

**Stevens Square Community Organization**

**(612) 874-2840**

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



**Community Safety meeting minutes – May 26, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.**

Present: Aaron Szczech, co-chair; Corey Grandner, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Chelsea Adams and Carl Valdez, Minneapolis Police department; Nikki Appelbaum and Matt Wilcox, City Attorney's office; Tonya Lenox and Sam Stoltz, St Stephen's Street Outreach; John Ryser, Jerry Paulson, Ken Strobel, Paul Soderquist, Deborah Mendoza, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye

**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>▪ Every Wednesday in June – <a href="#">Cinema &amp; Civics in Stevens Square Park</a>, live music begins at 7:45, the movies start at dusk.</li> <li>▪ Saturday, 6/18 – SSCO's annual neighborhood meeting, 10 a.m. at Historic Abbott Apartments, 110 East 18<sup>th</sup> St.</li> <li>▪ Thursday, 6/23 – next Community Safety meeting, 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</li> <li>▪ Saturday and Sunday, 7/30 &amp; 7/31 – Stevens Square Art Festival.</li> <li>▪ Tuesday, 8/2 – National Night Out in Stevens Square Park.</li> </ul>	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 6/23, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
<p>Updates from law enforcement partners – 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams, Chaplain Carl Valdez, Community Attorney Nikki Appelbaum, Assistant City Attorney Matt Wilcox, Probation Officer Corey Grandner</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: In the past month in Stevens Square – Loring Heights, there were two robberies of person at bus stops (5/23, 6:50 a.m., at Franklin &amp; Harriet; 5/24, 4:10 p.m., at Franklin &amp; Nicollet), two burglaries (5/4 to 5/9 at 1800 LaSalle Ave; 5/12 at 1918 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave), three thefts from motor vehicles (5/10 at 1815 Clinton Ave; 5/11 at 326 East 18<sup>th</sup> St; 5/13 at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 1<sup>st</sup> – the hood of the vehicle was tampered with or opened in two of these incidents), two bike thefts (5/2 at 601 Ridgewood Ave; 5/14 at 20 Groveland Ave), and one other incident of theft. No aggravated assaults were reported.</p> <p>Adams distributed information about becoming <a href="#">a block or apartment leader</a>, spring and summer <a href="#">safety tips</a>, and <a href="#">Community Emergency Response Team</a> (CERT) training.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Nikki Appelbaum: Update on <a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> Precinct CLEAN list</a> offenders active in Stevens Square. Sharee Barrett, who is in custody on \$20,000 bail with two felonies and nine misdemeanor cases pending, has been found to be unamenable to probation and is therefore not eligible for Mental Health court. Patrick Addy is in custody on \$1,000 bail for gross misdemeanor trespassing. Dahir Yussuf Aden is in custody on \$1,000 bail for gross misdemeanor trespassing and is trespassed from 1925 Nicollet Ave. Lavell Love had his probation revoked for a gross misdemeanor trespassing case and is in the workhouse until 9/13 pending furlough to treatment. Sharmake Abdullahi Mohamed is on probation for two gross misdemeanor trespassing cases and has a new gross misdemeanor trespassing case set for court on 6/15. Farid Yusuf Suleiman has two gross misdemeanor trespassing cases pending and has been found incompetent to stand trial; he is not in custody and has a review hearing set for 10/26. Neighborhood Probation Officer Corey Grandner reported that none of his clients are on the CLEAN list.</p> <p>Appelbaum, who's working as Community Attorney in both the 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Precincts for the next month or so, introduced Matt Wilcox, who will take over as 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Attorney soon. Wilcox, who has worked as an</p>	<p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p><a href="#">Crime Prevention Resources</a></p> <p><a href="#">911 / 311 information</a></p> <p>Nicole.Appelbaum@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p> <p><a href="#">CRT</a> line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716</p>

	<p>attorney for six years, has a degree in political science and is looking forward to the community advocacy aspect of his new position, especially working with the Community Safety committee. Appelbaum said that it's been a great experience working with SSCO's volunteers and staff.</p> <p>Appelbaum spoke about two major changes that are having an effect on the way police and prosecutors deal with offenders who commit certain livability crimes. First, the Chief Judge of Hennepin County Court has made low-level crimes such as loitering with open bottle and consuming alcohol in public, which have a big negative impact on the community, payable offenses. This means that police are no longer allowed to book someone in jail for these offenses; instead, it will be incumbent on the arrestee to set a court date or pay a fine. If anyone is displeased with this change, they can send their concerns to the <a href="#">Chief Judge</a>. Second, either through an action by the Legislature or the State Supreme Court, officers are no longer allowed to issue judicial release receipts to arrestees. These receipts are like a citation, but they also set a court date which helps to hold accountable chronic offenders who routinely fail to respond to any summons to appear in court and are frequently arrested for bench warrants. Under the law, these receipts are now viewed as tab charges, which can only be made at a place of detention, not on the street. Community Attorneys, like Appelbaum, can track citations and then charge offenses after they surface in the Violations Bureau database, which can take a significant amount of time. Officers can make sure that a court date is set for an arrestee by booking them in the jail. Officers often complain about the long wait times at Hennepin County jail booking, which takes them off the streets and reduces the amount of time they can patrol and respond to 911 calls.</p> <p>There was a question about the enforcement of <a href="#">harassment restraining orders</a>. There was a complaint that, in a certain case, a responding officer could not find an order in the database used by MPD. Appelbaum said that if a restraining order is violated, the victim should call 911 and then try to persuade any witness(es) to give a statement to police when they respond in order to strengthen the case.</p> <p>SSCO staff made information available about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the outcome of a case involving offender Mohamed Ahmed Farah;</li> <li>▪ community impact statements submitted by SSCO to the court in regard to Armando Day and Rachael O'Gorman;</li> <li>▪ Part 1 (serious) crimes reported in the neighborhood from January 1 through April 30: all categories of crime are down compared to 2015. Violent crime is down 60% and property crime is down 53.2%</li> </ul>	
<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 seven police reports in this area during the past month, compared to eleven in the previous month. There were no arrests or citations for narcotics violations. One violent felony was reported: 4/26 aggravated robbery of person at 2014 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. There were two property crimes: 5/1 to 5/5 motor vehicle theft on the 2000 block of Clinton Ave; 5/10 theft from motor vehicle at 1815 Clinton Ave. No aggravated assaults or burglaries were reported.</p> <p>In the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St, arrests for narcotics-related offenses are down 28% compared to last year.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Illegal consumption of alcohol in the neighborhood. Year to date, there have been 28 arrests or citations for alcohol-related offenses in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St, compared to 46 in 2015. There have been four arrests for alcohol-related offenses in Stevens Square Park this year.</p>	

	<p><u>Community concern</u> Suspicious males causing problems at and around <a href="#">Minnesota Adult &amp; Teen Challenge</a> (MNTC), 1717 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. There was a discussion about the behavior of these groups of males (which can range in number from two or three to over a dozen, many of whom appear to be of Somali heritage and do not live in the neighborhood) who have also caused problems in the park, around residential buildings, in alleys, at numerous businesses on Nicollet Ave, at bus stops, and at an alternative high school. Some of those involved are on the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct CLEAN list. Police in the area have dealt with complaints about these males on a daily basis for the past year, but nothing has worked to deter their ongoing illegal behavior in the area. Tonya Lenox with <a href="#">St Stephen's Street Outreach</a> (usually on duty from 1 to 9 p.m.) again suggested that community members call her group at (612) 879-7624 to see if outreach teams can make contact with the males when they are causing problems in the area. She also recommended that anyone encountering an intoxicated person in need of assistance consider calling Street Outreach instead of the police; if police assistance is required, the Street Outreach team can make that call when they are at the scene. Lenox passed around copies of their <a href="#">brochure</a>.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Dogs running loose and fighting with other dogs. There was a report that is happening regularly in the park and on the streets and presents a dangerous situation to passersby and law-abiding dog owners. Call 911 to report off-leash incidents in the park which are in progress; Park police or agents will respond. Call <a href="#">Park police</a> at (612) 230-6550 if this is an ongoing problem that occurs on certain days and times. Call 911 to report dogs fighting or attacking other dogs or people. Call 311 to reach <a href="#">Animal Care and Control</a> for non-emergency situations and complaints.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From April 29 to May 26, 14 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 17 shifts, contributing 48 total hours. 3 new volunteers joined Block Patrol.</p> <p>11 Block Patrol volunteers staffed the Stevens Square Police Substation Open House on April 30, contributing 45 hours. Two volunteers spent over a month planning, organizing, promoting, and preparing for the event. Block Patrol thanks the businesses that donated to the Open House – they are true Friends of the Neighborhood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Lunds &amp; Byerlys Uptown</a>, 1450 West Lake St – general manager Mark Bartusch and volunteers from his staff catered the event and served delicious sandwiches, ice cream floats, and other treats.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">French Meadow Bakery &amp; Café</a>, 2610 Lyndale Ave – donated six dozen dessert bars.</li> <li>▪ SuperAmerica, 2200 Lyndale Ave – contributed eight dozen donuts.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Boiler Room Coffee</a>, 1830 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave – owner Michael Graca delivered freshly-brewed coffee.</li> </ul> <p>Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the Open House!</p> <p>Block Patrol volunteers took a field trip to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Open House on May 17. Altogether, 19 volunteers contributed 93 hours of service during the past month.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams: spoke with hundreds of community members at events and on the streets; frequently spoke with our Franklin-Nicollet beat officers; patrolled the Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge property on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave in response to complaints about suspicious males loitering in the area and harassing staff and residents; frequently encountered groups of intoxicated people along Nicollet Ave and in the park; stopped at neighborhood coffee shops for a break; found a tie-dye kit in a pile of leftover goods from a moving sale on Ridgewood Ave; called 911 on a well-known offender who, with a shopping cart full of trash bags containing recyclables, was walking</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 <a href="mailto:dave_ssco@yahoo.com">dave_ssco@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><a href="#">Application and guidelines</a> are at the SSCO web site.</p>

	<p>eastbound in a westbound lane of traffic on Franklin Ave, causing drivers to stop or swerve to avoid hitting him – when he reached Clinton Ave, he moved out of the street and onto the sidewalk and then crossed the Franklin Ave bridge over 35W – and the team cancelled the call; watched Officer Aimee and the manager of an apartment building on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave dealing with a dog which was leaning out of a third-floor apartment window, barking loudly and continuously; in the park, spoke with an intoxicated offender who, along with a drunken companion, contended that there was no such thing as "trespassing" since the earth belongs to us all – and then he tried to sell the team a pink iPod knock-off; saw two people drinking vodka at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; Stevens; learned that a "push for walk signal" device at 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> could also be used as a convenient banana holder; watched Park police talking with people at the basketball court; encountered a suspicious person holding an aerosol spray can at 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; Clinton who claimed that she was going to spray insecticide at a hornet's nest on an apartment building and then run away very fast – the team asked her to please wait until they had a chance to leave the area; called 911 to request medical assistance for a female who came out of LaSalle Community Garden and was staggering, off-balance, falling down, incoherent, unable to hold objects, and causing injury to herself – Fire department paramedics were on the scene in about a minute and the person was transported by ambulance.</p> <p>During the 1 p.m. shift on 5/5, a team called 911 regarding the suspicious male occupant – who was not wearing pants – of a van with South Daktoa license plates which was parked illegally on Ridgewood Ave. There was a gas can on the roof of the van and a large amount of scattered belongings inside, some of which were falling out on the ground through an open side door. After a while, the male – now wearing pants – emerged from the van, opened the hood, and stood there looking disoriented. Squad 510 responded. The officers spoke with the male and then left. The male went back inside the van, which remained parked in the No Parking zone. The team waited around for a while, and then left the area.</p> <p>During the 1 p.m. shift on 5/24, a team called 911 regarding a male who was passed out behind a shrub, against the freeway fence, at LaSalle Community Garden. There was a wallet on the ground next to him. Our Franklin-Nicollet beat officers and an ambulance responded. After a while, the officers managed to wake him up and found an open bottle of mouthwash in his possession. The wallet belonged to someone else, who is known to police. The male staggered off and ended up sitting on the sidewalk under a No Trespassing sign near the entrance to the Mall Center.</p>	
<p>Update on current safety-related projects and ideas for next steps</p>	<p>SSCO staff reported that a date has not yet been set for a community discussion about ways to combat street harassment, which will likely take place at the <a href="#">MCAD</a> auditorium. Staff from the <a href="#">Sexual Violence Center</a> have agreed to design the publicity and facilitate the meeting. Staff at <a href="#">Whittier Alliance</a> has recently become involved in planning the discussion, with a new focus on inviting members of the Somali community to participate. Tonya Lenox said that the meeting room at <a href="#">St Stephen's Human Services</a>, 2309 Nicollet Ave, might be available for the project. Adams again suggested that organizers consider holding multiple community discussions to accommodate the schedules and needs of various groups. Staff will follow up with contacts at Whittier Alliance.</p>	

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.