

Community Safety meeting minutes – June 26, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.



Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Anne Forsyth-Gillette, Hennepin County Community Probation; Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police department; Jennifer Saunders, City Attorney's office; Tracy Fuller, Minnesota Teen Challenge; Jeni Carrier, J & L Management; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Julian Gray, Fades of Gray; Chuck McGrew, Franklin Nicollet Liquor; Amanda Hilligoss, Steven Lindquist, Jerry Paulson, Arlene Storandt, Jill Ferguson, John Ryser, Matt Gerard, Howard Penas, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoeye (dave_scco@yahoo.com)

Note: A sheet with some of the information presented at this meeting is available from SSCO on request. Contact the safety coordinator at dave_scco@yahoo.com or 874-2840.

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The results of the program evaluation of Block Patrol will be presented at the Community Safety meeting on 7/24. ▪ The Stevens Square farmers market takes place every Wednesday from 2:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Plymouth Church parking lot on the northwest corner of Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ The committee will elect two co-chairs at its 7/24 meeting, one to serve a two-year term, the other to serve a one-year term. Candidates can nominate themselves in advance or at the meeting: contact the safety coordinator for further details. ▪ The Red Hot Art festival in Stevens Square Park is set for 7/26 and 7/27. ▪ 8/5 is National Night Out. 	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 7/24, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – 5 th Precinct CPS Chelsea Adams, Community Attorney Jennifer Saunders, Probation Officer Anne Forsyth-Gillette	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: A list and map of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during the past month showed one aggravated robbery (at gunpoint), one aggravated assault (in response to a theft of rent money), two burglaries (one of an apartment, the other of an underground parking garage), one motor vehicle theft (recovered three days later), two bike thefts, and five thefts from motor vehicles (a suspect arrested and charged in one of the incidents).</p> <p>Individuals can now submit community impact statements for misdemeanor cases online to the City Attorney's office. The incident database can be searched by date range, police precinct, the nature of the crime, the defendant's name, or the police report number.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> There were questions about preventing intruders from entering apartment and condo buildings. Some burglars gain access by following residents into secure buildings; others cut screens and enter through unlocked windows. Contact Adams to become a crime prevention leader for your building or block and receive alerts about incidents in your area.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Jennifer Saunders: 5th Precinct CLEAN list. The list will be updated at the end of the month to remove those who are no longer offending here and to add others who are causing problems in the community. Eleven offenders active in the area are either in custody or have active warrants. Staff made available the results of a criminal case SSCO has been tracking.</p>	<p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p>Crime Prevention Resources</p> <p>911 / 311 information</p> <p>CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716</p> <p>Jennifer.Saunders@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p>

	<p>SSCO staff reported that, from January through May, violent crime in the neighborhood was down 32% and property crime was down 3.2% compared to last year. This includes a 75% drop in incidents of criminal sexual conduct/rape, a 63.7% decline in burglaries, a 33.4% drop in robberies, and a 16.7% decrease in aggravated assaults.</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 has been a complaint about suspicious vehicle traffic to an apartment building at 18th & 3rd. There was one felony drug arrest in the area in the past month, at Franklin & Clinton. There were two violent felonies (aggravated assault at 2011 3rd Ave and aggravated robbery of person at 17th & 3rd) and three felony property crimes (motor vehicle theft at the BP Service Station; burglary of the underground parking garage at 1800 Clinton Ave; theft from motor vehicle at 310 East 18th St in which Christopher Lee Gillum was arrested and charged with felony theft and possession of burglary tools). In regard to the parking garage burglary, which involved the theft of a garage door opener and other items from a vehicle and the theft of bikes stored in the garage, the property manager of this condo building reported that the security camera system recorded images of the suspect, who followed a resident into the building. Copies of the images were posted throughout the neighborhood and distributed via e-mail in an effort to identify the suspect. In regard to the theft from motor vehicle incident, community members called 911 to report a suspicious person at that address and police apprehended the suspect who had fled on a bike. The committee is tracking that case.</p> <p>Arrests for drug offenses in the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, are down 41% compared to last year. A community member reported that there appears to be a decline in suspicious foot traffic on Franklin Ave coming from the 3rd to the 5th Precinct and attributes this to the 5th Precinct's strong police presence in the vicinity of Franklin & 4th. There may be some risk of displacement of crime from the 1st Precinct during the run-up to the Major League Baseball All Star game on 7/15.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Illegal consumption of alcohol in the neighborhood. Arrests for alcohol offenses in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, are down 26.5% compared to last year. Total arrests in this area for alcohol, drug, and prostitution offenses are down 31.7% compared to last year.</p> <p>Arrests for alcohol offenses in Stevens Square Park are down 86.7% compared to last year. The group credited this success to consistently heavy police enforcement combined with neighborhood residents maintaining a positive presence in the park.</p> <p><u>Update</u> Security and safety at the Public Housing high rise at 1920 4th Ave has improved due to an increase in funding for security guards – now fully staffed every night – and having a building manager on site every day. The camera system in the building will soon be upgraded to include high-resolution cameras. The Project Lookout security team has eleven active volunteers and staffs the security desk during daytime hours for four to five days per week. The surrounding neighborhood has been quiet, and so the building has been quiet.</p> <p><u>Suggestion</u> There was a suggestion to place a container for recyclables at 18th & Nicollet; currently there are only trash containers at that location. Staff will check with the Nicollet Avenue Special Service District, the organization that provides and empties the trash containers in the business district.</p>	

	<p>There was a question about how to find out who is responsible for maintaining "adopted" litter containers in the neighborhood; 311 is often unable to provide answers and it's unclear who to contact regarding problems. For questions regarding repair or replacement of adopted litter containers, call (612) 673-2917. For questions regarding the "adopt a litter container" program, call the Clean City Coordinator at (612) 673-2789 or see the Clean City web site. Property and business owners in the neighborhood are encouraged to participate in that program, which offers the adopter the option of either emptying the container and disposing of the trash oneself or paying for city crews to empty it on a regular basis. A community member offered to ask an organization to adopt a litter container on LaSalle Ave.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 5/23 to 6/26, 8 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 21 regular shifts, contributing 39 hours. 8 Block Patrol volunteers participated in Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park, contributing 44 hours. Block Patrol raised \$165 from the sale of beverages at these events. Altogether, ten volunteers contributed 83 hours during the past month. Two new members joined Block Patrol.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams: conducted surveillance at several addresses where there have been complaints about suspicious traffic and possible drug dealing; spoke with Project Lookout crime prevention volunteers at a Public Housing high rise; reported problems to 311 including Don't Walk signs out, holes in a sidewalk, and a broken window in a commercial building; spoke with employees at four businesses; checked on a male sleeping – and snoring loudly – on a bus bench; spoke with neighborhood Probation Officers and Beat Officers; gave Block Patrol applications to four residents; spoke with the caretakers of three apartment buildings; gave directions to Loring Park to a driver who was lost; gave directions to the Walker Art Center to a group of visitors from out of the country; gave directions to Ryan's Pub to a person who was desperate to watch the World Cup match between USA and Germany; spoke with a group of people in the park who did not live in the area and helped take their picture; watched chronic offenders including one who was digging through trash cans on Nicollet Ave and two who were intoxicated and sitting on the steps of an apartment building which is not posted for No Trespassing; found a ripped-open UPS package at 19th & 4th and tried to contact the addressee; watched officers arrest an intoxicated male who was drinking liquor and harassing people at Franklin & Nicollet; helped find a runaway dog at 18th & 2nd; watched a suspicious group loitering outside the Third Avenue Market; admired a fish caught by a neighborhood resident at Lake Calhoun; spoke with a person from Wisconsin who was looking for an apartment for her daughter and gave her information about the neighborhood; provided information about Cinema & Civics to new residents of a building on Stevens Ave; ate mulberries from a tree on 2nd Ave; had conversations on the street with at least 38 other community members.</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_ssco@yahoo.com or Dave at 874-2840</p> <p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>
<p>Community Safety plan: progress report and ideas for next steps</p>	<p><u>Discussion</u> The program evaluation of Block Patrol will be presented at the Community Safety meeting on 7/24. There was a suggestion to invite 311 to staff an informational table at Red Hot Art. If that does not pan out, another option would be to arrange for a presentation about 311 – and maybe also 911 – at the end of a Community Safety meeting. Community members who attended the recent Neighborhood Activities Group meeting reported that the idea of compiling a community directory will be presented to the SSCO Board. Staff will follow up with that group regarding a neighborhood welcome packet and a history tour. There may be an opportunity to expand the Block Patrol rental rebate program to a new rental property in the neighborhood, perhaps to provide incentives for residents to participate in all SSCO projects.</p> <p>National Night Out (NNO) is on 8/5 and there may be an opportunity for various organizations in the neighborhood to work together on an event. Although NNO is meant to bring residents of individual buildings or blocks together to get</p>	

<p>to know each other, the group decided that it might be more effective this year to have various building clubs, apartment companies, and nonprofit organizations pool their resources and organize a larger get-together, perhaps in Stevens Square Park. One of the Block Patrol leaders will spearhead the project and try to bring the various groups together. There was a discussion about registering NNO events with the City and applying for a permit to close down a street for the event.</p>	
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Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.