



**Community Safety meeting minutes – July 23, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.**

Present: Ken Strobel, co-chair; Matt Clark and Ron Rivers, University of Minnesota Police department; Chelsea Adams, Aimee Colegrove, Brianna Garman, Carl Valdez, Minneapolis Police department; Nikki Appelbaum, City Attorney's office; Anne Forsyth-Gillette, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Mitch Bender, St Stephen's Shelter; Michele McGaughey, Jerry Paulson, John Ryser, Howard Penas, Melissa Lowe, Corwin Morton, Aaron Szczech, and SSCO executive director Steve Gallagher and 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"> <li>▪ Community Safety meetings are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of every month at 6 p.m.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Red Hot Art festival</a> in Stevens Square Park: 7/25 &amp; 7/26.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">National Night Out</a>, Tuesday, 8/4, 5 to 7 p.m., Stevens Square Park. Staff and volunteers from <a href="#">SSCO</a>, <a href="#">MN Adult &amp; Teen Challenge</a>, <a href="#">Historic Abbott Apartments</a>, and <a href="#">The Apartment Shop</a> are organizing the event. Additional contributors include Rand Management, <a href="#">Stevens Community Apartments</a>, <a href="#">1920 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Resident Council</a>, <a href="#">Kleinman Realty</a>, <a href="#">Copenhagen Enterprises</a>, and <a href="#">Mint Properties</a>.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Stand Down for Veterans</a>, 8/4 &amp; 8/5 at Fort Snelling, with free services including court and legal clinic and counseling plus information about benefits, housing, and employment. Call (612) 726-1327 for more information.</li> </ul>	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 8/27, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Matt Clark, University of Minnesota Police Chief	SSCO presented Matt Clark with an award acknowledging his contributions to the neighborhood during the time he served as 5 <sup>th</sup> Precinct commander and MPD Assistant Chief. Clark just began his new job as chief of the <a href="#">University of Minnesota Police department</a> . A community member shared a story about Clark attending a Community Safety meeting during which there was a complaint about suspicious traffic to a certain property. The next morning, the community member saw Clark, in an unmarked squad, conducting surveillance at that property. Clark thanked SSCO for its ongoing support, and the group wished him well in his new career.	
Updates from law enforcement partners – CPS Chelsea Adams, Beat Officers Aimee Colegrove and Brianna Garman, Chaplain Carl Valdez,	<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 rape (in which a male known to the victim was arrested), one robbery (7/21 at Plymouth Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave), one aggravated assault (7/12 at 209 East 19<sup>th</sup> St in which a group of suspects assaulted two male victims – anyone with information about this incident should contact Adams); four burglaries (6/28 at 102 East 19<sup>th</sup> St; two incidents on 6/29 at 20 Groveland Ave; 7/10 at 137 East 17<sup>th</sup> St – the first three of these incidents occurred at unsecured apartments and the other involved the theft of clothing from a laundry room).</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff: From January through June, reports of Part 1 (serious) crime in the neighborhood increased 9.5% compared to last year. Robbery is down and the total number of violent crimes is the same as last year. The most significant increase was in the number of burglaries, up from 8 last year to 20 this year.</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>Community Attorney Nikki Appelbaum, Neighborhood Probation Officer Anne Forsyth-Gillette</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Nikki Appelbaum: Update on the cases of Stevens Square offenders featured on the <a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> Precinct CLEAN list</a>. <a href="#">Patrick Addy</a> and <a href="#">Farid Suleiman</a> have warrants for failing to appear in court. <a href="#">Harry Leftbear</a> has a warrant for violating conditions of release. <a href="#">Darryl Brooks</a> has a new open bottle case pending. <a href="#">Ellery Charging Thunder</a> has absconded from treatment in Duluth. <a href="#">David Omurwa</a> and <a href="#">Paul Clock</a> are doing well in HOMES court. <a href="#">Ahmed Hired</a> pled guilty to disorderly conduct and gross misdemeanor trespassing and is ordered to report to the workhouse on 8/5 to serve 180 days. If he fails to report or picks up a new case, he will serve 365 days. <a href="#">Robert Yellow Wolf</a> will be released from the Anoka County jail on 7/25.</p> <p>Adams reported that MPD has been working on an initiative downtown with SecuroNet, a company which is helping police link into private security camera networks. Participating businesses can register the location of their cameras and when an incident happens, MPD staff can quickly identify private cameras in the affected area and send a message to the camera owners asking them to check for evidence and forward it to investigators. This project is now being expanded to include the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precincts. Interested businesses can find more information – and sign up – at <a href="http://mpls.securonetservices.com/">http://mpls.securonetservices.com/</a></p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff on the outcome of cases from the neighborhood involving five offenders.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Anne Forsyth-Gillette: Probation Officer Judy Johnson will be moving from the Stevens Square Neighborhood Probation Office to the Midtown Safety Center in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct. Johnson already supervises clients who live in that area. A new probation officer, Amy Jo, will start at the Stevens Square office on 8/17. A number of CLEAN list offenders are supervised by Probation Officers Roxane Watson, Ron Cunningham, and Morgan Miller.</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>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 eleven police reports in this area in the past month, compared to eight in the previous month. There were two felony drug arrests (7/1 at Franklin &amp; Clinton; 7/12 at Franklin &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>). No burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, or violent felonies were reported. A community member reports that there is frequent suspicious loitering outside the Public Housing tower at 1707 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave at about 5 to 6 a.m., before the daytime staff arrives. Security improvements are ongoing at this property – there are 21 surveillance cameras in place and a new key card reading system will be online soon. Year to date, there have been 36 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 26 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 69 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 67 arrests last year. There were six alcohol-related arrests in Stevens Square Park in the past month, compared to none during the previous month.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> A swindler who calls himself Michael Evans or Michael Davis has been active in the area since last October. (Description: black male, 5'8" or 5'9" tall, light build, sometimes with a moustache, sometimes wearing a hat, 20 to 45 years of age.) He approaches victims and claims that he needs \$35 to get into St Stephen's homeless shelter, gives the victim the name of a female (Katie, Kathy, Katherine) and number to call to verify this, and then requests a ride to an ATM for the victim to get the money or to the shelter at 22<sup>nd</sup> &amp; Clinton if the victim has cash</p>	

	<p>available. This is an elaborate scam. <b>St Stephen's Shelter staff want the public to know that there is no charge for staying there – or at any other shelter in the city.</b> The group discussed ways to further publicize this information, including using social media, church bulletins, TV and radio news, and community events such as National Night Out. Contact Adams if you know the identity of these suspects or where they are staying. Call 911 if you encounter the suspects. A community member reported being approached by the male suspect outside Loring Park recently; the suspect tried to start a conversation by asking, "Do you like black people?"</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 6/26 to 7/23, ten Block Patrol volunteers participated in twelve shifts and staffed one Cinema &amp; Civics event in Stevens Square Park, contributing 38 hours total. Two Block Patrol volunteers helped plan the National Night Out event set for 8/4, 5 to 7 p.m., in the park. One new volunteer joined Block Patrol. Block Patrol earned \$142 total from the sale of beverages at Cinema &amp; Civics this summer.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams spoke with over 40 community members on the streets and at neighborhood events; frequently spoke with our beat officers and neighborhood probation officers; visited Scratchy's Book Box; cancelled a shift when a severe thunderstorm rolled in; spoke with a worker (who was also wearing a yellow vest) about improvements being made to an apartment building near Franklin &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>; observed a rare potato chip tree in bloom at LaSalle community garden; carried an off-duty volunteer's groceries home from a bus stop; watched at least two dozen kids – who were part of a group supervised by two adults – having a great time on the new playground equipment in the park; watched the Fire department response to an incident in which several dozen bricks fell from the wall near the roof of an apartment building to the sidewalk below – no one was injured, but a mail carrier had a close call; reported a screen missing from a basement level apartment to a property manager; watched a male dressed in red, white, and blue trying to sell something to passersby at Franklin &amp; Nicollet, with no success; watched an angry female acting out, shouting, and trying to pick fights with people at Franklin &amp; Nicollet – until she gave up and left the area; carefully disposed of a used syringe which was on a sidewalk by a condo building; said hi to a group of adults barbecuing in the front yard of a residence on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and a group of kids playing soccer nearby; investigated a situation in which streets south of Franklin Ave on the east side of 35W were blocked off by squads – a parking patrol supervisor said that there was a hostage situation nearby; asked a property management company about the cameras on the rear wall of an apartment building and whether they were pointed at a location which had recently been tagged with graffiti – they are actually pointed at the dumpsters across the alley; saw a former CLEAN list offender pushing a shopping cart and rummaging through trash containers on Nicollet Ave; was approached at Franklin &amp; Nicollet by a male wearing a stylish "Captain Dipshit" cap who proceeded to tell the team about everything shady that was happening on a certain block in the neighborhood – and then disavowed what he had said and claimed that he knew nothing.</p> <p>How influential is Block Patrol? The driver of a car in an alley saw a Block Patrol team, stopped, put on his seatbelt, and then drove away.</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> <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 is working on securing a venue for a community discussion of ways to combat street harassment. Block Patrol volunteers are involved in planning the second annual National Night Out event in Stevens Square Park.</p>	
<p>Election of a committee co-</p>	<p>The SSCO Board has instituted two-year staggered terms for committee co-chairs. Ken Strobel's term is up; Laura Blue Bird will remain co-chair for another year. The committee thanked Strobel for his long-term service and</p>	

<p>chair to serve a two-year term</p>	<p>outstanding dedication to the Community Safety committee: he has served as a co-chair for all or part of each of the past 15 years!</p> <p>Staff explained the duties and responsibilities of the co-chairs and the election procedures, and conducted the election. Aaron Szczech was the only candidate; he introduced himself and explained why he is interested in and qualified for the position. Szczech conducted the program evaluation of Block Patrol last year and is very familiar with the committee's operations. <b>On a motion by Howard Penas, seconded by John Ryser, the committee suspended the rules and elected Aaron Szczech to the co-chair position by acclamation.</b> Szczech will serve as co-chair through July, 2017.</p> <p>Staff conducted an election to choose a committee representative to report to the SSCO Board, which meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Ken Strobel and Corwin Morton were the candidates. Each made a brief presentation about their qualifications for serving on the Board and representing the committee. <b>By secret ballot, the committee recommended that Ken Strobel represent the committee on the Board of Directors.</b></p>	
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*Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.*

*Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.*