



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

Community Safety meeting minutes – April 27, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Corwin Morton, chair; Kathy Waite and Eric Dison, Minneapolis Police department; Matt Wilcox, City Attorney’s office; Drew Kirch, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Annie Kackman and Ashlynn, Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Jerry Paulson, John Littlejohn, Ken Strobel, Michele McGaughey, John Ryser, Laura Battaglia, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_ssc@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"> ▪ Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams has left the Minneapolis Police department to work as a crime analyst for the Hennepin County Sheriff’s department. 4/26 was her last day at the 5th Precinct. Adams has been a key partner and good friend of SSCO since she attended her first Safety meeting in February, 2008. In a farewell letter, Adams stated that "you'll never get rid of me, after all – there are far too many great coffee shops, restaurants, and amenities in the 5th Precinct to ever fully leave." ▪ Stevens Square Police Substation Open House: Saturday, 5/6, 1 to 5 p.m., at 1905 1st Ave, back door. This year’s theme: “We’re Safer Together!” Free food and beverages will be provided and served by Lunds & Byerlys Uptown. Stop by and meet the police officers who work in our neighborhood! ▪ 5th Precinct Open House, 3101 Nicollet Ave: Wednesday, 5/17, 5 to 7 p.m. This is an opportunity to learn about the Police department while enjoying free food, music from the Police band, and a chance to interact with the Mounted Patrol, K-9 unit, bomb squad, and more. ▪ Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 5/25, 6 p.m., at 1925 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Aaron Szczech has resigned as committee co-chair, effective today. We thank Aaron for his leadership of the committee for the past two years and wish him well! ▪ A new co-chair for the Community Safety committee will be elected at the meeting on <u>6/22</u> to serve a two-year term beginning at the 7/27 meeting. Per the SSCO bylaws, anyone who lives, works, is a member of a community organization, or owns property or a business in the neighborhood is eligible to be a candidate and to vote. Candidates may submit their names for nomination in advance (contact Dave at 874-2840 or dave_ssc@yahoo.com for further information or questions) or may nominate themselves at the meeting. The Safety committee co-chairs are responsible for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) attending and running the monthly committee meeting, which usually occurs on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.; 2) representing the committee at safety-related events or meetings; 3) setting direction and providing leadership for the committee, including deciding what to include on the meeting agendas; 4) sometimes making policy recommendations on complicated or controversial issues and working on special projects; this can involve additional meetings outside the monthly committee meeting. 	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 5/25, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement	<u>Presentation</u> by 5 th Precinct Community Attorney Matt Wilcox: Update on recent cases of interest to the neighborhood and on active offenders on the <u>5th Precinct CLEAN list</u> . James Latimore a.k.a. Ralph Young (5/3/55) was convicted	

partners –
Community
Attorney Matt
Wilcox, 5th
Precinct
Inspector Kathy
Waite, Sgt Eric
Dison,
Probation
Officer Drew
Kirch

of 3rd degree burglary of Clausen's Automotive, 22 East Franklin Ave, from 9/1/16 and sentenced to 23 months in prison. Darryl Brooks (8/29/64) – the neighborhood's top offender with 53 arrests here since 2004 – was convicted of gross misdemeanor trespassing at Starbucks Coffee, 2000 Nicollet Ave, from 12/17/16 and sentenced to 365 days, stayed for two years, and is on supervised probation. Erin Larson (6/7/71) was convicted of trespassing at MN Adult & Teen Challenge, 1717 2nd Ave, from 6/7/16 and sentenced to 90 days, stayed for one year, and is in HOMES Court and on supervised probation. Gustavo Best (5/27/89) was convicted of felony 4th degree assault of a police officer at Franklin & Lyndale from 2/1/17 and sentenced to 366 days in prison, stayed for three years, and is on supervised probation. Sharee Barrett (7/10/81) is in jail on \$20,000 bail for 3rd degree burglary at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave, from 9/24/16 and is set to appear in court on 5/15. David Brenner (7/5/75), who is active at the "triangle" at Lyndale & Hennepin, is in the workhouse until 5/2 and then on supervised probation for three cases. Probation Officer Drew Kirch reported that his client William Ernst (11/22/65) is back in prison for violating parole on a 4th degree felony assault of hospital personnel case and is due to be released on parole again on 7/17.

Discussion about a measure under consideration by the State Legislature to make violating a geographic restriction as a condition of release a misdemeanor crime (criminal contempt of court) instead of a probation violation. Wilcox reported that the City Attorney has worked with the City Council's intergovernmental legislative team to propose a change to State law regarding how the courts handle a situation in which a convicted offender violates any geographic restrictions imposed as a condition of release at sentencing. Until a ruling by a State Appeals Court last year, this kind of violation was considered a new criminal offense. Now, it's considered a probation violation. That change has had negative impacts on neighborhoods, like Stevens Square – Loring Heights, which are affected by repeat offenders who keep committing crimes in the same area. One of the tools available to prosecutors and the community – asking the court to impose an order at sentencing prohibiting the offender from being in a certain geographic area while on conditional release – is no longer viable due to the Appeals Court ruling. For example, there is currently only one offender on the 5th Precinct geographic restriction list, a male who has been arrested in the area 19 times since 2010, most recently for gross misdemeanor trespassing at Starbucks Coffee. The court has imposed no penalty for violating the restriction. Kirch spoke about the difference between having to issue an arrest and detention warrant for a probation violation – which depends on the severity of the offense and the amount of stayed time left on the sentence, among other factors – and the ability to arrest and prosecute the offender for a new crime, which is a more effective way to enforce the restriction.

Wilcox said that the State House has passed the measure as part of a bill dealing with changes to criminal statutes, but that it was not included in a similar bill passed by the State Senate. Right now, a conference committee is working out the details and trying to reach an agreement on a final bill to present for approval to both houses of the Legislature.

On a motion by Ken Strobel, seconded by Michele McGaughey, the committee voted to recommend that the SSCO Board support a measure under consideration by the State Legislature to make violating a geographic restriction as a condition of release a misdemeanor crime (criminal contempt of court) instead of a probation violation.

This recommendation goes to the SSCO Board of Directors for consideration at its meeting on 5/1. If the Board approves the motion, staff will send a letter to the legislators on the conference committee stating SSCO's position and asking for their support.

[Crime Prevention Resources](#)

[911 / 311 information](#)

Matthew.Wilcox@
Minneapolismn.gov
673-5402

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

	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Matt Wilcox, from information provided by former CPS Chelsea Adams. The following crimes were reported in the past month in Stevens Square – Loring Heights: two domestic aggravated assaults; one burglary (4/12 at Boiler Room Coffee, 1830 3rd Ave); one motor vehicle theft (4/26 at 18th & 2nd), and five other incidents of theft. No robberies were reported.</p> <p>5th Precinct Inspector Kathy Waite reported that the number of thefts throughout the 5th Precinct, the city, and probably metro-wide is at a very high level and is out of control. Businesses especially are being affected, and the 5th Precinct's strategy of reaching out to owners and managers has been somewhat successful. In Stevens Square – Loring Heights for the period from January through March, the total number of property crimes (burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft) reported has jumped from 20 in 2016 to 56 in 2017. Sgt Eric Dison reported that it is often the same persons who are involved in multiple incidents of theft. Waite said that, for example, there is an auto theft ring with about 100 individuals involved which is operating metro-wide. Retail stores in the area are experiencing high levels of shoplifting – an astronomical volume of loss at some businesses – which is a tough crime to stop because most employees are not allowed to physically intervene to stop thieves due to the danger of being attacked and injured. There is a certain desperation, sometimes tied to addiction to alcohol or drugs, motivating many of those who are stealing – socks, underwear, and personal care items are frequently taken. Some items, however, appear to be stolen for the purpose of resale. For example, stolen liquid laundry detergent is often resold, at a substantial discount, to patrons at laundromats. Some stolen items are resold to other businesses, which may be under financial pressure and willing to break the law in order to purchase inventory at a discount from shady sources.</p> <p>Waite spoke about the departure of CPS Chelsea Adams and about the ongoing challenge of keeping the precinct staffed due to transfers, promotions, retirements, and job opportunities sought outside the department.</p> <p>A community member spoke about the value of having SSCO volunteers and staff who are willing to meet with condo associations and other groups outside of the normal neighborhood meeting schedule. It's important to have strong connections between the neighborhood association and other groups in the community for the purpose of sharing information and resolving problems.</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 twelve police reports in this area during the past month, compared to eight the month before. There were three arrests for narcotics-related offenses: 3/22 at Franklin & Clinton; 4/7 at 17th & 3rd; 4/8 at 19th & 3rd. Boiler Room Coffee, 1830 3rd Ave, was burglarized three times: on 3/22, 3/24, 4/12. One theft from motor vehicle was reported: 3/28 at 2000 3rd Ave.</p> <p>Year to date, in the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, there have been 15 arrests for narcotics-related offenses compared to 16 last year and 15 for alcohol-related offenses compared to 21 last year. It appears that most of the narcotics-related arrests have occurred as a result of traffic stops by police.</p> <p>A community member reported on a suspicious van which is perhaps tied to drug dealing and frequently makes appearances outside of several Public Housing properties.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ashlynn</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ashlynn: From 3/24 to 4/27, 11 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 21 shifts, contributing 48 total hours. 2 new volunteers joined Block Patrol. Residents of Phillips and Powderhorn Park neighborhoods came along</p>	

	<p>as guests on several patrols.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams: spoke with dozens of community members on the streets; spoke with our Franklin Nicollet beat officers; visited the coffee shops in the area; handed out flyers promoting the Police Substation Open House; saw that one guy – you know who I mean; spoke with the new owner of the Third Avenue Market; encountered an intoxicated male at Franklin & 3rd and was unable to comprehend what he was saying; watched groups of suspicious males loitering at various locations on Nicollet Ave; received complaints from neighborhood residents about graffiti and thefts from motor vehicles; saw a small dog dressed in an embarrassing bunny costume on 1st Ave – and considered calling Animal Control to report an act of cruelty.</p> <p>During the noon shift on 4/13, a team was taking a break in a coffee shop when a female customer who was standing near the counter suddenly passed out and fell to the ground, hitting her head. Customers and coffee shop staff rushed to her assistance. The team, after consulting with staff, called 911 and then flagged down the first responders, who arrived on the scene in about four minutes.</p> <p>Block Patrol found that 25 street lights are out in the area from Nicollet Ave to 4th Ave. Staff reported the lights out to 311 and will track the amount of time it takes Xcel Energy to repair them.</p> <p>Ashlynn spoke about how participating in Block Patrol gives neighborhood residents a way to have a direct impact on crime on the streets and fosters a sense of empowerment which connects them closer to the community.</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_ssc@yahoo.com</p> <p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>
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Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.