

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – July 26, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave

Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Robert Lilligren, Ward 6 City Council; Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Matt Clark and Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Jennifer Saunders, City Attorney’s Office; Deb Loveland, Minnesota Teen Challenge; Dave Hautman, Franklin Nicollet Liquor; Arlene Storandt, Eddie Chambers, Aaron Szczech, Jerry Paulson, Jill Ferguson, Corwin Morton, Howard Penas, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_ssc@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
<p>Announcements</p> <p>Contact SSCO to volunteer or for more info.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yoga classes in Stevens Square Park, sponsored by SSCO, every Saturday through 8/25, 10 to 11 a.m. (weather permitting), \$10 suggested donation to benefit SSCO. For guidelines and further information, contact Elizabeth Young at lizabethyoung@gmail.com ▪ The Red Hot Art festival is set for 7/28 and 7/29 in Stevens Square Park. ▪ Block Patrol is moving to the new police substation at 1905 1st Ave on 8/18. ▪ Assistant Police Chief Jane Harteau, who has been selected to become Police Chief next year, will attend the 10/25 Safety committee meeting. 	<p>Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 8/23, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</p>
<p>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Jennifer Saunders</p>	<p>Jennifer Saunders, the new 5th Precinct Community Attorney, introduced herself. Saunders has been with the City Attorney's office for the past eleven and a half years and has had many jobs in the Criminal Division, having served on the Top Offender team, Domestic Violence team, and Appeals team and in Veterans Court and DWI Court. Saunders graduated from Hamline University School of Law and served as a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Air Force from 1995 to 1999. She looks forward to getting to know the neighborhood and working with the committee. 5th Precinct Inspector Matt Clark said that, although it will be hard to replace Chris Dixon, Saunders comes highly recommended and is articulate, knowledgeable, experienced, and connected with the court system. The committee welcomed her to the neighborhood.</p> <p>Saunders distributed copies of the 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet and updated the committee on some of the offenders active in Stevens Square, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patrick Addy – on probation to the court until 5/21/14, 3 cases set for court on 9/20, will request geographic restrictions. ▪ Charles Bailey – active bench warrant, on supervised probation until 4/19/15. ▪ James Black – in prison for a drug conviction until 11/19. ▪ Darryl Brooks – 1 case set for court on 8/15, another to be charged by complaint. ▪ Maxim Chance – 9 cases set for court on 8/14, will request geographic restrictions. ▪ Joseph Conklin – two active bench warrants, on probation to the court until 5/21/13. ▪ Kathleen Croud – in the workhouse until 8/1, then on supervised probation until 7/12/15. ▪ William Ernst – in the workhouse until 11/28. ▪ Anthony Ford – on probation to the court until 7/16/13, 1 case set for court on 7/31, 3 cases set for court on 8/24. ▪ Maurice Giles – in jail on \$100,000 bail for 1st degree aggravated robbery, sentencing set for 8/7. ▪ Larry Harper – on supervised probation until 9/26/14, restricted from the area by court order. ▪ Ahmed Hired – in the workhouse until 9/6. ▪ Frank Killright – released from the workhouse today. ▪ Ronald King – in the workhouse until 7/31, after which his geographic restrictions expire. ▪ Harry Leftbear – on probation to the court until 5/7/13, 1 case set for court on 7/31, 1 case set for court on 8/8, 4 cases set for sentencing on 8/30. ▪ Jessica Matt – in the workhouse until 9/16. ▪ Randy McNellis – in the workhouse until 8/19, after which his geographic restrictions expire, then on probation to the court 	<p>Jennifer.Saunders@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p>

	<p>until 10/11/13.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brandon Miller – in prison for a drug conviction, set for work release on 8/23, then on parole until 3/23/13. ▪ Maurice Patterson – in the workhouse until 12/18. ▪ Alpheaus Putmon – on supervised probation until 12/16. ▪ Farid Suleiman – on supervised probation until 12/30, 2 cases set for court on 7/30, restricted from 2020 Nicollet Ave and Frattallone's Ace Hardware, 1804 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Addis Swift – on supervised probation until 2/15/13, restricted from the area (with exceptions) by court order. ▪ Frederick Washington – on probation to the court until 11/10/13. ▪ Robert Yellow Wolf – in prison for two convictions for 2nd degree assault until 9/30/13, then on parole until 6/30/14. 	
<p>Minneapolis Police report – Inspector Matt Clark and Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams</p>	<p>Chelsea Adams distributed copies of a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during June. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 robbery of person: 6/19, 5 a.m., at Franklin & Pillsbury (approximate location), in which two suspects tackled an intoxicated victim from behind and took a wallet and cell phone. ▪ 1 domestic aggravated assault. ▪ 3 burglaries of dwellings: 6/3 at 1707 3rd Ave; 6/9 at 1831 2nd Ave in which a suspect entered a ground floor apartment through an unlocked window while the resident was asleep and took various items; 6/29 at 1800 Clinton Ave in which a male suspect entered a condo through an unlocked door at 4:25 a.m. and fled after the resident woke up and saw him. ▪ 4 motor vehicle thefts: 6/1 at 17th & 1st; 6/12 at 1929 3rd Ave; 6/15 at 1920 4th Ave; 6/19 at 1812 Clinton Ave. ▪ 7 other incidents of theft. <p>Adams distributed copies of a mid-year (January through June) Stevens Square hot spot map and statistics which showed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ violent crimes declined by 50% compared to 2011, from 32 to 16 incidents; ▪ robbery dropped by 58%, from 12 to 5 incidents, which is the lowest number recorded since CODEEFOR began in 1998; ▪ property crimes, led by an increase in motor vehicle thefts from 3 in 2011 to 12 this year, are up 10%; ▪ 911 calls for service increased 21%, from 2,391 to 2,902; ▪ self-initiated enforcement by officers has risen, with suspicious person stops up 81% from 260 to 472, suspicious vehicle stops up 39% from 106 to 148, and traffic law enforcement stops up 38% from 447 to 621; ▪ total arrests increased 40% from 315 to 442. <p>Matt Clark explained that the department looks at hot spots for violent crime over a five-year period and uses the information to decide where to allocate police resources. These focus zones then receive heavy levels of enforcement, which in Stevens Square involves the beat officers and day and night CRT (community response teams) targeting livability offenses and chronic offenders. Police work with the neighborhood on long-term solutions to problems at hot spots, such as night CRT's details using undercover officers to apprehend those selling narcotics and committing robberies on and around Franklin Ave. Night CRT also just finished a successful 15-month investigation with the U.S Drug Enforcement Agency of a heroin distribution ring active in the 5th Precinct.</p> <p>In response to a question about motor vehicle thefts, Clark said that they are often crimes of opportunity with no identifiable pattern in regard to location. When police do identify a trend, they can deploy bait vehicles to try to catch the perpetrators.</p> <p>Adams shared a variety of information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Night Out is Tuesday, 8/7. The Public Housing high rises at 1707 3rd Ave and 1920 4th Ave are planning events for their residents. ▪ 5th Precinct burglary prevention presentation is set for 8/22, 6 to 8 p.m., at Temple Israel, 2324 Emerson Ave South. ▪ Property crime trends this summer include theft of bikes from garages and unsecured areas, burglary of first floor and ground level apartments through open and unlocked windows, and burglary of laundry rooms with coin-operated machines in apartment buildings. ▪ A brochure listing helpful online resources is available from Adams on request. 	<p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p>CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716 or contact Sara.Metcalf@Minneapolismn.gov</p> <p>Crime Prevention Resources</p> <p>911 / 311 information</p> <p>Contact SSCO to receive the list of offenders charged with felonies for selling drugs to undercover officers in the neighborhood.</p>

	<p>SSCO made copies available of a list of 23 offenders who have been charged with felonies for selling drugs to night CRT undercover officers along Franklin Ave since August, 2011. So far, 11 have been convicted and sentenced.</p> <p>SSCO's Google maps and lists of arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, from 6/26/12 to 7/22/12 showed 25 alcohol-related arrests (22 in 2011), 5 narcotics-related arrests (1 in 2011), and no prostitution-related arrests (none in 2011). Year to date, there were 117 alcohol-related arrests (82 in 2011), 48 narcotics-related arrests (52 in 2011), and 1 prostitution-related arrest (7 in 2011). For the period from 6/26/12 to 7/22/12, SSCO's Google maps showed 59 police reports for the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St), 9 for the Stevens Square Park area (Stevens Ave to 2nd Ave, 17th St to Franklin Ave), and 17 for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave).</p>	<p>Contact SSCO to receive printed or e-mailed copies of the Google maps, which are updated weekly. The e-mailed versions include links to mugshots of chronic offenders.</p>
<p>Priority concerns / hot spots / chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Narcotics-related loitering in the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave) – There are reports of drug dealing at and around 18th & 3rd and 18th & Clinton. ▪ 110 East 18th St – According to the owner of this vacant boarded and fenced property, an on-site construction manager who will be responsible for security was due to start on 7/25, although there was no sign of any change. The building is still not secure. ▪ Domestic violence <p>A community member (who was unable to attend the meeting) contacted police and SSCO staff regarding an incident which raised questions about how police and neighborhood residents respond to domestic assault, specifically when it occurs at apartment and condo buildings. Matt Clark said that police take a situational approach to domestic assault calls. If an apartment number is specified, there's a good chance that officers can successfully intervene if they can get into the building. If the location of the incident inside a building is unclear, officers can knock on doors and talk with residents to try to identify the source of the problem. It's crucial for anyone with information to come forward when officers respond. The community member had described a situation in which a number of residents heard a female in an apartment building screaming for help, but did nothing. The community member asked if it would be possible for the Safety committee and/or the 5th Precinct to organize a workshop, make a presentation, or publish and distribute information about what neighborhood residents should do when confronted with evidence of domestic violence.</p> <p>Jennifer Saunders said that there are many strong organizations in the community – such as the Domestic Abuse Project (DAP) and the Battered Women's Justice Project, both of which are located in Stevens Square-Loring Heights – which have information, lists of resources, and advocates willing to make presentations on this topic. Jean Schwalen said that educating people to call 911 to report domestic violence in progress is key to stopping situations which could result in murder. There was a discussion of the psychological dynamics of domestic violence, of how the perpetrator seeks to control the victim and of how difficult it can be for the victim to leave an abusive relationship. There was a discussion about the reluctance of outsiders to get involved in reporting domestic violence, of how strangers often view such incidents as "none of my business", and of how those involved in an abusive relationship can turn against someone who might try to intervene.</p> <p>There was a discussion about how the committee should proceed. There were suggestions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ obtain flyers or brochures from organizations which deal with these issues; ○ sponsor a presentation about the topic, either at a Safety committee meeting or as a separate event; ○ invite residents to attend a presentation by door-knocking or flyering apartment and condo buildings; ○ use an online survey to find out if people are interested in the topic and how they would like to receive information; ○ provide information at community meetings and events; ○ provide information online; ○ ask apartment building managers to distribute information; ○ post information in apartment buildings, but do not leave flyers at apartment doors; ○ make sure that any publicity posted at apartment buildings is general in nature and not targeted to a specific incident. 	

	<p>Saunders and Clark spoke about the successful 5th Precinct pilot project which resulted in a citywide protocol for how police respond to and investigate domestic assault cases. This has led to a significant increase in convictions. Robert Lilligren reported that Clear Channel Outdoor Advertising provides community service announcements on some of its billboards and might be amenable to posting messages regarding domestic violence.</p> <p>The committee decided as a first step to obtain flyers or brochures from organizations which deal with domestic violence issues and then distribute the information at neighborhood meetings and events and post the information in apartment and condo buildings. Saunders and Adams offered to obtain the information and deliver it to SSCO staff. The committee will revisit the issue at its next meeting and decide how to proceed.</p> <p>There was a question about Veterans Court, and Saunders explained that it is designed to help veterans who suffer from chemical dependency and/or mental illness. The court, which is presided over by Judge Charles Porter, provides intense, highly supervised probation and access to medical, employment, and housing services to eligible veterans.</p> <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update included cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brandon Miller (33 arrests in the area in the past eight years, 30 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 7/29/11 trespassing at 1929 3rd Ave; 8/25/11 open bottle, consuming alcohol in public, and possession of drug paraphernalia at 22nd & Nicollet. ▪ Ethelyn Redeyes (35 arrests in the area in the past eight years, 17 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 4/6/12 consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & Nicollet; 7/7/12 consuming alcohol in public and possession of prescription drugs not in their original container at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ Ronald King (38 arrests in the area in the past six years, 73 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 6/28/12 criminal contempt of court for violating geographic restrictions at 1925 Nicollet Ave, Loring Nicollet Center. ▪ Randy McNellis (28 arrests in the area in the past eight years, 64 prior convictions in Minnesota) – 6/11/12 open bottle and criminal contempt of court for violating geographic restrictions at 18th & Nicollet; 6/28/12 criminal contempt of court for violating geographic restrictions at 24th & Nicollet. ▪ Domiro Jones (9 arrests in the area in the past six years, 15 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 5/24/12 5th degree felony possession of drugs at Franklin & 3rd. ▪ Robert Yellow Wolf (30 arrests in the area in the past eight years, 42 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 4/1/12 2nd degree assault (of a police officer) with a dangerous weapon at Franklin & Lyndale. ▪ Ali Samakab (7 arrests in the area in the past year, 3 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 5/22/12 consuming alcohol in public at 2000 Nicollet Ave, Starbucks Coffee; 5/24/12 open bottle at 1925 Nicollet Ave, Loring Nicollet Center; 5/25/12 open bottle at 22nd & 1st. ▪ Joseph Stuckey (7 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 10/29/11 3rd degree felony sale of drugs at Franklin & 3rd. ▪ Melissa Bishir (3 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 12/20/11 3rd degree felony sale of drugs at 62nd & Lyndale. 	<p>Contact SSCO to receive a printed or e-mailed copy of the monthly chronic offender update, which features the outcome of court cases resulting from arrests in the area along with the names of the sentencing judges and mugshots of the offenders.</p>
<p>Ward 6 report – City Council Member Robert Lilligren</p>	<p>Robert Lilligren reported on a variety of City news items, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Block events, parades, and races which draw more than 2,500 attendees will be required to provide recycling services beginning on 1/1/13. ▪ City staff is looking at ways to make Franklin Ave from Hiawatha Ave to Lyndale Ave more hospitable to the shared use of the road by bikes and motor vehicles. Federal grant funds may be available for the project. Transit for Livable Communities is planning a public meeting about the issue. ▪ The City is sponsoring two household hazardous waste collection events: 7/26 to 7/28 at Dunwoody College of Technology and 8/16 to 8/18 at Pillsbury School, 2231 Garfield St NE. Information about materials accepted is available at Hennepin County's web site. Lilligren said that the City needs to provide and coordinate more opportunities for residents to properly dispose of hazardous waste because the current participation rate is very low. ▪ Minneapolis has made available a 311 mobile app for smart phones for making City service requests. 	<p>Robert.Lilligren@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2206 Ward 6 web site</p> <p>Robert Lilligren has office hours at 1925 Nicollet Ave on the third Monday of each month, 9:30 a.m. to noon, except for city holidays. Stop by or call 673-2206 to make an appointment.</p>

Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt	Arlene Storandt reported that, from 6/29 to 7/26, 6 Block Patrol members participated in 11 regular shifts, contributing a total of 24 hours. 7 Block Patrol volunteers participated in Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park on 7/11 and 7/18, contributing 29 hours. Total hours for the past month: 53	Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol. Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.
Election of two committee co-chairs for the upcoming year	<p>Staff explained the duties and responsibilities of the co-chairs and the election procedures, and conducted the election. There were two candidates for co-chair: Michele McGaughey and Ken Strobel. On a motion by Howard Penas, seconded by Corwin Morton, the committee suspended the rules and elected Michele McGaughey and Ken Strobel co-chairs by acclamation. The co-chairs will serve a one-year term from August 2012 to July 2013.</p> <p>The committee discussed how to choose a representative to report to the Board of Directors. The coordinator asked whether the committee wanted to conduct another election, since the person filling this position does not need to be a co-chair. Ken Strobel, who already serves on the Board, said that he is willing to report on behalf of the Safety committee. On a motion by Michele McGaughey, seconded by Howard Penas, the committee recommended that Ken Strobel report on its behalf to the Board of Directors.</p>	

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.