

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Community Safety meeting minutes – March 24, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Laura Blue Bird and Aaron Szczech, co-chairs; Corey Grandner, Morgan Miller, Roxane Watson, Hennepin County Probation; Todd Loining, Aimee Colegove, Minneapolis Police department; Nikki Appelbaum, City Attorney's office; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Julian Gray, Fades of Gray; Ken Strobel, Mary Sheppard, Corwin Morton, John Ryser, Jerry Paulson, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoe

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"> ▪ March 29: MPD Community Listening Session re body camera policy, All Nations Church, 1515 East 23rd St, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. ▪ March 31: Personal Safety and Robbery Prevention Workshop, Bryant Square Park, 3101 Bryant Ave South, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., featuring personal safety expert Mary Brandl and CPS Chelsea Adams, sponsored by MPD, CARAG, ECCO, LHENA. ▪ April 1: SSCO's Stevens Square Spring Social, Boiler Room Coffee, 1830 3rd Ave, 7:00 to 10:30 p.m., all ages welcome, featuring live music, free snacks, raffle prizes. ▪ April 2: Minneapolis Community Connections Conference, Convention Center, 1301 2nd Ave South, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. ▪ April 25: 5th Precinct Block Leader Training, 3101 Nicollet Ave, 6 to 7 p.m., contact Chelsea.Adams@minneapolismn.gov ▪ April 30: Stevens Square Police Substation Open House, 1905 1st Ave (back door), 1 to 5 p.m., an opportunity to meet the police officers who work in our neighborhood, featuring free food, root beer floats, and fun! 	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 4/28, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – 5 th Precinct Inspector Todd Loining, Officer Aimee Colegove, Community Attorney Nikki Appelbaum, Probation Officers Corey Grandner, Morgan Miller,	<p>Stevens Square Neighborhood Probation Officer Corey Grandner introduced himself. He's been on the job for just over a month. Previously, Grandner worked for Anoka County and then for two years in Hennepin County Probation's Electronic Home Monitoring unit, during which time he became familiar with the neighborhood. He's a 2013 graduate of Bethel University. The committee welcomed Corey to the neighborhood.</p> <p>CPS Chelsea Adams was unable to attend the meeting. <u>Presentation</u> by Nikki Appelbaum: In the past month, no violent crimes were reported in the neighborhood and a very low number of crimes was reported overall. There was one apartment burglary, one motor vehicle theft, one bike theft, and three thefts from motor vehicles. Remember not to leave valuables in sight in a parked vehicle and to be aware of one's surroundings when using a mobile phone in public to avoid being targeted for theft or robbery.</p> <p>In regard to the 8/4/15 incident on the 1800 block of 2nd Ave, Mohamed Ali Elmi (1/1/90) is charged with criminal sexual conduct (three counts), kidnapping, and 1st degree aggravated robbery (two counts); a pretrial hearing is set for 4/8 and a jury trial is scheduled for 5/31. Elmi has been in custody since 8/5/15 and is being held on \$1 million bail plus a Department of Corrections hold without bail.</p>	<p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p>Crime Prevention Resources</p> <p>911 / 311 information</p> <p>Nicole.Appelbaum@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p>

Presentation by Nikki Appelbaum: Update on [5th Precinct CLEAN list](#) offenders active in Stevens Square. Many of the individuals who frequently offend in Stevens Square are in custody, including Patrick Addy, Dahir Yussuf Aden, Reginald Charging Thunder, Jules Chomilo, William Ernst, Mohamed Ahmed Farah, Ahmed Abdi Hired, and Harry Leftbear. Darryl Brooks has warrants for failing to appear in court. Sharee Barrett, who has eleven cases pending (two felonies, two gross misdemeanors, seven misdemeanors), was conditionally released to treatment and ordered not to use alcohol or narcotics. On 3/22, Barrett was found intoxicated in the area and transported to a hospital. Appelbaum is working to convince the court to revoke Barrett's conditional release or to restrict Barrett from the area where she continues to offend and violate her conditions of release. Appelbaum also presented an update on the outcome of cases being tracked by SSCO involving Eugene Watkins and Trevone Little (shooter and accomplice in the 5/6/15 drug-related murder at 2101 3rd Ave, 30 years in prison for Watkins and 86 months of probation for Little), Rahsaan Wells (apartment building laundry room burglaries, 39 months in prison), and Harry Leftbear (21 arrests in the area in the past six years). Leftbear was ordered to report to the workhouse on 3/3 to serve 65 days of a 365-day sentence for gross misdemeanor trespassing and then be released on supervised probation. If he failed to report, the court ordered that he serve the entire sentence. Leftbear failed to report to the workhouse, was subsequently arrested for a warrant, and is now incarcerated until 11/5.

Roxane Watson, who supervises frequent livability crime offenders, said that she will regularly attend the Community Safety meetings and spoke about some of Hennepin County's [specialty courts](#), such as Mental Health court and HOMES court, which seek to address the underlying problems experienced by these individuals which can cause them to continue to offend. Morgan Miller said that Mental Health court plans to release her client, Patrick Addy, to treatment soon. Addy is in jail on \$3,000 bail with twelve cases set for court on 5/3.

Presentation by Todd Loining: The 5th Precinct is adequately staffed to cover patrol for all three shifts, which is his top priority. To help make that happen, staffing of the beat patrols was reduced from six to four officers this year. Precinct Inspectors are bidding on officers coming out of the new class of recruits; Loining hopes to secure up to four new officers during the draft round in May. If that happens, the beat patrols will be increased to their previous staffing level. As of May 1, the first new officer for the 5th Precinct – Mohamed Noor – will come on duty and be assigned to mid-watch patrol. The 5th Precinct is working hard to keep the good results from 2015 going – the precinct led the city in crime reduction and will soon receive an award for their accomplishments. Loining attends three crucial meetings every week – two at the precinct (regarding intelligence and strategy) and one with the Chief and all precinct Inspectors at City Hall which holds him accountable for reducing and preventing crime in the area. Loining suggested that SSCO's Block Patrol help police reduce theft from motor vehicles by participating in a project to leave reminders (notices that resemble parking tickets) on parked vehicles with valuables left in sight. Block Patrol will consider the matter; a previous attempt at a similar project did not turn out well. Officers are being assigned to the Public Housing tower at 1707 3rd Ave in response to concerns about crimes involving drugs and violence. For the sake of safety, the Project Lookout volunteer group at that address is being temporarily relieved of its duties involving monitoring the front desk and patrolling the building during times when security guards are not present.

SSCO staff passed around copies of community impact statements submitted to the court in regard to Mohamed Ahmed Farah and Rahsaan Wells. Staff also made information available about Part 1 (serious) crime reported in the neighborhood during January and February: compared to 2015, violent crime was down 66.7% and property crime was down 50%.

[CRT](#) line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716

<p>Neighborhood-related safety ideas and concerns</p>	<p><u>Community concern</u> Suspicious males causing problems at and around Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge (MNTC), 1717 2nd Ave. Thanks to MNTC staff, a number of residents and staff have joined and participated in Block Patrol in the past month. The project is going very well and volunteers with both organizations are excited about the opportunities presented by this partnership.</p> <p>There was a report that some of these suspicious males often loiter in the entryway (outside the secured area) at night at the Public Housing tower at 1707 3rd Ave, playing cards and passing the time while waiting for the security guard to go off duty so that they can more easily gain entry to the building.</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 eight police reports in this area during the past month, compared to nine in the previous month. There were two arrests or citations for narcotics violations: 2/23 petty misdemeanor possession of marijuana at the Clinton Ave cul-de-sac; 2/24 felony narcotics violation at 18th & 3rd. No violent crimes, burglaries, or motor vehicle thefts were reported.</p> <p>In the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, there have been 12 arrests or citations this year for narcotics-related offenses, compared to 8 in 2015.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Illegal consumption of alcohol in the neighborhood. Year to date, there have been 12 arrests or citations for alcohol-related offenses in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, compared to 18 in 2015. There has been one arrest for an alcohol-related offense in Stevens Square Park this year.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> SSCO received a complaint from a community member that AM Food Market, 1814 Nicollet Ave, is selling brass knuckles, pocket knives, and expandable batons. These items are kept in a display case at the front counter. In a conversation with SSCO staff, staff at the store said that they don't sell many of these items and that the building owner has complained about having this merchandise for sale because it's bad for the neighborhood. The store's entire inventory of these items is on display, and after the items are sold they will no longer be available at the store. The store is unable to return the items to the distributor. Staff at the store said that similar items are for sale at two other markets nearby. The community attorney and probation officers said that the sale and possession of brass knuckles is illegal in Minnesota. The community attorney will look into the matter.</p> <p>SSCO staff reported that a date has not yet been set for the community discussion about ways to combat street harassment. The event will take place – hopefully in April – at the MCAD auditorium. Staff from the Sexual Violence Center have agreed to design the publicity and facilitate the meeting.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Laura Blue Bird</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Laura Blue Bird: From 2/26 to 3/24, 15 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 21 shifts, contributing 71 total hours. 8 new volunteers joined Block Patrol. Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams accompanied a team on patrol. Block Patrol volunteers met to start planning the Police Substation Open House which is set for the afternoon of 4/30.</p> <p>Over the course of four evenings, Block Patrol teams door-knocked 227 apartments in 8 buildings, spoke with 93 residents, signed up 51 people for the SSCO e-mail list, and gave 27 Block Patrol applications to interested residents.</p>	

During the past month, Block Patrol teams: spoke with over 40 community members on the streets; frequently spoke with our Franklin – Nicollet beat officers; patrolled the Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge property on 2nd Ave in response to complaints about suspicious males loitering in the area and harassing staff and residents; found flyers on the ground on 3rd Ave regarding a Level 3 sex offender who was residing on the 2200 block of 1st Ave; encountered a person at 19th & Nicollet on 3/1 who asked if what the team was doing was called "caucusing" – the answer was, "No, this is called patrolling"; watched two paramedics struggling to help a very intoxicated female who had passed out on the ground at a bus stop at Franklin & Nicollet; encountered a male while door-knocking who came to the door with no pants on and screamed at the team at length for bothering him; gave sight-seeing tours of the neighborhood to our new volunteers; found an interesting promotional badge in the street publicizing "[Skylift Space Service](#)" which, according to their web site, is part of the galactic expansion movement with headquarters in Luna-Tropolis which is located on the Tesla Ring circling the moon; called our beat officers regarding a female who was sharing an open bottle of alcohol with companions outside the ATM by Starbucks – the female put the bottle in her purse and by the time the officers stopped her, the open bottle was gone and an unopened bottle had miraculously taken its place; watched a male successfully panhandling on Nicollet; called 911 on offender Sharee Barrett who had 11 active warrants – our beat officers responded and arrested her at Franklin & Nicollet; were asked by Officer Aimee to look for a suspicious male who was prowling the alleys between 2nd Ave and 3rd Ave – the team did not find him; patrolled the park for a Teen Challenge event which was cancelled because of all the newly fallen snow on the ground; encountered an intoxicated male on a bus bench on Franklin Ave who told two team members that they looked like twins – and then added that he had a twin sister but they don't wear matching clothes.

During the 3 p.m. shift on March 11, a team saw two males urinate on a dumpster behind an apartment building in view of passersby. Before the team could call 911, one of the males saw the team and quickly headed northbound on 1st Ave across I-94. The other male, an intoxicated fellow named Brian, approached the team and began to chat about his childhood and how much he loved dogs – the team's two chihuahua volunteers appreciated the attention. Eventually, Brian said farewell, turned around, took three steps, and fell off the curb and into the street, face down.

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 dave_ssco@yahoo.com

[Application and guidelines](#) are at the SSCO web site.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.