

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – March 22, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave

Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Robert Lilligren, Ward 6 City Council; Bobbi Harrington, Hennepin County Community Probation; Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Chris Dixon, City Attorney’s Office; Officer John Holsten, working off-duty at Tibet Kitchen; Kayla Scott, Stevens Supportive Housing; Deb Loveland, Minnesota Teen Challenge; Rob Helmerich, Rand Management; Arlene Storandt, Jill Ferguson, Eddie Chambers, Howard Penas, Gretchen Webber, Dale Reisdorph, Paul Soderquist, Jerry Paulson, Robert Fischer, Maureen Wells, Samantha Teschendorf, Larry Borg, Jerome Diesen, Elissa Fisher, Lola Roberts, Corwin Morton, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoe (dave_ssc@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
<p>Announcements</p> <p>Contact SSCO to volunteer or for more info.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SSCO and Minnesota Church Center are sponsoring community yoga classes every Thursday (except 4/5) through 4/26, 6 to 7 p.m., in the conference room at the Minnesota Church Center, 122 West Franklin Ave. The cost is \$7 per class. To register or for more information, contact licensed instructor Elizabeth Young at lizabethyoung@gmail.com ▪ The annual Art Squared fundraiser for SSCO is set for 4/21 at The Nicollet, 1931 Nicollet Ave. ▪ The SSCO annual neighborhood meeting is set for the morning of 6/9 at Plymouth Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park will take place on 6/6, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27, and 7/11. ▪ The Red Hot Art festival is set for 7/28 and 7/29 in Stevens Square Park. 	<p>Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 4/26, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</p>
<p>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Chris Dixon</p>	<p>Chris Dixon distributed copies of the 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet and updated the committee on some of the offenders active in Stevens Square, of whom six are restricted from the area by court order, seven are incarcerated, and six have warrants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Derick Addison – recently added to the list, active warrant out of Ramsey County. ▪ Patrick Addy – in custody on \$300 bail, 11 cases set for court on 5/21/12. ▪ Charles Bailey – active warrants for 4 cases, will request geographic restrictions. ▪ James Black – recently added to the list, in prison until 7/23/12. ▪ Darryl Brooks – set for sentencing on 6/6/12. ▪ Maxim Chance – 3 cases set for court. ▪ Joseph Conklin – 3 cases set for court. ▪ Kathleen Croud – restricted from the area by court order. ▪ Anthony Ford – active warrants for 6 cases. ▪ Maurice Giles – in jail on \$100,000 bail for 1st degree aggravated robbery and check forgery. ▪ Larry Harper – on probation for 2 felony cases, review hearing set for 3/26/12, restricted from the area by court order. ▪ Ahmed Hired – in the workhouse until 9/6/12. ▪ Frank Killwright – active warrant. ▪ Ronald King – in the workhouse until 4/5/12. ▪ Harry Leftbear – recently put back on the list, 3 cases set for court. ▪ Lynn Love – on probation until 5/26/12, no longer restricted from the area. ▪ Jessica Matt – restricted from the area by court order. ▪ Brandon Miller – 10 cases set for court on 3/20/12, will request geographic restrictions. ▪ Maurice Patterson – active warrants for 3 cases for failing to report to the workhouse, will serve 365 days when apprehended. ▪ Alpheaus Putmon – 1 case set for court. ▪ Farid Suleiman – recently added to the list, 2 cases set for court, will request geographic restrictions. ▪ Addis Swift – restricted from the area by court order. ▪ Robert Yellow Wolf – restricted by court order from the area from Grand Ave to Stevens Ave, 26th St to 31st St. 	<p>Christopher.Dixon@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p>

Minneapolis
Police report –
CPS Chelsea
Adams

Chelsea Adams distributed a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during February, noting that there were few incidents reported.

- 2 criminal sexual assaults – 2/7, address restricted, in which a juvenile female was sexually assaulted by a known juvenile suspect; 2/8, at an address on the 1800 block of LaSalle Ave, in which a suspect met a victim, returned to the victim's apartment, and sexually assaulted her: Charles Lafond Lewis (4/13/56) was arrested and charged with 1st degree criminal sexual conduct and failure to register as a predatory offender, in custody on \$250,000 bail, set for court on 3/28/12.
- 1 apartment burglary – 2/27 at 1801 2nd Ave, entry was possibly made through a tampered window or door.
- 3 motor vehicle thefts – 2/6 at 1929 3rd Ave; 2/17 at 19th & 4th; 2/27 at 1800 Stevens Ave, recovered the same day at Broadway Ave & 5th St North, one arrested for receiving and concealing stolen property, three others cited for tampering with a motor vehicle.
- 3 other incidents of theft – 2/2 at Loring Nicollet Center, 1925 Nicollet Ave; 2/12 at 1707 3rd Ave; 2/12 to 2/16 at 1817 Nicollet Ave in which copper was removed from an HVAC unit on the roof.

Adams reported on the summer crime prevention strategy meeting on 3/19 with City Council Member Robert Lilligren and staff from the 5th Precinct, SSCO, and Whittier Alliance. Focus areas include the patio at Starbucks, 2000 Nicollet Ave; Loaves & Fishes program at St Stephen's, 2211 Clinton Ave; Franklin Nicollet Liquor store, 2012 Nicollet Ave. Adams compiled information comparing the number of calls for service to Franklin Nicollet Liquor and the 2000 block of Nicollet Ave to those for other liquor stores in the 5th Precinct. Adams also analyzed the nature and origin of the calls for service to Franklin Nicollet Liquor and looked at the property in terms of crime prevention through environmental design. To address some of the problems identified by these analyses, 5th Precinct Inspector Matt Clark has suggested asking Business Licensing to add some conditions to the license of Franklin Nicollet Liquor. Possible conditions could include:

- pick up trash and litter on and around the property;
- hire private security or an off-duty police officer during certain times of day/days of the week;
- open later and/or close earlier;
- change product placement in the store so as not to promote inexpensive brands of liquor which are favored by street drinkers;
- do not sell single serving containers of malt liquor, vodka, etc.
- do not accept change (coins) in payment;
- post a list with mugshots of chronic alcohol offenders who will not be served;
- post the store's policy regarding behavior which will result in refusal of service to a customer;
- improve video surveillance of the property;
- improve outdoor lighting.

Support from the neighborhood organizations would help the precinct make its case for imposing conditions. Right now, Franklin Nicollet Liquor's license has no conditions attached. The store has already voluntarily agreed to comply with some of these conditions at the community's request, but there is no enforcement mechanism in place and no guarantee that the policies won't be rescinded in the future. From inside the store, it is impossible to see the activity such as panhandling and consuming alcohol in public which often occurs at the corner of Franklin & Nicollet because sight lines are blocked by the building to the north. There were complaints that aggressive panhandling is common on the store's property and along the sidewalk in front.

The 5th Precinct recently took a similar approach to advocating for conditions on the liquor license at Tibet Bar and Kitchen, 1833 Nicollet Ave, in order to prevent the kind of problems which were prevalent before the previous business at that address was closed. The owners agreed to the [conditions](#), copies of which were passed around. John Holsten, an off-duty officer working for Tibet Kitchen, reported that the new conditions have been a success and that there have been no problems reported at or around the business. A community member stated that the extra presence of police mandated by the conditions has helped to make the entire 1800 block of Nicollet Ave – and especially the parking lot on the west side of the street – safer and quieter at night, which should help this and other nearby businesses thrive.

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[CRT](#) line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716 or contact Sara.Metcalf@Minneapolismn.gov

[Crime Prevention Resources](#)

[911 / 311 information](#)

	<p>On a motion by Maureen Wells, seconded by Howard Penas, the committee recommended that SSCO support the 5th Precinct's proposal to add conditions to the license of Franklin Nicollet Liquor, 2012 Nicollet Ave.</p> <p>The 5th Precinct's annual open house at 3101 Nicollet Ave is set for 5/14 from 5 to 7 p.m. Adams distributed copies of the 5th Precinct resource list, online crime prevention resources, and information about how to sign up for e-alerts and the 5th Precinct e-newsletter and how to become a block leader.</p> <p>SSCO's Google maps and lists of arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, from 2/21/12 to 3/18/12 showed 4 alcohol-related arrests (10 in 2011), 4 narcotics-related arrests (11 in 2011), and 1 prostitution-related arrest (none in 2011). Year to date, there were 20 alcohol-related arrests (19 in 2011), 12 narcotics-related arrests (23 in 2011), and 1 prostitution-related arrest (2 in 2011). For the period from 2/21/12 to 3/18/12, SSCO's Google maps showed 28 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 15 for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave).</p>	<p>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>
<p>Priority concerns / hot spots / chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1913 Stevens Ave – There are reports of ongoing narcotics-related problems at this apartment building. Chelsea Adams explained the process by which police enforce the "conduct on licensed premises" ordinance and the steps a landlord needs to take to resolve violations, which include submitting a written management plan explaining how the problems will be resolved and what actions will be taken to prevent further problems. Failure to comply can lead to the revocation of the rental license for the property. Police try to work with landlords to make sure that rental properties are managed well. ▪ 3/9 fire at 137 East 17th St – Committee members expressed concern for the welfare of residents who were displaced by the fire which severely damaged this 32-unit apartment building. No one was killed or seriously injured. The property manager acted quickly, contacting the Council Member's office immediately about the situation and giving residents their security deposits back so that they had cash on hand. The Red Cross, Central Lutheran Church, and the Salvation Army responded immediately to meet the needs of the residents, many of whom have since found other housing. Donations to help the residents can be made to the Red Cross at (612) 871-7676 or at the web site for the American Red Cross Minnesota. Council Member Lilligren reported that the building owner has 60 days to decide whether to repair the structure or demolish it. Since the fire, City inspectors have determined that the building is still structurally sound. The building had been inspected in January and no critical violations were found. There was a suggestion that the committee organize and sponsor an educational seminar or workshop about fire prevention in apartment buildings – and what to do in case of a fire – targeting both residents and owners/managers. Committee members suggested various topics, including how to: purchase renters insurance; make sure smoke detectors and fire extinguishers are working; ensure the safe use of fuse boxes; and preserve important documents. Lilligren said that the Fire department is also learning from this incident; for example, it was difficult to determine whether anyone was trapped inside the burning building since there was no way to account for the whereabouts of all the residents. There was a suggestion to include the Minnesota Multi Housing Association in any seminar about fire issues. This could also be a good venue to promote other services for apartment residents. For example, Hennepin County Environmental Services provides information about recycling – plus free containers for recycled goods – to residents of apartment buildings. ▪ 1801 LaSalle Ave – On 2/15, police executed a search warrant at an apartment in this building and arrested a resident for promotion of prostitution. ▪ Narcotics-related loitering in the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave) – There are reports of increased drug-related loitering along the 1900 block of 3rd Ave. Council Member Lilligren will try again to persuade Metro Transit to remove the northbound bus stop near 19th & 3rd. SSCO made copies available of a list of 22 offenders who have been charged with felonies for selling drugs to 5th Precinct Night CRT (Community Response Team) undercover officers in the area. Most of these offenders have been charged by complaint, after the fact. So far, seven have been convicted and sentenced: James Black, Howard Crenshaw, Tyra Jarrett, Mahamed Khalif, Leroy Thompson, William Vann, and Titus Wright. Chelsea Adams will be sending requests via the MPD e-mail alert system for community impact statements for others who are charged in these cases. It is important to let judges know that drug dealing is a violent crime which endangers the community. An updated list will be made available at each Safety committee meeting. This is an ongoing project which began in August, 2011, in response to the increase in street drug dealing in the Clinton sector as a result of the 3rd Precinct's 	<p>Contact SSCO to receive the list of offenders charged with felonies for selling drugs to undercover officers in the neighborhood.</p>

	<p>move to clean up Peavey Park and Franklin & Chicago. The most recent undercover buy occurred on 3/13 at Franklin & 4th.</p> <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update included cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tyra Jarrett (16 arrests in the area in the past seven years, 22 prior convictions in Minnesota) – 9/29/11 3rd degree felony sale of drugs at Franklin & 4th. ▪ Harry Leftbear (11 arrests in the area in the past three years, 20 prior convictions in Minnesota) – 1/9/12 trespassing and loitering with intent at 2000 Nicollet Ave, Starbucks Coffee. ▪ Dejuan McFarland (4 arrests in the area in the past six months, 26 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 1/26/12 interfering with traffic at Franklin & Clinton. ▪ Archie Randle (Level 3 sex offender, 21 prior convictions in Minnesota) – 8/9/11 3rd degree criminal sexual conduct and 1st degree burglary, arrested at 19th & 3rd. ▪ Reginald Leachman (12 arrests in the area in the past five years, 36 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 10/2/11 trespassing at 18th & Nicollet. ▪ James Black (6 arrests in the area in the past year, 31 prior convictions in Minnesota) – 11/9/11 3rd degree felony sale of drugs at Franklin & 4th. ▪ Addis Swift (5 arrests in the area in the past six months) – 8/10/11 consuming alcohol in public at 2309 Nicollet Ave; 9/2/11 consuming alcohol in public at 22nd & Nicollet; 11/3/11 possession of liquor in a park at 1801 Stevens Ave, Stevens Square Park; 11/4/11 open bottle and fraudulent possession of prescription drugs at Franklin & Nicollet; 11/23/11 gross misdemeanor domestic assault at 22nd & 2nd. 	<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>
<p>Ward 6 report – City Council Member Robert Lilligren</p>	<p>Robert Lilligren reported that on 3/5 the Court of Appeals of Minnesota denied an appeal and affirmed the City's revocation of the rental licenses of three properties owned by Spiros Zorbalas, including 1830 Stevens Ave. The City now has the authority to revoke the rental licenses of all 32 properties owned by Zorbalas in Minneapolis for five years, which would affect about 2,000 residents. The City is in the process of deciding how to proceed. There was a suggestion, considering the number of complaints associated with some of these properties, that the City give tenants of these buildings the option to leave before the end of their leases. The City Council's Regulatory, Energy, and Environment committee is exploring ways to focus enforcement of the rental licensing ordinance on ensuring compliance rather than just on license revocation.</p> <p>Lilligren spoke about the City's redistricting process and passed around copies of the latest map of proposed ward boundaries, which moves Stevens Square-Loring Heights from the 6th to the 7th Ward. The Redistricting Group will take public comment and make its decision on the boundaries on 3/26. Contact the Ward 6 office to sign up to receive the new biweekly e-newsletter.</p>	<p>Robert.Lilligren@Minneapolismn.gov</p> <p>673-2206</p> <p>Ward 6 web site</p> <p>Office hours at 1925 Nicollet Ave: third Monday of each month, 9:30 a.m. to noon, except for city holidays. Call to make an appointment.</p>
<p>Block Patrol report – Michele McGaughey</p>	<p>Michele McGaughey reported that, from 2/24 to 3/22, 14 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 22 shifts, contributing a total of 68 hours. Block Patrol and the SSCO Outreach and Events coordinator completed the winter door-knocking campaign to promote SSCO and recruit new volunteers. During this period, Block Patrol teams door-knocked 179 apartments in 8 buildings, spoke with 61 residents, and signed up 34 to receive the SSCO e-mail newsletter.</p>	<p>Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol.</p> <p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.