

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Community Safety meeting minutes – April 23, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Ken Strobel, co-chair; Rena Dudgeon, Chelsea Adams, Aimee Colegrove, Brianna Garman, Carl Valdez, Minneapolis Police department; Nikki Appelbaum, City Attorney's office; April Kelly, Stevens Community Apartments; Jerry Paulson, John Ryser, Kandis Storm, Aria Campbell, Rochelle Peyton, a resident of 1707 3rd Ave, 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 |
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| Announcements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Safety meetings are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. ▪ Earth Day clean-up project: Saturday, 4/25, 9:30 a.m. to noon, meet in Stevens Square Park. ▪ 5th Precinct Open House: Wednesday, 5/13, 5 to 7 p.m. at 3101 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park: every Wednesday evening in June. ▪ Red Hot Art festival in Stevens Square Park: 7/25 & 7/26. | Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 5/28, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave |
| Updates from law enforcement partners – Sgt Rena Dudgeon, CPS Chelsea Adams, Officers Aimee Colegrove and Brianna Garman, Chaplain Carl Valdez, Community Attorney Nikki Appelbaum | <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 robbery of person (4/5 at a bus stop at 18th & Nicollet); three burglaries (4/13, underground garage at 610 West Franklin Ave in which items were stolen from multiple vehicles; 4/13, boiler room at 601 Ridgewood Ave in which tools were stolen; 4/17, condo unit at 1901 Stevens Ave via an unlocked door); two motor vehicle thefts (4/13, Franklin & Harriet; 4/21 at 209 East 19th St – in both incidents the owners had lost their keys); and ten other incidents of theft. Six of these thefts occurred at 1707 3rd Ave, a Public Housing high rise; a community member claimed to have information about suspect(s) but refused to share it with police. There is a trend in the city, although not necessarily affecting Stevens Square – Loring Heights, of burglary of occupied apartments.</p> <p>An update on the Office of Justice Programs's performance management study of the Police department is posted at MPD's Facebook page. The study looked at data from 2006 to 2012 and recommends improvements in community outreach, communication, oversight of police conduct, and other areas.</p> <p>A community member initiated a discussion about enforcement of laws prohibiting the possession and use of marijuana, advocating that residential buildings be kept drug-free by allowing the use of marijuana in public spaces such as parks. The community member recommended that police issue warnings to users in the park instead of citing them for offenses. Law enforcement staff stated that their job is to enforce the law and arrest and prosecute those who do not abide by the law, and that the neighborhood organization fully supports that approach.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff: From January through March, reports of Part 1 (serious) crime in the neighborhood increased in every category of violent and property crime compared to last year, with the exception of motor vehicle thefts which are at the same level as last year. Violent crime is up 50% and property crime is up 13.1%. One of the factors police consider when evaluating these numbers is that winter was significantly milder and spring arrived earlier this year.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Nikki Appelbaum: A certain individual featured on the 5th Precinct CLEAN list is succeeding in treatment, cooperating with probation, and abiding by his conditions of release. Another individual continues to offend in the area and</p> | <p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p>Nicole.Appelbaum@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</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> |

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| | <p>Appelbaum, at SSCO's request via community impact statement, will attempt to have him restricted from the area as a condition of release.</p> | |
| <p>Neighborhood-related safety ideas and concerns</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 in the past month, compared to ten in the previous month. There were two misdemeanor drug-related arrests (3/31 and 4/17, both at Franklin & 4th) and two apartment burglaries (both at 2011 3rd Ave). No violent crimes were reported. Year to date, arrests for drug offenses in the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, are up 26.6% compared to last year.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Illegal consumption of alcohol in the neighborhood. Year to date, arrests for alcohol offenses in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, have increased 20.8% compared to last year. Total arrests in this area for alcohol, drug, and prostitution offenses have increased from 39 last year to 48 this year.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> There have been no reports of suspicious traffic to apartment buildings along the alley between the 1800 blocks of 2nd Ave and 3rd Ave over the past month.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> There have been complaints about suspicious traffic, loitering, and violent incidents related to an apartment at 1830 Stevens Ave. The property manager and police are working to resolve the problems. Police ask community members to call 911 to report incidents in progress and to provide a description and license plate number of suspicious vehicles.</p> | |
| <p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p> | <p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 3/27 to 4/23, 4 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 10 regular shifts, contributing 22 hours.</p> <p>Block Patrol, in partnership with the 5th Precinct, planned, organized, and staffed an Open House at the Stevens Square Police substation on 4/18. 3 volunteers helped clean up the police substation on 4/11, contributing 6 hours. 9 volunteers staffed the Open House, contributing 35 hours. During the event, attendees consumed 60 hamburgers, 60 hot dogs, and 24 veggie burgers plus baked beans, chips, cookies, donuts, coffee, over 100 cans of soda and bottles of water, and a sheet cake. Ten 5th Precinct staff members, including Inspector Todd Loining, participated in the Open House.</p> <p>Altogether, 9 Block Patrol volunteers contributed 63 hours in the past month.</p> <p>Block Patrol thanks those who donated to the Open House:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skip Thaler, owner of 1905 1st Ave ▪ Kleinman Realty, manager of 1905 1st Ave ▪ The Boiler Room, 1820 3rd Ave ▪ Cub Foods, 5937 Nicollet Ave ▪ CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave ▪ Finer Meat Co, 3747 Nicollet Ave ▪ Franklin Nicollet Liquor, 2012 Nicollet Ave ▪ French Meadow, 2610 Lyndale Ave ▪ Lunds, 1450 West Lake St ▪ Lyon's Pub, 16 South 6th St ▪ McDonald's, 2400 Nicollet Ave ▪ SuperAmerica, 2200 Lyndale Ave ▪ Wuollet Bakery, 3608 West 50th St <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams spoke with over 100 community members on the streets and at the Substation Open House; frequently spoke with our beat officers and neighborhood probation officers; attended a live show being broadcast from a</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 dave_ssco@yahoo.com</p> <p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p> |

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| | <p>neighborhood coffee shop on a local radio station; checked out the newly reopened Family Dollar store; encountered a hostile male on Nicollet Ave who shouted "Nazi! Gestapo!" at a team; called 311 to report two abandoned 1990s vintage computer terminals on the sidewalk at Franklin & 4th; received information from a resident about a shot fired incident which damaged the front security door of an apartment building; helped direct a family to a park – which turned out to be the <u>wrong</u> park.</p> <p>During an early afternoon shift, a team investigated a report from a rental property manager about people smoking dope in a van parked on 18th St near the park. Just as the team walked past the van and confirmed the report, a Park police squad rolled up to say "hi". The team indicated through subtle gestures that the officers should check out the van. They did, and called for backup. Within a couple minutes, the Park police chief along with squad 514 and two Park agents in a four-wheeler converged on the scene. One person in the van was cited for possession of marijuana in a motor vehicle, possession of prescription drugs not in the original container, and possession of drug paraphernalia. The team spoke with the Park police chief and invited him to attend the Open House.</p> | |
| <p>Community Safety plan – progress report</p> | <p><u>Presentation</u> by staff: There has been no progress on the project in partnership with Little Earth 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>Planning for National Night Out has not yet begun – SSCO needs to clarify with Park staff whether the event on 8/4 (featuring free food) will be allowed to take place in Stevens Square Park.</p> <p>Whittier Alliance has agreed to participate in the project to combat street harassment by helping with publicity. The group followed up on its discussion from the 2/26 meeting. A staffer from the Sexual Violence Center (SVC) helped the group make decisions about how to present information to the neighborhood effectively and what kind of venue and format would be most likely to attract those who are concerned about the problem – and to impact those who cause the problem. The project needs to address two key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How to shift the burden from those who are victims of harassment to those who perpetrate harassment, and how to hold those perpetrators accountable for their actions. ▪ How to teach those who are not victims of harassment – especially those who have witnessed it – to prevent or respond to such behavior when it occurs. <p>The group discussed whether to hold one or more community meetings or gatherings and decided that the best option was to have staff from SVC make a presentation about the topic at a Cinema & Civics event in Stevens Square Park during June and invite anyone interested in the topic to attend a follow-up roundtable discussion at a neighborhood gathering place such as a coffee shop. The purpose of that discussion, which would be organized by SSCO and facilitated by SVC, would be to learn about victims' experiences and identify possible responses to street harassment that could be implemented by individuals and the neighborhood organizations. Further meeting(s) could be organized to follow up on the ideas which are developed, depending on how the project proceeds. The project could also include sponsoring a personal safety and self-defense workshop for community members focusing on street harassment. It's important to gather feedback at each step in the process in order to find out if this is an approach which is useful to community members who have been directly affected by such harassment. SSCO staff will follow up on scheduling, venues, publicity, and other aspects of the project and report back at the 5/28 meeting.</p> | |

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.