



**Community Safety meeting minutes – June 25, 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; Anne Forsyth-Gillette, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Julian Gray, Fades of Gray; Michele McGaughey, Jerry Paulson, John Ryser, Mary Sheppard, Christa Corrigan, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoeye

**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>▪ Community Safety meetings are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of every month at 6 p.m.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Cinema &amp; Civics in Stevens Square Park</a> concludes on 7/1 with a performance by Panther Ray and a screening of the film The Princess Bride. If the event is rained out, it will be rescheduled for 7/8.</li> <li>▪ Stevens Square Farmers Market, every Wednesday from 2:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Plymouth Church parking lot at Franklin &amp; Nicollet, starting on 7/1.</li> <li>▪ Matt Clark, former assistant MPD Police chief and soon-to-be chief of the <a href="#">University of Minnesota Police</a> department will attend the 7/23 meeting.</li> <li>▪ Election of a co-chair at the Community Safety meeting on 7/23 to serve a two-year term. 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. Co-chair responsibilities include: attending and running the monthly meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.; representing the group at other safety-related meetings and events; setting direction and providing leadership for the group, including deciding what to include on meeting agendas; sometimes making policy recommendations on complicated or controversial issues which can involve additional meetings. Anyone interested in this position can contact Dave at 874-2840 or <a href="mailto:dave_sscoweb@yahoo.com">dave_sscoweb@yahoo.com</a> for further information or attend the 7/23 meeting.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Red Hot Art festival</a> in Stevens Square Park: 7/25 &amp; 7/26.</li> <li>▪ National Night Out, Tuesday, 8/4, 5 to 7 p.m., Stevens Square Park. Staff and volunteers from SSCO, MN Adult &amp; Teen Challenge, Historic Abbott Apartments, and The Apartment Shop are organizing the event. Additional contributors include Rand Management, Stevens Community Apartments, 1920 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Resident Council, Kleinman Realty, Copenhagen Enterprises, and Mint Properties.</li> </ul>	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 7/23, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – CPS Chelsea Adams, Community Attorney Nikki Appelbaum,	<u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: A list and map of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during the past month showed only nine incidents, including two robberies of person (5/29 at 1812 Nicollet Ave in which a person was punched in the face and robbed of a cell phone; 6/15 at Franklin & 3 <sup>rd</sup> in which a victim was threatened with a sharp object and robbed of a cell phone by a suspect known to the victim), two apartment burglaries (6/2 at 1817 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave; 6/9 at 229 Ridgewood Ave), and five incidents of theft. There were no sexual assaults, aggravated assaults, or motor vehicle thefts reported.	Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819

<p>Neighborhood Probation Officer Anne Forsyth-Gillette</p>	<p>Theft of packages left by mail carriers or private delivery services is a current trend throughout the Metro area, although there have been no such reports in Stevens Square – Loring Heights lately. To prevent a theft, arrange to have carriers leave packages at a secure location (such as a rental office), a residence where someone would be home to receive them, or a workplace (if allowed). Another option is to require a signature for delivery in which case the recipient would have the option of picking up packages at the carrier's office. If mail is stolen, report the incident to the <a href="#">U. S. Postal Service</a>.</p> <p>Adams distributed three new MPD brochures which she researched, wrote, and designed regarding sexual assault. The topics include myths / misconceptions about rape; reducing the risk of sexual assault; and what to do if you are assaulted. The process is underway to post the documents on the MPD crime prevention resources web page. Adams also distributed information about <a href="#">registering bikes</a>, <a href="#">preventing theft from motor vehicle</a>, and <a href="#">apartment security</a>.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff: From January through May, reports of Part 1 (serious) crime in the neighborhood increased in every category of crime compared to last year – except for the number of motor vehicle thefts, which was the same. The most significant increase was in the number of burglaries, up from four last year to fifteen this year.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Nikki Appelbaum: Update on the cases of two long-time offenders featured on the <a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> Precinct CLEAN list</a> who are succeeding on probation by doing such things as remaining sober, acquiring housing, finding a job, obtaining a driver's license, getting healthy, and not committing crimes. Another offender, <a href="#">David Ayoti Omurwa</a> (12/10/84), who has a history of aggressive, inappropriate behavior toward females has been added to the list; he is currently in custody for five offenses and had been restricted from the area as a pre-trial condition of release. Appelbaum, along with the Franklin – Nicollet beat officers, have been working to identify and track a new group of male offenders who have been causing problems in the area this summer, especially in the commercial district along Nicollet Ave, in the park, and in the community gardens.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff on the outcome of cases involving three offenders, including <a href="#">Larry Charles Townsend</a> (6/20/52) who has been known to verbally and physically harass females in the neighborhood and is in the workhouse until mid-August and then on supervised probation for two years.</p>	<p>Nicole.Appelbaum@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p> <p><a href="#">Crime Prevention Resources</a></p> <p><a href="#">911 / 311 information</a></p> <p><a href="#">CRT</a> 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 (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 eight police reports in this area in the past month, compared to eleven in the previous month. There were two felony drug arrests (5/27 at Franklin &amp; Clinton as a result of a traffic stop) and a robbery at Franklin &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> – see Adams' report above. On 6/20, a male was arrested for reckless discharge of a weapon at 1820 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. There was a homicide on 6/10 at 2101 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, a half block south of Franklin Ave in Whittier, for which Bianca Lynn Jackson (3/25/93) was arrested and charged with 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder. Another homicide occurred at the same apartment building five weeks earlier. Neither of these incidents were random acts and neither of the arrestees were residents. There are ongoing complaints about drug dealing and other suspicious activity around the Third Avenue Market, including in the parking lots and at the bus stop. Year to date, there have been 30 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 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St, compared to 23 arrests last year. Call <a href="#">911</a> to report suspicious activity and crimes in progress. Call <a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> Precinct CRT</a> (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 56 arrests for alcohol offenses in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St, compared to 61 arrests last year. There were no alcohol-related arrests in Stevens Square Park in the past month, compared to eight during the previous month. Thanks to Park police and the Franklin – Nicollet day beat who have successfully focused on this area.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Laura Blue Bird</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Laura Blue Bird: From 5/29 to 6/25, seven Block Patrol volunteers participated in twelve shifts and staffed three Cinema &amp; Civics events in Stevens Square Park, contributing 45 hours total. Neighborhood Probation Officer Anne Forsyth-Gillette and Community Attorney Nikki Appelbaum accompanied teams on patrol.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams spoke with over 100 community members on the streets and at neighborhood events; frequently spoke with our beat officers and neighborhood probation officers; checked out Scratchy's Book Box; watched the new playground equipment in the park being assembled and attended the grand opening celebration; helped a driver push his stalled car to the curb on Clinton Ave; observed an orphaned bike in the street at 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>; admired the new "community garden" between two apartment buildings on the 1800 block of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave; reported an overflowing commercial dumpster to 311; observed well-known offender <a href="#">Ahmed Abdi Hired</a> walking up and down Nicollet Ave, harassing female passersby; witnessed an incident at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> in which a female repeatedly beat her dog after it lunged at another passing dog; called 911 on four males trespassing on the front steps of a condo building on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave – and cancelled the call after they moved along; called a realtor to report anti-police graffiti on a "for sale" sign at the vacant lot at 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; Nicollet; noticed that a number of restaurants and cafes in the area were closed during daylight hours due to Ramadan; received information from a resident about alleged drug dealing at 17<sup>th</sup> &amp; Stevens; saw Baby Bingo the clown walking northbound on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave in full costume, waving at passing vehicles; found a newspaper on the ground in an alley with the headline, "This is litter".</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><a href="#">Community Safety plan</a> – progress report</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by staff: Staff from the <a href="#">Sexual Violence Center</a> (SVC) made a very effective presentation about combating street harassment to a crowd of about 100 at Cinema &amp; Civics in Stevens Square Park on 6/10. The next step in this project is to decide on a venue for the follow-up community discussion about street harassment: an accessible, comfortable community gathering place in Stevens Square – Loring Heights or Whittier which is open to the public and has no requirement for attendees to purchase anything. There was a suggestion to use The Nicollet coffee shop and have the sponsors (SSCO and Whittier Alliance) provide beverages for those attending. The group was in favor of that idea and directed staff to follow up and make inquiries. There was a discussion about sponsoring a personal safety / self-defense workshop as part of this project. Community members talked about techniques they and others use to avoid being harassed on the street.</p>	

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.