



**Stevens Square Community Organization**  
**(612) 874-2840**  
<http://www.sscoweb.org>

**Community Safety meeting minutes – March 23, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.**

Present: Corwin Morton, co-chair; Kathy Waite, Eric Dison, and Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police department; Matt Wilcox, City Attorney’s office; Corey Grandner and Drew Kirch, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Tabitha Montgomery, Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Jill Ferguson, Jerry Paulson, Sarah Scotland, Catherine Juul, John Littlejohn, Nicole Hans, Michele McGaughey, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoe ( dave\_sco@yahoo.com )

**Note: A sheet with some of the printed information presented at this meeting is available at this [link](#) or upon request.**

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stevens Square Police Substation Open House: 5/6, 1 to 5 p.m., at 1905 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, back door. This year’s theme: “We’re Safer Together!” Free food and beverages will be provided and served by Lunds &amp; Byerlys Uptown. Stop by and meet the police officers who work in our neighborhood.</li> <li>▪ Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 4/27, 6 p.m., at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</li> <li>▪ Proposal from the SSCO Board of Directors: Three or four times per year, conduct a combined meeting of all SSCO committees and the Board. This could take place on a regular Safety meeting date (6 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month), and the Safety agenda could go first. The intent is to allow participants in each committee and the Board to get a better understanding of what the others are dealing with and encourage more community members to participate. After a short discussion, Safety committee members agreed that this was a good idea.</li> </ul>	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 4/27, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – Community Attorney Matt Wilcox, 5 <sup>th</sup> Precinct Inspector Kathy Waite, Sgt Eric Dison, Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams, Probation Officers Corey Grandner and Drew Kirch	<p><u>Presentation</u> by 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Attorney Matt Wilcox: Update on recent cases of interest to the neighborhood and on active offenders on the <a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> Precinct CLEAN list</a>. Herman Rusch (2/11/62) pled guilty to gross misdemeanor trespassing at Starbucks, 2000 Nicollet Ave, from 12/13/16 and was sentenced to 365 days, with 335 days stayed for one year on certain conditions of release. Rusch is on the enhanced trespass list, which means that a sentence can be increased from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor due to the number of trespassing convictions he has on his record.</p> <p>Jane Bringsthem (2/25/57), who is in HOMES court, resolved a consuming alcohol in public case from 3/4/17 at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave, by serving one day on a Sentence to Service work crew in lieu of a \$50 fine and \$78 court fees. Rachael O’Gorman (12/24/76) pled guilty to consuming alcohol in public from 4/30/16 at Stevens Square Park and was sentenced to 90 days, stayed for one year. She is on supervised probation and is ordered to go into treatment for six months. These two cases are examples of how the change by the Hennepin County Chief Judge to the list of payable offenses last year can affect the level of sentencing for certain livability crimes in the neighborhood. One was deemed a petty misdemeanor which only requires payment of a fine, the other was treated as a misdemeanor which carries a maximum sentence of 90 days.</p> <p>Regarding CLEAN list offenders: Patrick Addy (3/6/77) has two trespassing cases from last year set for court on 5/1. Darryl Brooks (8/29/64) pled guilty to gross misdemeanor trespassing at Starbucks, 2000 Nicollet Ave, from 12/17/16 and was sentenced to 365 days, stayed. He is on supervised probation with conditions that he remain law abiding and</p>	<p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p><a href="#">Crime Prevention Resources</a></p> <p><a href="#">911 / 311 information</a></p> <p>Matthew.Wilcox@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p> <p><a href="#">CRT</a> line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or</p>

stay away from Starbucks. Paul Clock (6/27/54) is on supervised probation for criminal damage to property and appears to be succeeding in HOMES court. Probation Officer Corey Grandner reported that his client, William Ernst (11/22/65), was released from the workhouse on 3/17 and was seen back in the neighborhood the next day. He is still on probation for gross misdemeanor trespassing and felony 4<sup>th</sup> degree assault.

Presentation by CPS Chelsea Adams: The following crimes were reported in the past month in Stevens Square – Loring Heights: one theft from person (3/19 at 1816 Nicollet Ave), one aggravated assault (3/20 at 1920 LaSalle Ave in which Sylar Thomas, 6/18/92, was arrested for 4<sup>th</sup> degree assault of a police officer and terroristic threats), three burglaries (3/2 at 1707 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave; 3/11 at 1816 Nicollet Ave; 3/20 at 110 East 18<sup>th</sup> St), three motor vehicle thefts (3/10 at 507 Ridgewood Ave; 3/10 at 522 Ridgewood Ave; 3/20 at 1900 Stevens Ave), four thefts from motor vehicles (3/2 at 1933 Lyndale Ave; 3/6 at 1912 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave; 3/7 at 1906 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave; 3/8 at 1912 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave), and nine other incidents of theft.

Adams reported that the number of [thefts](#) in the neighborhood was unusually high. This does not include a number of incidents in which suspects entered parked vehicles, rummaged through them, and took nothing. Do not leave documents which are not required to be in a vehicle which contain personally identifying information. Call 911 to report thefts from motor vehicle in progress or inside a parking garage or for which there may be evidence or a known suspect; otherwise report incidents after the fact to 311.

Inspector Kathy Waite spoke about the fact that, although MPD focuses on reducing violent crime, far more community members in the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct are affected by property crimes, which can be costly and can lead to perceptions that one's environment is not safe. For example, a theft from motor vehicle can involve repairing a broken window and sometimes dealing with credit card theft and fraud and its impact on your credit rating. Lock your car doors and don't leave valuables – including documents which can be used to commit fraud – inside. Neighbors who keep an eye on an area and call 911 regarding suspicious activity can make a big difference in deterring theft and apprehending thieves. There was a suggestion that SSCO post information about when to call [911 and 311](#) in the entry ways of apartment buildings. The information is posted on the [MPD web site](#) and [block leaders](#) can receive notices and alerts via e-mail – contact Adams for details. There was a question about what to do if 911 response is inadequate or not up to the caller's expectations. After making a 911 call, one can follow up and check on the status and ask to speak with a supervisor if necessary. There was a question about the use of force by police when responding to a 911 call, especially in incidents involving a suspect who is suffering from mental illness. Waite said that only a small number of incidents result in police using force. All patrol officers have received crisis intervention training and can often tell when someone is experiencing a mental health crisis. A number of officers and other emergency responders have been injured on calls recently while trying to get such a situation under control. The Franklin Nicollet beat officers do a great job working with the community and dealing with those who need help. A community member spoke about a recent Downtown West meeting regarding safety; the top strategy is to assign more beat officers to work the area on foot. Sgt Eric Dison said that this “old school” method is still the best way to police densely populated areas and commercial districts; Waite said that she would like to have the resources to establish more beat patrols in the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct because they are so effective.

Neighborhood Probation Officer Corey Grandner said that he will be leaving the area soon to take a job on the north side supervising more violent offenders. He enjoyed his time in Stevens Square, especially working with community members. Drew Kirch will be taking the job, which he characterized as a great opportunity to get out into the community by supervising offenders where they live. He spent six years of his career with a unit supervising high-

locations): 673-5716

	<p>risk clients. He plans to be a resource for residents and a partner with the neighborhood organization. The committee thanked Grandner for his friendship and outstanding service and welcomed Kirch to the neighborhood.</p>	
<p>Neighborhood-related safety ideas and concerns</p>	<p><u>Community concern</u> Drug-related loitering and traffic in the Clinton sector (3<sup>rd</sup> Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave), especially at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were eight police reports in this area during the past month, compared to nine the month before. There were no arrests for narcotics-related offenses. There were three thefts from motor vehicle and one apartment burglary – see Adams’ report above. No violent crimes were reported.</p> <p>Year to date in the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St, there have been 7 arrests for narcotics-related offenses compared to 12 last year and 12 for alcohol-related offenses, the same number as last year.</p> <p>There was a discussion about street prostitution – no arrests have been made in the area for the past three years, and for several years before that the arrests had, for the most part, been related to massage businesses operating illegally on Nicollet Ave. Community members spoke about the problem on East Lake St, east of 35W, which has a huge negative impact on both the businesses along Lake St and on neighbors living nearby. The problem goes hand-in-hand with the street drug trade. There was a discussion about how MPD and the City and County Attorney’s offices deal with those engaged in prostitution – the current approach recognizes that prostitutes, while breaking the law, also tend to be victims of sex trafficking and need assistance to escape their situations. Waite said that she is very familiar with the problem, having worked earlier in her career as a decoy in sting operations targeting johns, at locations on the north side and at Franklin &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>.</p> <p>There was a discussion about <a href="#">how to report suspected drug dealing</a> at an apartment building to police. Call 911 to report suspicious activity in progress. Contact Adams, who can follow-up with officers who work in the area. Call the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Response Team (CRT) at 673-5716 with information about drug dealing or prostitution at specific locations, such as apartment buildings or corners. Provide information about suspect(s), the location, vehicle license plate numbers, and times of day and days of the week during which the activity occurs. CRT can open an investigation if it finds that the information is reliable and can be verified.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Chelsea Adams</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: From 2/24 to 3/23, 12 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 20 shifts, contributing 67 total hours. 1 new volunteer joined Block Patrol. Block Patrol volunteers participated in SSCO's Winter Warm-Up fundraiser, planned the Police Substation Open House, and door-knocked 177 units in 8 apartment buildings to publicize SSCO and recruit new volunteers.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams: spoke with several dozen community members on the streets; spoke with our Franklin-Nicollet beat officers; visited the coffee shops in the area; counted the number of steps taken (6,020 on March 14!) and the number of blocks patrolled (14 on March 9) during certain shifts; retrieved an "Eat Street" banner that had blown off of a pole on Nicollet Ave and tried to contact the Nicollet Avenue Service District to return it; in Stevens Square Park, spoke with a well-known, intoxicated offender who admired a team's canine companion and called it a "cute little chihuahua" when, in reality, it is a cute little rat terrier; encountered a threatening male at Franklin &amp; Nicollet who claimed to be a "nine time convicted felon" – the team listened to him for a while and then decided to leave the area; watched a Mille Lacs Tribal Police squad slowly patrolling Franklin &amp; Nicollet; counted 48 machines "out of order" at the laundry at Franklin &amp; Clinton – there's no attendant on site; watched firefighters, paramedics, and three squads respond to the parking lot outside the Mall Center on Nicollet Ave – one person was</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 at 874-2840 or <a href="mailto:dave_ssco@yahoo.com">dave_ssco@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><a href="#">Application and guidelines</a> are at the SSCO web site.</p>

	<p>transported by ambulance, another by squad, and four more were sent from the area.</p> <p>During the 3 p.m. shift on March 17, a volunteer from Phillips neighborhood, who is part of a group starting a citizens' patrol, walked along with a team.</p> <p>Block Patrol will inventory street lights out in the neighborhood, report them to 311, and then track the time it takes Xcel Energy to fix them.</p>	
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*Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.*

*Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.*