

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – March 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; Rena Dudgeon, Brianna Garman, and Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police department; Jennifer Saunders, City Attorney’s Office; John Holsten, Tibet Kitchen; Dave Hautman, Franklin Nicollet Liquor; Rob Helmerich, Rand Management; Eddie Chambers, Jerry Paulson, Aaron Szczech, Arlene Storandt, John Ryser, Howard Penas, and safety coordinator Dave Delvoe (dave_ssc@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSCO's Art Squared fundraiser to benefit public arts programming in the neighborhood is set for 4/6, 7 to 11 p.m., at The Nicollet, 1931 Nicollet Ave, featuring live music, beer and wine for a donation, and a raffle of items donated by local businesses. \$5 advance tickets, which include a drink ticket and a raffle ticket, are available at The Nicollet and the Boiler Room, 1830 3rd Ave. \$5 admission at the door. 	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 4/25, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.
Minneapolis Police report – Sgt Rena Dudgeon, Officer Brianna Garman, CPS Chelsea Adams	<p>Chelsea Adams distributed copies of a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood from 2/1 to 3/27. The map is in a new format which makes it more difficult to read but provides more up-to-date information. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 robberies of person: 2/3 at 7:05 p.m. at 1831 Clinton Ave in which two juvenile males who were implicated in other similar robberies across the city were arrested for robbing a victim at gunpoint; 2/7 at 1:25 p.m. at Franklin & 2nd in which a suspect stole a victim's wallet. 2 thefts from person: 3/5 at 8:30 p.m. at I-94 & LaSalle in which four males took a victim's cell phone; 3/18 at 1:45 a.m. at 220 East 19th St in which a suspect took an iPad from a victim in the entryway of this apartment building. 6 burglaries: 2/2 at 3 a.m. at 1926 3rd Ave in which a male tried to pry a screen off the window of an occupied apartment; 2/2 at 1924 Stevens Ave involving a known suspect; 2/21 at 1808 Stevens Ave involving a known suspect; 3/7 at 12:30 a.m. at Tibet Kitchen, 1833 Nicollet Ave; 3/18 at 214 East 19th St involving known suspects; 3/16 at 424 West Franklin Ave in which a male suspect entered several unsecured apartments and stole a laptop computer. 2 motor vehicle thefts: 2/12 at 1800 Stevens Ave, recovered downtown; 3/8 at Franklin & Grand, recovered on the 1900 block of LaSalle Ave the next day. 12 other incidents of theft. <p>Adams distributed copies of a document requesting community impact statements in regard to offender Yulunda Shears who is charged with 1st degree burglary in an incident on the 2700 block of 15th Ave South. Shears has been seen recently in the 5th Precinct.</p> <p>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 from August, 2011, to April, 2012. So far, 18 have been convicted and sentenced.</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 2/25/13 to 3/24/13 showed 11 alcohol-related arrests (6 in 2012), 4 narcotics-related arrests (4 in 2012), and 1 prostitution-related arrest (1 in 2012). Year to date, there were 20 alcohol-related arrests (12 in 2012), 13 narcotics-related arrests (12 in 2012), and 1 prostitution-related arrest (1 in 2012). For the period from 2/25/13 to 3/24/13, SSCO's Google maps showed 40 police reports for the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St), 7 for the Stevens Square Park area (Stevens Ave to 2nd Ave, 17th St to Franklin Ave), and 7 for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave).</p>	<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> <p>Contact SSCO to receive the list of offenders charged with felonies for selling drugs to undercover officers in the neighborhood.</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>
Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City	<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 the workhouse until 10/3 for gross misdemeanor trespassing, then on probation for a second trespassing 	

<p>Attorney Jennifer Saunders</p>	<p>sentence until 5/21/14.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Charles Bailey – review hearing on a 3rd degree burglary case set for 4/11, restricted from the area as a condition of release. ▪ Jules Chomilo – in the workhouse until 4/27 for gross misdemeanor obstructing the legal process, then on probation until 3/14/15. ▪ William Ernst – theft case set for court on 4/8, with charges pending for two additional cases. ▪ Troy Fait – in the workhouse until 5/11 for trespassing, loitering with intent, and open bottle. ▪ Anthony Ford – convicted today of open bottle, sentenced to 90 days stayed, on probation until 3/28/14. ▪ Frank Killwright – active warrants, failed to appear in court for four cases on 3/13. ▪ Randy McNellis – in the workhouse until 11/7 for consuming alcohol in public and gross misdemeanor trespassing, with possible furlough to treatment. ▪ Brandon Miller – theft case set for court on 5/22. ▪ Farid Suleiman – sentencing for felony theft out of Elk River set for 5/1. <p>Probation Officer Roxanne Watson will supervise a number of chronic offenders from the Downtown 100 and the precincts' CLEAN lists. Stevens Square offenders currently assigned to Watson include Jules Chomilo, Anthony Ford, and Randy McNellis.</p> <p>The quarterly changes in the CLEAN list include removing Larry Harper (who is in prison until 1/16/14 for motor vehicle theft, 4th degree burglary, and 3rd degree felony drug sale) and Emmet Wreh (who has been added to the Downtown 100) and adding Ellery Charging Thunder (20 arrests in the area in the past eight years) and Managua Michael Leon (current top offender in neighborhoods south of Stevens Square).</p> <p>Staff passed around copies of SSCO's community impact statement in regard to Robert Powers, who was arrested in an apartment at 1820 Stevens Ave on 3/18 for felony narcotics and weapons violations.</p>	<p>Jennifer.Saunders@Minneapolismn.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 – There have been no drug-related arrests in the Clinton sector over the past month. Officers continue to focus on the area. Call 911 to report suspicious activity and crimes in progress. ▪ Tibet Kitchen Bar and Restaurant, 1833 Nicollet Ave – The owners of this business have asked the City to change the conditions of its license 1) to allow the business to remain open until 2 a.m. (instead of closing at midnight) and 2) to remove the requirement that the business employ an off-duty police officer on site from Thursday through Sunday from 8 p.m. to closing. Licensing has 1) found that Tibet Kitchen has complied with the current conditions and 2) received no serious complaints regarding the operation of the business. <p>SSCO staff distributed copies of the 911 calls for service report for 1833 Nicollet Ave from 1/1/12 to 3/20/13, which showed nine calls regarding problems such as disturbance, unwanted person, drunk/intoxicated person, suspicious person, and customer trouble. Chelsea Adams reported that most of the calls for police service were made by those employed at the business. John Holsten, the security manager for Tibet Kitchen since the business opened in December of 2011, said that conditions at the business are much better now compared to what had gone before. The required off-duty officers have never been called upon to make an arrest at the business and by law are not allowed inside the premises unless they are asked to intervene. Private security staff is on duty inside the business every night, and that will continue.</p> <p>SSCO staff asked if community members had any concerns regarding Tibet Kitchen which should be shared with Licensing before a decision is made. The committee discussed the situation. A community member stated that there has been no trouble because of the tight security and police presence. Keeping this level of security will ensure that there will continue to be no problems. Jennifer Saunders stated that Licensing would not consider easing the conditions if there were problems at the business. If problems subsequently develop, Licensing could reimpose these conditions. Robert Lilligren stated that, due to a recent ordinance change, Licensing now has the authority to impose conditions – or restore previous conditions – on a</p>	

problematic business unilaterally, without the business owner's consent, in response to violations and citations.

A community member stated that the previous bar and restaurant at this location attracted clientele who caused problems at the business and in the neighborhood. The presence of off-duty officers outside is a deterrent to those who want to come in and cause trouble. If the community is comfortable without the presence of off-duty officers, then make it clear that private security will be required on site seven days a week. There was a question about whether the change in conditions could be made on a temporary or probationary basis, with a review after 60 or 90 days. The licensing process does not allow that, but conditions could be reimposed if violations subsequently occur. A community member recommended that Licensing deny the request to change the closing time if the requirement for off-duty officers was removed. This approach could be an alternative to a probationary period: If no problems developed, then Licensing could later extend the closing time.

There was a discussion about how the business currently operates. A community member stated that staff do not ask for age identification at the door and that there is little or no table service at times, which means that customers place orders at the bar. The business operates more like a bar than a restaurant. In response to a question about whether the business has a negative impact on nearby neighbors, the community member stated that there appears to be no bad behavior spilling out to the street. The problem has to do with the kind and level of service inside and the way the staff operate. Holsten stated that security staff is responsible for the safety of patrons inside and immediately outside the business.

Lilligren said that it had been the policy of the former 5th Precinct Inspector, who was instrumental in getting the current conditions imposed, to gradually ease up on the conditions if the business complied and no problems occurred. The current request to remove some conditions is the next step in that approach. Holsten stated that the business owners plan to stay open until 1 a.m. except for occasional 2 a.m. closing when hosting Tibetan community events on Fridays or Saturdays.

A committee co-chair called for a show of hands of those in favor of allowing the business to remain open until 2 a.m. if private security staff is required to be on site. Five community members were in favor, three were opposed. Holsten stated that restaurant staff are responsible for age identification checks and that 80% of the time this occurs at the door. The business has passed two liquor compliance checks for refusing to serve underage patrons. Chelsea Adams stated that there have been no sustained complaints against Tibet Kitchen. A community member stated that is because of the current conditions regarding closing time and off-duty officers: the status quo is working and should be maintained. There are other restaurants with bars which are open until 2 a.m. in the area – on Lyndale Ave, Hennepin Ave, and Nicollet Ave north of I-94 and south of 24th St – although not on Nicollet Ave in Stevens Square-Loring Heights.

A committee co-chair called for a show of hands of those in favor of removing the requirement for off-duty officers if private security is required to be on site seven days a week. Seven community members were in favor, none were opposed. Lilligren stated that it's important to understand the distinction between a requirement to provide private security inside the business versus a requirement to provide off-duty officers to patrol the block outside. Holsten stated that the business owners have learned a lot about complying with City policies and practices and that they pay special attention to those who drink at their establishment, to the extent of transporting patrons who may be intoxicated to their homes. Adams asked for a list of those to call if there are problems or complaints about the business.

This issue will also be considered by SSCO's Neighborhood Development committee at its 6 p.m. meeting on 4/2 at 1925 Nicollet Ave. Saunders will share the committees' concerns at a meeting with Licensing staff on 4/4.

SSCO's monthly chronic offender update included cases involving:

- [Abdi Mohamed Ibrahim](#) (7 arrests in the area in the past two years, 22 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 7/11/12 trespassing at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave; 7/20/12 possession of liquor in a park, consuming alcohol in public, and littering at Stevens Square Park, 1801 Stevens Ave.
- [Lester Cloud](#) (11 arrests in the area in the past four years, 13 prior convictions in Hennepin and Cass Counties) – 12/19/12 consuming alcohol in public at 24th & Nicollet.

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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patrick Addy (11 arrests in the area in the past two years, 45 prior convictions in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties) – 5/22/12 consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & 1st. ▪ Randy McNellis (29 arrests in the area in the past eight years, 68 prior convictions in Minnesota) – 3/13/13 open bottle at 18th & Nicollet. 	
Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt	Arlene Storandt reported that, from 3/1 to 3/28, 9 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 16 shifts, contributing a total of 35 hours. One new member joined Block Patrol. Block Patrol teams plus other SSCO volunteers door-knocked 222 apartments in 9 buildings, spoke with the residents of 74 units, and signed up 40 residents for the SSCO e-mail list.	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 is reminding people to make transportation plans ahead of time if they are visiting downtown on 4/1 due to the 3 p.m. Twins opener and a 7 p.m. Timberwolves game. ▪ The Minnesota chapter of the Association of Public Safety Officials presented Minneapolis 911 staff with its 2012 “Making a Difference” award for their work in responding to several critical incidents, including the Accent Signage workplace shooting. ▪ The State Office of Justice Programs has awarded the City a Violence Against Women Act STOP grant to continue and expand its successful domestic violence prevention efforts. ▪ Council Member Don Samuels is sponsoring a resolution regarding the concentration of registered sex offenders in certain Minneapolis neighborhoods: 50% of the sex offenders in Hennepin County currently reside in the Jordan and Phillips neighborhoods. The City Council is expected to vote on the measure on 3/29. ▪ The City Council on 3/29 is expected to vote on an amendment to the zoning code to establish a Pedestrian Overlay District along Nicollet Ave from 14th St to the Midtown Greenway. The purpose of the district – which has been actively supported by SSCO, Citizens for a Loring Park Community, and Whittier Alliance – is to encourage more pedestrian-oriented, urban scale development, including prohibiting stand-alone surface parking lots in future development projects. 	<p>Robert.Lilligren@Minneapolismn.gov</p> <p>673-2206</p> <p>Ward 6 web site</p>

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.