



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

Community Safety meeting minutes – May 25, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Corwin Morton, chair; Kathy Waite, Minneapolis Police department; Matt Wilcox, City Attorney’s office; P J Bensen and Drew Kirch, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Annie Kackman and Ashlynn, Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Tiffany Lindquist, Mint Properties; Jerry Paulson, John Littlejohn, Ken Strobel, John Ryser, Jill Ferguson, Paul Soderquist, Sandy Reynolds, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_sscoweb@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"> ▪ The SSCO Board of Directors approved the committee's motion last month supporting the 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. Staff sent a letter to legislators on the conference committee who are considering the bill which contains the change. Matt Wilcox reported that the bill containing the measure has passed the Legislature but has not yet been signed by the governor. If approved, the new law will take effect on 8/1/17. ▪ Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park, every Wednesday in June. Music starts at 7:30 p.m. and the film begins at dusk. ▪ SSCO annual meeting: Saturday, 6/17, at Historic Abbott Apartments, 110 East 18th St. Registration begins at 10 a.m. Refreshments will be served. The major item of business is the election of a vice-chair, treasurer, and seven at-large members to the Board of Directors. You are eligible to vote and be a candidate if you are a resident, property owner, or business owner in the Stevens Square – Loring Heights neighborhood and are over 16 years of age. ▪ Red Hot Art festival in Stevens Square Park: Saturday and Sunday, 7/22 & 7/23. ▪ 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_sscoweb@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. 	<p>Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 6/22, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave</p> <p>On the agenda: Election of a co-chair to a two-year term.</p>

Updates from law enforcement partners – 5th Precinct Inspector Kathy Waite, Community Attorney Matt Wilcox, Probation Supervisor P J Bensen, Probation Officer Drew Kirch

Presentation by 5th Precinct Community Attorney Matt Wilcox: Map and list of Part 1 (serious) crimes reported in the neighborhood during the past month. There were four robberies of person (4/28 on the 1800 block of 1st Ave; 5/8 on the 100 block of East 18th St; 5/19 at Groveland & Nicollet; 5/20 on the 1900 block of Clinton Ave), four aggravated assaults (5/2 on 1700 block of 3rd Ave; 5/17 on the 1900 block of 2nd Ave – no criminal charges; 5/10 on the 1900 block of 1st Ave – domestic assault, no criminal charges; 5/15 at Franklin & Nicollet – bus driver hit with food), and two burglaries (5/14 at an apartment on the 100 block of East 19th St; 5/16 at a basement storage room on the 1900 block of 3rd Ave). There were also two motor vehicle thefts and six other incidents of theft.

Presentation by 5th Precinct Community Attorney Matt Wilcox: Update on recent cases of interest to the neighborhood and on active offenders on the [5th Precinct CLEAN list](#). Patrick Addy (3/6/77) pled to a trespassing case from 6/7/16 and was sentenced to 90 days, with credit for 90 days served. An 8/1/16 trespassing, theft, and public urination case at African Market, 1823 Nicollet Ave, was dismissed. He is not currently on probation. Luis Cuevas (2/9/90) pled guilty to theft at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave, from 4/27/17 and was sentenced to 90 days, ordered to serve 11 days, and placed on probation with the conditions that he refrain from theft and stay away from CVS. Ahmeddahir Mohamed Areis (1/1/89) pled guilty to 5th degree assault and disorderly conduct from 3/21/17 at Starbucks, 2000 Nicollet Ave, and was sentenced to 90 days, stayed for one year, and ordered to complete chemical dependency treatment and remain law abiding. He is on supervised probation. Dahir Yussuf Aden (1/1/85) pled guilty to gross misdemeanor trespassing from 2/14/17 at Starbucks, 2000 Nicollet Ave and was sentenced to 93 days, with credit for 48 days served. A disorderly conduct and open bottle case from 1/18/17 at the same Starbucks location was dismissed. He will be released from the workhouse on 8/8. Sharee Barrett (7/10/81) has been convicted by a jury of 3rd degree burglary from 9/24/16 at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave. She is in jail pending sentencing on 6/13. Wilcox thanked SSCO for its help in getting this case charged. Ahmed Abdi Hired (1/1/86) is due to be released from prison on 5/30 and will then be on parole until 11/27. He is serving two sentences for felony violation of a no contact order.

Report by 5th Precinct Inspector Kathy Waite. Waite commented on the recent robberies in the neighborhood, three of which occurred late at night / early in the morning. The other, on the 1900 block of Clinton, happened early afternoon. A current trend throughout the city involves groups of offenders traveling by car, looking for potential victims to rob. Suspect(s) will often park, get out and commit the crime, and then flee in the waiting vehicle. Residents who notice suspicious persons / vehicles prowling the neighborhood should call 911 – police want this information and will respond. Those kinds of violent crimes are of most concern to police, but neighborhood residents are much more likely to be victims of property crimes, which are more numerous throughout the precinct.

Waite announced that she is adding four more beat officers to the precinct starting in mid June through early July. The purpose of the move is to address specific issues in specific locations. For example, two of the officers will likely be assigned to Stevens Square roughly from 7 to 9 p.m. to address street-level problems which develop after the end of the Franklin Nicollet day beat shift. The other targeted areas include the commercial districts at Lake & Lyndale and Lagoon & Hennepin, especially late at night through bar closing, plus service stations such as SA which are open all night. One of the trends police are tracking involves individuals who are being driven out of downtown – especially Hennepin Ave and the Warehouse District – due to heavy enforcement and ending up in the areas of the 5th Precinct she mentioned. The bar scene heats up during the summer and police prepare for potential problems in those areas, although Waite emphasized that there are no problems with bars in Stevens Square-Loring Heights. Waite thanked neighborhood organizations and businesses who help police by providing information about changes occurring in their area related to crime. Wilcox spoke about the 1st Precinct's strategy of teaming officers with

[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>Downtown Improvement District staff on every corner of Hennepin Ave downtown during key times of the day. The strategy appears to be working, but the offenders are likely just moving elsewhere.</p> <p>Waite responded to concerns of community members. If you are not satisfied with service you have received from 911 operators or police officers, call 911 back and ask to speak with an appropriate supervisor. In most cases, a supervisor will call back as soon as possible and respond to your concerns. In response to a question, Waite said that she is not aware of any recent sexual assault report in Stevens Square Park. Minneapolis Police data used to compile a map of all Part 1 (serious) crimes in the neighborhood from 4/28 to 5/24 – which was distributed at the meeting – show no rapes reported.</p> <p><u>Report</u> by Neighborhood Probation Officer Drew Kirch. William Ernst (11/22/65) – one of his clients – is due to be released from prison on 7/17 and will be on parole until 11/22. Ernst is serving a 13-month sentence for 4th degree felony assault of hospital staff from 3/23/16. Ernst is also on probation for gross misdemeanor trespassing from 9/26/16.</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 fourteen police reports in this area during the past month, compared to twelve the month before. Four violent felonies were reported in this area. There was one narcotics-related arrest: 5/6 at 17th & 3rd in which officers stopped a vehicle which had no front license plate displayed and found a loaded .45 caliber handgun and suspected cocaine, heroin, and ecstasy inside. Nicholas Smooth Gibson (7/4/82) was arrested and charged with felony weapon and drug violations.</p> <p>Year to date, in the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, there have been 25 narcotics-related arrests compared to 18 in 2016. Most of these arrests are a result of traffic stops. Alcohol-related arrests in the same area are down from 28 in 2016 to 20 this year. Most of the alcohol-related arrests in the area occur during the summer months.</p> <p>There was a report of a known suspect prowling the parking lots at several Public Housing high rises – including 1707 3rd Ave and 1920 4th Ave – with the intent of breaking into vehicles.</p> <p>SSCO staff reported that, of the 25 street lights out reported to 311 on 4/25, 24 of the cases were listed as "open" on 5/23. One case was "closed", although it's unclear yet whether the problem has been resolved or merely reported to Xcel Energy. If the City takes no action within the next month, SSCO will refer the matter to the Ward 6 City Council office for investigation. Block Patrol did the initial inventory of lights out.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ashlynn</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ashlynn: From 4/28 to 5/25, 10 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 16 regular shifts, contributing 47 hours. A Block Patrol team also attended the 5th Precinct Open House on 5/17. 5 new volunteers joined Block Patrol.</p> <p>14 Block Patrol volunteers contributed 47 hours to staffing the Stevens Square Police Substation Open House on 5/6. The event was a great success. Thanks to Lunds & Byerlys Uptown for providing and serving food and beverages (including a delicious carrot cake featuring the logos of SSCO and MPD) and to Boiler Room Coffee for providing coffee. Thanks also to our law enforcement partners who attended, including 5th Precinct Inspector Kathy Waite, Sgt Rolf Markstrom, Crime Prevention Specialist John Reed, secretary Sandy Kellogg, Officers Aimee Colegrove, Brianna Garman, Deb Hubert, Dennis Milner, Community Attorney Matt Wilcox, Park Police Sgt Anderson, and</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>

Neighborhood Probation Officer Drew Kirch.

Altogether, 18 volunteers contributed 94 hours to Block Patrol during the past four weeks.

During the past month, Block Patrol teams: spoke with hundreds of community members at events and on the streets; spoke with our Franklin Nicollet beat officers; visited the coffee shops in the area; handed out publicity for the Police Substation Open House; spoke with a block leader who is also an Emily Peake gardener; called 311 to report a mattress and broken glass in the alley behind the laundry at Franklin & Clinton – and three weeks later, it was still there; spoke with a neighborhood resident who had been assaulted and injured during a car-jacking on the north side involving three juveniles; spoke with a Traffic Control agent who was ticketing numerous vehicles for parking violations in the area around the park; watched a Franklin Nicollet beat officer deal with an intoxicated male who was acting out on Nicollet Ave – the officer cited him for open bottle; was informed by a neighborhood resident that her car parked on 18th St was broken into overnight, although there were no signs of forced entry; saw that another window of the Silver Building at Franklin & 4th was boarded over with plywood; spoke with a male at Franklin & Nicollet who questioned the appropriateness of Block Patrol working with police, since "the police shoot and kill innocent people all the time"; saw a young boy, maybe six years old, urinating on a tree at the playground in the park – he was with several adults who were seated nearby; encountered Tom the Outdoor Cat on 2nd Ave – a team tried to contact his owner while the cat ignored a mouse that was about fifteen feet away.

During the 1 p.m. shift on 5/11, a property manager asked a team to check out a situation on the 1700 block of Stevens Ave. The team saw a male, standing in front of an apartment building, dressed only in his underwear and holding all of the rest of his clothing in his arms. The male was looking around, not self-consciously, and appeared to be very disoriented. The team watched for a while and then, after the male started looking into cars which were parked nearby, decided to call 911 and ask that a squad be sent to check on the male's welfare. After a while, the male began to slowly put some of his clothes back on, and then take some of them off again. Just before squad 510 responded, the male walked to the corner of 18th & Stevens. He stood there and watched the team talk with the officer. When the team and the officer looked in his direction, the male quickly turned the corner and went westbound on 18th St, out of sight. The officer got to the corner in about 30 seconds, but the male was nowhere to be seen. The officer checked the nearby alley between Stevens Ave and 1st Ave, but the male could not be located.

During the 1 p.m. shift on 5/25, a neighborhood resident informed a team that a person had been living in the biff at the park for three straight days. Eventually, police intervened and removed the person from the biff. The team went to the park to check out the biff – which is a "double wide" – and found sheets of cardboard on the floor, bedding, a shoe box, and invoices scattered about. The team will ask Park staff to have the items removed from the biff.

Ashlynn passed around some photos taken at the Substation Open House. She spoke about the interesting situations and people one comes across in the neighborhood while on Block Patrol. Ashlynn said that, when the weather gets warm, the level of weirdness and craziness on the streets increases significantly. She looks forward to being on patrol for the next four months. Annie Kackman and Ashlynn were featured in a recent story in the *Southwest Journal* about neighborhoods planning for the future – unfortunately, the photo in the print edition does not appear to be available online.

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