

**Stevens Square Community Organization**

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



**Community Safety meeting minutes – March 26, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.**

Present: Ken Strobel, co-chair; Todd Loining, Chelsea Adams, Aimee Colegrove, Brianna Garman, Carl Valdez, Minneapolis Police department; Nikki Appelbaum, City Attorney's office; Anne Forsyth-Gillette, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Dave Hautman, Franklin Nicollet Liquor; Jerry Paulson, John Ryser, Whitman Barrett, Kandis Storm, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoeye.

**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"> <li>▪ Community Safety meetings are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of every month at 6 p.m.</li> <li>▪ Stevens Square Police Substation Open House: Saturday, 4/18, 1 to 5 p.m., 1905 1<sup>st</sup> Ave (back door), organized by Block Patrol in partnership with the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct, featuring free food and beverages and an opportunity for community members and police staff to meet each other in a fun social setting.</li> <li>▪ Earth Day Clean Sweep: Saturday, 4/25, 9:30 a.m. to noon, details forthcoming.</li> <li>▪ 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Open House: Wednesday, 5/13, 5 to 7 p.m. at 3101 Nicollet Ave.</li> <li>▪ SSCO's executive director is laying the groundwork to establish the Minneapolis Police Foundation, a non-profit organization which would be dedicated to supporting the Police department through various community-funded projects.</li> </ul>	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 4/23, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – Inspector Todd Loining, CPS Chelsea Adams, Officers Aimee Colegrove and Brianna Garman, Chaplain Carl Valdez, Community Attorney Nikki Appelbaum, Probation Officer Anne Forsyth-Gillette	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Todd Loining: 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct staffing numbers are solid this year. Four new officers from the most recent police academy class have been assigned to the precinct and more are anticipated to be assigned after the next class graduates at the end of April. Precinct-wide, the number of robberies, burglaries, and thefts from motor vehicles is up compared to last year. This is partly due to the relatively mild winter weather and early spring this year. The precinct conducts intelligence and strategy meetings every Wednesday to respond to current crime trends. Community members can take steps to prevent or reduce the likelihood of such crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Theft from motor vehicle</a>: lock doors, remove valuables or keep them out of sight; park in well-lit areas.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Burglary</a>: lock doors and windows; make sure there is adequate lighting outside; landscape the property to remove blind spots and potential hiding places; form or join a block club (contact Chelsea Adams); call 911 to report suspicious activity or persons.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Robbery</a>: be aware of your surroundings; take evasive action to avoid suspicious person(s); walk with a companion, if possible; conceal your cell phone, which makes you a potential target on the streets.</li> </ul> <p>Loining plans to place mobile police cameras at various locations soon, including Stevens Square and Whittier. He has requested five permanent pole cameras for the precinct and may receive two. Possible locations for those cameras include Lake &amp; Grand, 22<sup>nd</sup> &amp; Lyndale, and Lake Street near Nicollet. Aimee Colegrove and Brianna Garman, who work the day beat in the area, reported that the neighborhood has been quiet.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: A list and map of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during the past month showed one rape (suspect known to the victim), two robberies of person (3/1 at 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup>; 3/9 at Franklin &amp; Clinton),</p>	<p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p>Nicole.Appelbaum@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p> <p><a href="#">Crime Prevention Resources</a></p> <p><a href="#">911 / 311 information</a></p> <p><a href="#">CRT</a> line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716</p>

	<p>two burglaries (3/14 to 3/21, laundry room at 1901 Stevens Ave; 3/24 at 1806 LaSalle Ave in which a resident confronted a suspect in an apartment), one motor vehicle theft (3/4, food delivery vehicle left running and unlocked at 1915 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, recovered on 3/6 at 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>), two thefts from motor vehicle (3/4 at 1930 Clinton Ave, 3/20 at 441 Ridgewood Ave), and four other incidents of theft. The suspect in the armed robbery of a pizza deliver driver at 440 Ridgewood Ave on 1/27 has court appearances set for 4/15 and 5/11.</p> <p>There was an aggravated assault on 3/20, 10:50 p.m., in the commercial parking lot on the northwest corner of Franklin &amp; Clinton (1922 – 1930 Clinton Ave). Shots were fired, causing damage to property at Cala Fry &amp; Grill. A male victim was transported to a hospital for injuries not involving gunshot(s). The case is under investigation. The 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct has assigned officers to watch this parking lot and the adjacent businesses for the past year.</p> <p>Adams provided information about what constitutes <a href="#">aggressive panhandling</a> and how to respond – don't give money, call 911 if someone is violating the law. There is at least one person in the area asking passersby for money to pay for a shelter bed. This is a scam; no shelters in the area charge such a fee. If anyone on the street is seeking social services, they can be referred to <a href="#">St Stephen's Street Outreach</a> at (612) 879-7624.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Nikki Appelbaum: A recent case involving an offender engaged in disorderly conduct against a neighborhood resident was successfully resolved, with a 60-day stayed sentence, four days of sentence to service community work, and a geographic restriction from the area. Appelbaum reported on the status of certain individuals featured on the <a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> Precinct CLEAN list</a>. Four are doing well in treatment or on probation, one has had no new offenses in almost a year, one has a warrant for failing to appear in court, and four are in custody either facing charges or serving sentences.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff: From January through February, reports of violent crime in the neighborhood doubled compared to last year, with 12 incidents in 2015 compared to 6 a year ago. Total property crimes were down 10.4%. The number of robberies and motor vehicle thefts has been the same in each year.</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 10 police reports in this area in the past month, compared to 7 in the previous month. There was one felony drug-related arrest (17<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> on 3/17), two violent felonies (see Adams' report above), and five property crimes. Arrests for drug offenses in the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St, have dropped from nine last year to eight this year.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Illegal consumption of alcohol in the neighborhood. Arrests for alcohol in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St, have increased from 12 last year to 19 this year. Total arrests in this area for alcohol, drug, and prostitution offenses have increased from 21 last year to 27 this year.</p> <p>The first alcohol-related arrests in Stevens Square Park occurred on 3/11 this year; in 2014 the first arrest in the park took place on 4/30. This is an example of how weather conditions (no snow on the ground, temps above normal this year compared to two feet of snow and below average temps last year) can have an impact on the prevalence of livability offenses.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Report of suspicious traffic to two apartment buildings along the alley between the 1800 blocks of</p>	

	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. Staff will notify the property owners. Police will follow up.	
Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 2/27 to 3/26, 7 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 19 shifts, contributing 59 hours. Probation Officer Anne Forsyth-Gillette participated in a shift on 3/19. A student from the Humphrey Institute, who is studying law enforcement issues, accompanied a team on 3/23.</p> <p>Block Patrol volunteers attended a Personal Safety and Self Defense workshop at the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct on 3/10 and met on 3/15 to plan the Stevens Square Police Substation Open House which is set for 4/18. Over the course of four evenings in March, Block Patrol teams door-knocked 209 apartments in 10 buildings, spoke with 70 residents, signed up 17 people for the SSCO e-mail list, and gave out 2 Block Patrol applications to interested residents.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams: spoke with over 40 community members on the streets; reported lights out in the park to Park staff; reported street lights out and overflowing commercial dumpsters to 311; frequently spoke with our beat officers and neighborhood probation officers; visited every coffee shop in the neighborhood; within a 30 minute period on a Friday afternoon, saw four squads dealing with a situation at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>, two other squads arresting a male suspect at an apartment building on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, and yet another squad dealing with the aftermath of a two-vehicle collision near Wendy's on Franklin Ave; refused a request for \$7 cash from a male who claimed to need the money for a bed at a shelter; watched a male and a female loudly arguing about drugs and money in front of an apartment building on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave; encountered many "eccentric characters" on the street during the first warm evening of the season; made a deposit at Scratchy's Book Box; obtained a copy of the book, "Manwatching: A Field Guide to Human Behavior" (1978) by Desmond Morris, from Scratchy's for the Block Patrol library; received thanks from a number of people, including a couple at the Moonlight Café; found a mysterious pile of broken car window glass in the street in front of the entrance to a parking lot; watched an officer cite a driver and have a vehicle towed on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave; was flagged down by the owner of a market on Nicollet Ave who showed a team very clear, color surveillance video footage of a male suspect involved in a theft which occurred earlier that day – the team did not recognize the suspect; found an open, partially consumed pint bottle of vodka in a plant box outside the entrance to a coffee shop – and disposed of the contents and the bottle. The highlight of the month was when two members of Block Patrol's canine contingent stopped and affectionately played with a disabled girl who was in a wheelchair – the girl and her caregiver loved the attention.</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_ssco@yahoo.com or Dave at 874-2840</p> <p><a href="#">Application and guidelines</a> are at the SSCO web site.</p>
<a href="#">Community Safety plan</a> – progress report	<p><u>Presentation</u> by staff: There has been no progress on the project in partnership with <a href="#">Little Earth</a> to educate new Hennepin County Criminal Court judges about the impact of livability crimes on the community. The final planning meeting has yet to be scheduled.</p> <p>SSCO's Neighborhood Activities Group has expressed interest in helping to organize a presentation by the <a href="#">Sexual Violence Center</a> to the community about how to combat street harassment. It's unclear if the Whittier Alliance, which is currently short-staffed, is interested in participating.</p> <p>Planning for National Night Out has not yet begun – SSCO needs to clarify with Park staff whether the event (featuring free food) will be allowed to take place in Stevens Square Park.</p>	