▪ 1 robbery of business: 1/11 at 6:20 p.m. at the Third Avenue Market, 1905 3rd Ave, in which a suspect robbed the business at gunpoint. ▪ 1 robbery of person: 1/6 at 6:45 p.m. at 18th & 3rd in which a victim who was walking at this location was stopped, threatened, and robbed by three male suspects. ▪ 1 aggravated assault: 1/31 at 4:15 a.m. at 18th & Nicollet in which a victim arrived at HCMC for treatment for a non-life threatening gunshot wound to his buttocks. ▪ 2 domestic aggravated assaults: 1/5 at 1820 Stevens Ave; 1/9 at 1827 LaSalle Ave. ▪ 1 burglary of business: 1/11 at 308 East 18th St in which a bike was stolen from the underground garage of this condo building. ▪ 1 burglary of dwelling: 1/29 at 339 East 19th St in which unknown suspect(s) forced entry to a home through the rear door and took electronics. ▪ 1 theft from motor vehicle: 1/12 at 201 Ridgewood Ave. ▪ 1 motor vehicle theft: 1/1 at 1825 2nd Ave. ▪ 4 other incidents of theft. <p>Adams presented information comparing the number of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood in 2011 and 2012.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="571 1312 1232 1466"> <thead> <tr> <th>crime</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2012</th> <th>change</th> <th>% change</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>homicide</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>-1</td> <td>-100%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>rape</td> <td>12</td> <td>7</td> <td>-5</td> <td>-41.67%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>robbery</td> <td>35</td> <td>15</td> <td>-20</td> <td>-57.14%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>aggravated assault</td> <td>32</td> <td>16</td> <td>-16</td> <td>-50%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	crime	2011	2012	change	% change	homicide	1	0	-1	-100%	rape	12	7	-5	-41.67%	robbery	35	15	-20	-57.14%	aggravated assault	32	16	-16	-50%	<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>
crime	2011	2012	change	% change																							
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burglary	52	35	-17	-32.69%
motor vehicle theft	25	34	+9	+36%
theft	168	175	+7	+4.17%
arson	0	1	+1	
total	325	283	-42	-12.92%

Adams presented information comparing the percentage of violent crime to property crime in the neighborhood from 2006 to 2012.

year	% violent crime	% property crime
2006	25%	75%
2007	22%	78%
2008	21%	79%
2009	22%	78%
2010	24%	76%
2011	25%	75%
2012	13%	87%
average	22%	78%

The tables show the significant decrease in violent crime in the neighborhood in 2012 compared to 2011 and how violent crime as a percentage of the total crime reported in the neighborhood dropped dramatically in 2012 compared to the previous six years. Loining said that the numbers show the outstanding work that police have done in the neighborhood and said that the 5th Precinct remains focused on Stevens Square.

There was a comment that the mobile police camera which had been placed at 19th & 3rd for a time in 2012 had been an effective deterrent to crime in that area and a question about whether the camera could be returned to that location. Loining said that those cameras are installed when deemed appropriate and necessary, often in response to specific incidents or situations. The cameras are a great asset for police and are used often. Brianna Garman said that the Stevens Square – Whittier beat officers will again this year focus on enforcement at properties posted for [No Trespassing](#), which gives police the authority to stop, question, and identify anyone loitering at a building which is posted with the MPD-issued yellow signs and to cite or arrest those who have no legitimate reason for being there. This approach has helped to reduce loitering on the 1900 block of 3rd Ave. Loining said that anyone witnessing suspicious behavior or activity – including trespassing – should alert police by [calling 911](#). This advice should be shared widely and frequently in the community, such as by making brief informational presentations at community events. Loining thanked the committee for its dedication to preventing and reducing crime in the neighborhood.

An announcement was made about a meeting organized and hosted by Lofts on Arts Avenue condos, 1829 3rd Ave, which will take place on 3/21 from 7 to 8 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the safety concerns and ideas of that building's residents. At this point, attendance is by invitation only. Participants will include City Council Member Robert Lilligren, 5th Precinct staff, and SSCO staff and volunteer leaders.

SSCO made copies available of a list of 23 offenders who have been charged with felonies for selling drugs to night CRT undercover officers along Franklin Ave since August, 2011. So far, 18 have been convicted and sentenced.

SSCO's Google maps and lists of arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, from 1/22/13 to 2/24/13 showed 5 [alcohol-related arrests](#) (6 in 2012), 7 [narcotics-related arrests](#) (5 in 2012), and no prostitution-related arrests (none in 2012). Year to date, there were 9 alcohol-related arrests (16 in 2012), 9 narcotics-related arrests (8 in 2012), and no prostitution-related arrests (none in 2012). For the period from 1/22/13 to 2/24/13, SSCO's Google maps showed 24 police reports for the [Nicollet corridor](#) (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St), 8 for the [Stevens Square Park area](#) (Stevens Ave to 2nd Ave, 17th St to Franklin Ave), and 20 for the [Clinton sector](#) (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave).

Contact SSCO to receive the list of offenders charged with felonies for selling drugs to undercover officers in the neighborhood.

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>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Jennifer Saunders</p>	<p>Jennifer Saunders distributed copies of the 5th Precinct CLEAN list and updated the committee on some of the offenders active in Stevens Square, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patrick Addy – in custody on \$3,000 bail, six cases set for court variously on 2/27 and 3/11. ▪ Charles Bailey – in custody, hold without bail, for a review hearing on a 3rd degree burglary case on 2/28 with a new case set for 3/6, restricted from the area by court order. ▪ Darryl Brooks – convicted of disorderly conduct, sentenced to 90 days, 88 days stayed for one year, restricted from 1st Ave to Grand Ave, 26th St to 31st St. ▪ Jules Chomilo – one case set for court on 3/14, on probation until 1/15/15. ▪ William Ernst – one case set for court on 3/8. ▪ Troy Fait – one case set for court on 3/8, in the workhouse until 5/11. ▪ Larry Harper – convicted of 3rd degree felony drug sale, in prison until 1/16/14, then on parole until 9/5/14. ▪ Frank Killisright – one case set for court on 3/5, another case pending. ▪ Dejuan McFarland – on probation until 1/29/14, restricted from LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to Elliot Ave, I-94 to 24th St, plus another area in the 3rd Precinct. ▪ Randy McNellis – on probation until 1/4/14. ▪ Alpheaus Putmon – one case set for court on 4/23, restricted from LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 28th St, plus an area south of that. ▪ Emmet Wreh – in custody, hold without bail, three cases set for court on 3/6. <p>Saunders reported that there have been complaints from beat officers regarding the consumption of mouthwash, which is becoming more prevalent in the area, especially among chronic alcohol offenders. This activity is not illegal because mouthwash, which often has an alcohol content of around 27%, is not defined as an intoxicating liquor in State statute. This is due to the fact that mouthwash is a product which is not intended for human consumption, which makes consumption of it difficult to regulate or prohibit. The practice of "huffing" glue/paint/aerosols etc. presents a similar regulatory problem. Saunders is beginning to explore whether a change to City ordinance, perhaps involving proving intent to consume such substances in order to get intoxicated, might be feasible. Council Member Lilligren expressed interest in the issue. Saunders will report back to the committee and get further community input on the problem. There was a discussion about how retail stores in the area which sell mouthwash store, display, and handle the product, especially when it's obvious that a person is purchasing it for consumption. A community member suggested that stores instead be encouraged to sell only non-alcoholic mouthwash, which would eliminate the problem.</p>	<p>Jennifer.Saunders@Minneapolis.gov 673-5402</p>
<p>Priority concerns / hot spots / chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Narcotics-related loitering and traffic in the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave), especially at 19th & 3rd – The 5th Precinct will focus on this area as a priority for 2013, along with Stevens Square Park and (as usual) Franklin & Nicollet. Night CRT, led by Sgt Brian Sand, got a felony-level undercover buy of marijuana at 19th & 3rd on 2/14. 3rd Precinct CRT arrested two for felony possession of crystal meth at Franklin & 3rd on 2/19. There were complaints from community members about frequent disturbances at 19th & 3rd after midnight which appear to involve pimps and prostitutes on the street, yelling at and arguing with each other. Call 911 to request police response in these kinds of situations. <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update included cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tyrell Spears – 10/14/11 3rd degree felony drug sale at 2010 3rd Ave. ▪ Reginald Leachman (14 arrests in the area in the past five years, 35 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 10/20/12 open bottle at Franklin & Nicollet; 10/24/12 trespassing at Starbucks Coffee, 2000 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Abdi Mohamed Ibrahim (8 arrests in the area in the past three years, 23 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 1/16/13 trespassing at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Robin Feather (7 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 1/16/12 3rd degree felony sale of drugs at Franklin & 4th. 	<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>

Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt	Arlene Storandt reported that, from 1/25 to 2/28, 8 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 17 shifts, contributing a total of 54 hours. Block Patrol teams plus other SSCO volunteers door-knocked 261 apartments in 11 buildings, spoke with the residents of 120 units, and signed up 61 residents for the SSCO e-mail list. The door-knocking project will continue during March; contact SSCO if you would like to participate. Storandt shared a story from the Block Patrol log.	Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol. Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.
Ward 6 report – City Council Member Robert Lilligren	<p>Robert Lilligren reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The City supports reauthorization by Congress of the Violence Against Women Act including specific language which would protect American Indian women living on reservations, college students, and members of the LGBT community. ▪ The City supports immigration reform by the State to allow all residents, regardless of their immigration status, to obtain driver's licenses and to qualify for in-state tuition at public universities and colleges. Lilligren testified at the Legislature in support of this proposal. ▪ The results of the 2012 Minneapolis residents survey show that 96% of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of City services, with 98% satisfied or very satisfied with fire protection and emergency services. 32% responded that public safety would be the biggest challenge for the city in the next five years. ▪ The City Council amended an ordinance to allow the City to impose business license conditions on businesses which have been unwilling to take reasonable measures to fix documented violations that threaten public safety and community livability. ▪ He supports efforts to educate community members about using 911 and other City services at community events such as Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park. ▪ Enforcement of zoning and inspections regulations at 1924 4th Ave – the business known as Past Present Future – has been ramped up at SSCO's request with Lilligren's help. The owner of the property is no longer cooperating with the City, so inspectors need to get a warrant from the courts in order to get access to the building. Administrative citations have generated fines totaling \$13,000 against the owner. <p>Community members brought up several other issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A proposal by a company based in Mississippi to submit a bid to the Bureau of Prisons to operate a residential reentry facility (a.k.a. halfway house) for up to 60 felons on parole. The proposed location for this facility is the property at 212 – 224 West Franklin Ave. The application for a license from the county was due today. SSCO has expressed to Lilligren its objection to this proposal for a number of reasons, including the fact that there has been no community review process. Lilligren will not provide a letter of support for the proposal. ▪ Keeping sidewalks clear of snow and ice. There was a question about why the Park Board is not held to the same standard as private property owners. The sidewalks around Stevens Square Park are often not cleared after snow storms. Several residents make regular complaints to 311 about this situation. ▪ 19th & 3rd. A rental property company is considering adding more lighting to its buildings in the vicinity of this corner in an effort to help make the area safer. ▪ 110 East 18th St, Dunwoody Apartments project. A resident will call 311 to ask that the City remove No Parking signs on Stevens Ave near a driveway to this property which is being closed off and vacated. This would open up space for three additional parking places on the street. ▪ 137 East 17th St, St George apartments. The rehabilitation of this burned out apartment building should be complete in about a month. The building will offer 31 studio and 4 one-bedroom apartments. <p>Lilligren holds office hours at SSCO, 1925 Nicollet Ave, on the third Monday of every month (except on holidays) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. To make an appointment, contact the Ward 6 office at 673-2206 or sign up online.</p>	<p>Robert.Lilligren@Minneapolismn.gov</p> <p>673-2206</p> <p>Ward 6 web site</p>

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.