

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Community Safety meeting minutes – June 23, 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; Matt Wilcox, City Attorney's office; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; John Ryser, Corwin Morton, Jerry Paulson, Ken Strobel, 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
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Congratulations to Ken Strobel who has been elected chair of the SSCO Board of Directors and to Aaron Szczech who has been elected secretary! ▪ Wednesday, 6/29 – Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park wraps up for the season with live music at 7:45 and the movie "Jurassic Park" at dusk. ▪ Saturday and Sunday, 7/30 & 7/31 – Red Hot Art festival in Stevens Square Park. ▪ Tuesday, 8/2 – National Night Out in Stevens Square Park. ▪ At its 7/28 meeting, the Community Safety committee will elect a co-chair to serve a two-year term. 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) or may nominate themselves at the meeting. The Safety committee co-chairs are responsible for: attending and running the monthly committee meeting, which usually occurs on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.; representing the committee at safety-related events or meetings; setting direction and providing leadership for the committee, including deciding what to include on the meeting agendas; sometimes making policy recommendations on complicated or controversial issues and working on special projects; this can involve additional meetings outside the monthly committee meeting. After the election, the committee will recommend a representative to report on its behalf to the SSCO Board of Directors, which meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. 	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 7/28, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – 5 th Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams, Chaplain Carl Valdez, Community Attorney Matt	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: In the past month in Stevens Square – Loring Heights, there were two robberies of person (5/30, 4:30 p.m., at 18th & Nicollet in which four males robbed a person, one of whom was later arrested; 6/7, 4 p.m., at 1830 Stevens Ave in which a male suspect, who met a person via craigslist to sell an iPhone, chased and assaulted the person and stole the person's phone); one sexual assault (6/14, in which a person told police that she believed she had been raped by an acquaintance – no further public information is available); three aggravated assaults (5/29, 4:15 p.m., at Franklin & Clinton in which three unknown females assaulted a person; 6/13, 9:35 p.m., at 1833 Nicollet Ave in which officers responding to a report of a person with a gun found a victim who had been assaulted – no gun was involved – after an argument between him and some females; 6/15, 11:40 p.m., at 18th & 1st in which a person was assaulted and refused to give information to police or paramedics about what happened); one apartment burglary (6/12, 8 p.m., at 1816 Stevens Ave for which Daryn Dashawn Kennedy, 3/8/73, was subsequently arrested); and two thefts from motor vehicle (5/30 at 19th & Clinton; 6/16 at 18th & 1st). Trends include: none of the</p>	<p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p>Crime Prevention Resources</p> <p>911 / 311 information</p>

<p>Wilcox, Probation Officer Corey Grandner</p>	<p>victims of robbery or aggravated assault were residents of the neighborhood; two of the three assaults involved female suspects and male victims.</p> <p>Adams distributed copies of a press release from the County Attorney regarding the conviction of Mohamed Ali Elmi (1/1/90) on six felony counts of robbing a young male and female at gunpoint behind 1831 2nd Ave on 8/4/15, then forcing the female into a car and eventually taking her to Riverside Park near the U of M and raping her. Elmi was indicted by the grand jury, and as a result faces a sentence of life in prison without parole. Sentencing is set for 7/22. A second suspect in the incident, Ismail Adam Abdo, has also been charged and is believed to have fled the country to avoid prosecution.</p> <p>Adams distributed information about becoming a block or apartment leader, spring and summer safety tips, MPD's Bike with a Cop program (Thursdays during summer, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 4119 Dupont Ave North), and MPD's Safe Summer Nights program (including 8/23, 5 to 7 p.m., at Painter Park on Lyndale Ave). KSTP TV news recently featured a story about the Whittier neighborhood bike officers; the Whittier Alliance is paying for the extra officers to patrol their neighborhood's parks and streets.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Corey Grandner: Grandner has no clients who are on the 5th Precinct CLEAN list, but may be assigned to supervise offender Sharee Barrett after her cases are resolved. He will get updates from other probation officers regarding offenders of interest to the community.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Matt Wilcox: Wilcox will begin his job as 5th Precinct Community Attorney in July. He provided an update on 5th Precinct CLEAN list offenders active in Stevens Square. Sharee Barrett, who is in custody on \$20,000 bail with two felonies and nine misdemeanor cases pending, is set for court on 6/27. Patrick Addy, who has a gross misdemeanor warrant for a probation violation, has serious medical issues and may be considered for civil commitment or possibly treatment outside Hennepin County. Ellery Charging Thunder was released from the workhouse on 5/25 and is on supervised probation. Ahmed Abdi Hired is in jail on \$100,000 bail for another felony domestic assault case which is set for court on 8/1. Wilcox invited community members to contact him if any new troublemakers surface in the neighborhood.</p> <p>Wilcox reported on today's U.S. Supreme Court decision in Minnesota vs Bernard, which upheld the constitutionality of the state law that requires drunken driving suspects to submit to a breath test (without the need for a warrant) or face a criminal charge for refusing to do so. This is a victory for the City Attorney's office; 95% of DWI cases prosecuted by the City are based on breath tests. Wilcox said that he has access to "drunk goggles" which simulate the experience of intoxication if the group is ever interested in a demonstration or if it would be appropriate at any community event. Wilcox will participate in the 2016 StandDown for homeless veterans on 8/2 and 8/3 at Fort Snelling.</p> <p>Corwin Morton announced that the City's Disability Access Committee, of which he is a member, has convinced the City to install 200 "talking traffic lights" at key locations which will make it easier and safer for those with disabilities to cross busy streets.</p> <p>SSCO staff made information available about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the outcome of cases involving Robert Schmit and Michael Rowell; 	<p>Matthew.Wilcox@ Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p> <p>CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 1 (serious) crimes reported in the neighborhood from January 1 through May 31: all categories of crime are down compared to 2015. Violent crime is down 30% and property crime is down 44.2%. 	
<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 six police reports in this area during the past month, compared to seven in the previous month. There were no arrests or citations for narcotics violations. One violent felony was reported: 2nd degree assault with a dangerous weapon on 5/29 at Franklin & Clinton. There were two thefts from motor vehicles, an apartment burglary, and a shots fired incident on 5/28 at 2014 3rd Ave. No robberies or motor vehicle thefts were reported.</p> <p>In the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, arrests for narcotics-related offenses are down 26.7% compared to last year.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Illegal consumption of alcohol in the neighborhood. Year to date, there have been 42 arrests or citations for alcohol-related offenses in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, compared to 56 in 2015. Ten of those arrests (23.8%) occurred in Stevens Square Park.</p> <p>Wilcox spoke about the standing order issued by the current Chief Judge of Hennepin County District Court which categorized a number of livability crimes – including consuming alcohol in public and loitering with open bottle – as payable offenses, for which a defendant can no longer be booked in the jail. Officers who ignore the order could be accused of violating the defendant's civil rights and end up as the subject of a complaint in federal court. It appears that the District Court was looking at ways of addressing the equity agenda by reducing the consequences for livability crimes. This approach addresses the symptoms of the problem, not the underlying causes. Community members who are concerned about this change and its impact on the neighborhood can contact Ivy Bernhardson, the new Chief Judge whose term begins on 7/1. Any information about the extent or impact of the problem – or video of the behavior in question – could support the argument to lift the order.</p> <p>Adams reported that all MPD officers will now undergo crisis intervention training.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Suspicious males causing problems at and around Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge (MNTC), 1717 2nd Ave. Police continue to cite or arrest individuals involved in illegal behavior at that address (three cited for trespassing on 6/7), in Stevens Square Park, and along Nicollet Ave. Block Patrol and other persons continue to watch these areas and report problems to 911.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 5/27 to 6/23, 13 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 19 shifts, contributing 71 total hours. 4 new volunteers joined Block Patrol.</p> <p>4 Block Patrol volunteers staffed Cinema & Civics events in Stevens Square Park. Beverage sales totaled \$69.</p> <p>Block Patrol leaders, in partnership with staff from MN Adult & Teen Challenge, The Apartment Shop, and Historic Abbott Apartments, began planning the National Night Out event in Stevens Square Park which is set for Tuesday, 8/2, from 5 to 7 p.m.</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>

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; spoke with our neighborhood probation officers, who were on their way to lunch; patrolled the Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge property on 2nd Ave in response to complaints about suspicious males loitering in the area and harassing staff and residents; stopped at neighborhood coffee shops for a break; spoke with [St Stephen's Human Services](#) staff who were sponsoring a picnic in Stevens Square Park for clients of their family housing program; witnessed a potential violation of a restraining order on Nicollet Ave involving a neighborhood resident, and gave information to officers who responded; spoke with a person outside the laundry on Clinton Ave who reported that he and a friend had been assaulted at Franklin & Nicollet and told the team that they need to clean up the bus stops at that corner; spoke with Abdi, the new owner of Cala Grill on Clinton Ave; watched two officers on bikes respond to a complaint about four males drinking alcohol in the park; encountered three suspicious persons loitering at LaSalle Community Garden – they quickly left the area and later showed up at Franklin & Nicollet; spoke with a neighborhood resident who shared information about alleged drug dealing at an apartment building on 3rd Ave – the team suggested that the person call the 5th Precinct Community Response Team at 673-5716; had a drive-by conversation with the owner of the Silver Building at Franklin & 4th; encountered a panhandler at 19th & Stevens who asked for 85 cents; came across a panhandler at Groveland & LaSalle who asked for a dollar; spoke with a person at 19th & 3rd who complained about a car alarm which had been blaring on and off all day; witnessed a road rage incident on Nicollet Ave in which a bicyclist hit the driver's side window of a car with his fist; sampled raspberries from communal bushes at LaSalle Community Garden; met the owner of a new salon on Franklin Ave; called 311 to have the City remove a bike frame which is locked to a street pole on 18th St; attended a yard sale on Clinton Ave and spoke with the resident who is leaving after four years in the neighborhood; spoke with a woman from Milwaukee whose son lives in the neighborhood – she was impressed with how peaceful the area is compared to Milwaukee, which is overwhelmed by crime.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.