



Community Safety meeting minutes – May 28, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Ken Strobel and Laura Blue Bird, co-chairs; Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police department; Nikki Appelbaum, City Attorney's office; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Dave Hautman, Franklin Nicollet Liquor; Jerry Paulson, John Ryser, Aria Campbell, Jill Ferguson, Hana Hurley, Whitman Barrett, John Louis, 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"> ▪ Community Safety meetings are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. ▪ Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park, every Wednesday evening in June. The 6/3 event will feature a presentation about street harassment by staff from the Sexual Violence Center. ▪ SSCO annual meeting, Saturday, 6/20, 9 a.m., at Historic Abbott Apartments, 110 East 18th St. ▪ Election of a co-chair at the Community Safety meeting on 7/23. This is to fill the position currently held by Ken Strobel, who has to step down due to term limits. Laura Blue Bird's term lasts another year. Anyone interested in this position can contact Dave at 874-2840 or dave_sscoweb@yahoo.com for further information. ▪ Red Hot Art festival in Stevens Square Park: 7/25 & 7/26. ▪ National Night Out, Tuesday, 8/4, 5 to 7 p.m., Stevens Square Park. Staff and volunteers from SSCO, MN Adult & Teen Challenge, Historic Abbott Apartments, and The Apartment Shop are organizing the event. 	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 6/25, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – CPS Chelsea Adams, 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 three aggravated assaults (4/28 at Franklin & 3rd in which a suspect assaulted four police officers; 4/28 at 1827 LaSalle Ave involving a suspect known to the victim; 5/22 at 17th & 1st in which shots were fired and a vehicle was damaged), seven burglaries (apartment at 1707 3rd Ave on 4/28; laundry room and storage area at 137 East 17th St on 4/29; storage units at 1901 Stevens Ave on 5/1; apartment at 1800 Stevens Ave on 4/29 to 5/2; laundry room at 214 East 19th St on 5/11 to 5/13 for which Rahsaan Migel Wells (3/19/76) was subsequently arrested and charged; laundry room at 1721 3rd Ave on 5/15; apartment at 229 Ridgewood Ave on 5/21), three bike thefts (5/10 at 1826 LaSalle Ave; 5/2 to 5/15 at 18th & 1st; 5/17 at 1920 4th Ave), two thefts from motor vehicles (4/24 at 344 East 19th St; 4/27 at Franklin & 1st), and seven other incidents of theft. There were no robberies, sexual assaults, or motor vehicle thefts reported.</p> <p>Current trends throughout the precinct include burglaries of laundry rooms with coin-operated machines and storage units in apartment buildings and burglaries of occupied houses and apartments involving entry through unlocked doors or windows. Adams distributed information about aggressive panhandling, security measures for residents of apartment buildings, and smart phone applications for reporting problems to 311 and tips to the police.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff: From January through April, reports of Part 1 (serious) crime in the neighborhood increased in every category of violent crime and property crime compared to last year. Total violent crime is up</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>28.5%% and total property crime is up 39.1%. The largest increase was in the number of burglaries reported: 12 this year compared to 3 in 2014. 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: Update on the cases of five individuals featured on the 5th Precinct CLEAN list, one of whom will be charged for assaulting a deputy while being booked in the jail. Three offenders who frequent the area are of special concern to the community and law enforcement due to their inappropriate and harassing behavior, especially toward women: Harry Paul Leftbear (11/25/60); Larry Charles Townsend (6/20/52); David Ayoti Omurwa (12/10/84). All of them have active cases but none are currently in custody. Appelbaum, who is working to have them restricted from the area as a condition of release, encouraged community members to contact her regarding any other known individuals who are causing problems in the neighborhood. There appear to be more individuals committing bold and brazen crimes throughout the city.</p>	<p>CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716</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 eleven police reports in this area in the past month, compared to eight in the previous month. There was one felony drug arrest (5/8 at Franklin & Clinton, part of an ongoing investigation by 3rd Precinct CRT) plus two apartment and two laundry room burglaries. There are complaints about drug dealing around the Third Avenue Market, including the parking lots and bus stop. On 5/6, there was a homicide in an apartment at 2101 3rd Ave in Whittier. The Hennepin County Attorney characterized the incident as a shootout between a buyer and a seller involved in a drug deal. Two suspects have been charged, one with 2nd degree murder, the other with aiding an offender. Year to date, there have been 25 narcotics-related arrests (for narcotics violation, loitering with intent to buy or sell narcotics, possession of drug paraphernalia) in the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, compared to 23 arrests last year. There was a complaint about drug dealing along 18th St between 1st Ave and Stevens Ave and a description of a drug deal witnessed in the alley behind the Park Nicollet Clinic on Blaisdell Ave. Much of this activity is out in the open and little effort is being made by those involved to hide what they are doing. Call 911 to report suspicious activity and crimes in progress. Call 5th Precinct CRT (Community Response Team) at 673-5716 to report suspected drug or prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Illegal consumption of alcohol in the neighborhood. Year to date, there have been 49 arrests for alcohol offenses in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, the same number as last year. Over the past month, most of these arrests have occurred in Stevens Square Park and Fair Oaks Park. Thanks to Park police and the Franklin – Nicollet day beat who have successfully focused on these areas.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Complaints about suspicious traffic, loitering, and violent incidents related to an apartment at 1830 Stevens Ave have declined over the past month. 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 4/24 to 5/28, 7 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 20 shifts, contributing 40 hours. On 5/13, a Block Patrol team attended the 5th Precinct Open House.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams spoke with over 30 community members on the streets; frequently spoke with our beat officers and neighborhood probation officers; were told by a 911 operator at the start of an evening shift</p>	

	<p>to stay away from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts because a protest was going on there; helped a new neighborhood resident determine whether she had parked her vehicle legally on the street; visited the cactus garden at 18th & Clinton and learned a painful lesson about what happens when you touch a cactus with bare hands; were accompanied on a shift by the 5th Precinct Community Attorney, who observed several problems in the neighborhood which needed to be reported to the authorities; reported a pair of shoes hanging from a power line to Xcel Energy; observed string graffiti on a chain link fence overlooking I-94; spoke with a resident of an apartment building who had rescued two baby squirrels from a balcony and left them in a covered plastic container for the mother squirrel to find – and to prevent the crows from getting them; frequently checked out Scratchy's Book Box; stopped at a neighborhood coffee shop for refreshments and live music; visited with the horses, dogs, and our other law enforcement friends at the 5th Precinct Open House, and ate pulled pork sandwiches, ice cream, hot dogs, cookies, spring rolls, pizza, and other delicacies; in the parking lot behind a commercial building, found and disposed of a suspicious box of cupcakes in a paper bag which also contained suspected drug paraphernalia; watched a well-known offender, who was behaving aggressively and appeared to be intoxicated, take over the basketball court in the park and drive the other players away; received information from a rental property owner about a suspect involved in a laundry room burglary; watched suspicious loitering in the parking lot of a business along Franklin Ave and at a bus stop and in the parking lot of a business at 19th & 3rd; saw a male verbally harassing female pedestrians on Nicollet Ave, one of whom ducked into a business in order to get away from him; picked up and disposed of empty liquor bottles and other trash; found a broken glass drug pipe on a sidewalk on 17th St; reported to 311 that the flashing lights on the pedestrian crossing signs at 17th & 1st are not operating; went shopping for supplies (and candy) at a local discount store; watched the playground equipment in the park being demolished; found and disposed of suspected drug paraphernalia in an alley behind an apartment building; checked on the welfare of a male who was passed out on a bench in the park, and who eventually stated that he was "very fine"; came upon a sink hole near a wooden power pole on 18th St – a resident offered to call 311 and report it; received a complaint from a resident about drivers southbound on Stevens Ave who fail to stop when they reach Franklin Ave, putting pedestrians at risk; watched three angry males exit a Metro Transit bus which made an unscheduled stop on Nicollet Ave – a few minutes later, a Transit police squad arrived in the area.</p> <p>During a 1 p.m. shift, a team was approached at Franklin & Nicollet by offender David Omurwa, who pulled out a lighter and offered to light the team's cigarettes. (Note: The team did not have any cigarettes.) Later, the team encountered Omurwa drinking a bottle of vodka at 19th & Stevens. Omurwa spotted a woman who had her keys out and was going into a nearby condo building, and walked quickly toward her. The woman saw Omurwa approaching and managed to get into the building just in time. The team called 911 and followed Omurwa as he walked through the neighborhood. The team cancelled the call after he went downtown.</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_sso@yahoo.com</p> <p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>
<p>Community Safety plan – progress report</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by staff: The project in partnership with Little Earth to educate new Hennepin County Criminal Court judges about the impact of livability crimes on the community is stalled.</p> <p>Staff from the Sexual Violence Center (SVC) will make a presentation about street harassment at Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park on 6/3. This will happen after the band finishes its set and before the movie begins, roughly between 8:45 and 9:15 p.m. There was a discussion about plans for a follow-up roundtable discussion about the topic at a neighborhood gathering place, such as a coffee shop. SVC staff will suggest potential dates and SSCO staff will find an appropriate venue. The intent is to publicize this at Cinema & Civics on 6/3 and throughout the neighborhood after that.</p>	