



**Stevens Square Community Organization**  
**(612) 874-2840**  
<http://www.sscoweb.org>

**Community Safety meeting minutes – July 27, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.**

Present: Corwin Morton and John Littlejohn, co-chairs; Eric Dison and Carl Valdez, Minneapolis Police department; Matt Wilcox, City Attorney’s office; Drew Kirch, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Michelle Bruch, Southwest Journal; Jerry Paulson, Ken Strobel, Jill Ferguson, Leslee Jackson, Lashaya Duncan, Ruth Martin, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoe ( dave\_ssc@yahoo.com )

**Note: A sheet with some of the printed information presented at this meeting is available at this [link](#) or upon request.**

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Freedom Celebration anti-drug rally, 6/28 to 6/30, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., at Franklin Steele Park, East 16<sup>th</sup> St &amp; Portland Ave, featuring live music, free food, and \$500 in nightly door prizes, sponsored by Minnesota Adult &amp; Teen Challenge.</li> <li>▪ Stevens Square Farmers Market: every Wednesday, 2:00 to 6:30 p.m., in the Plymouth Church parking lot on the northwest corner of Franklin &amp; Nicollet.</li> <li>▪ National Night Out in Stevens Square Park: Tuesday, 8/1, 5 to 7 p.m.</li> </ul>	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 8/24, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – 5 <sup>th</sup> Precinct Sgt Eric Dison, Chaplain Carl Valdez, Community Attorney Matt Wilcox, Probation Officer Drew Kirch	<p><u>Report</u> by 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Attorney Matt Wilcox: Update on recent cases of interest to the neighborhood and on active offenders on the <a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> Precinct CLEAN list</a>. Rovon Shambley (4/10/76) pled guilty on 6/19 to 3<sup>rd</sup> degree felony possession of drugs at 1806 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and received a stay of imposition. He is serving 180 days on electronic home monitoring and will be on supervised probation for three years. Three offenders active in Stevens Square have been added to the CLEAN list: Ned McDonald (11/24/61), Rachael O’Gorman (12/24/76), and Eduardo Rivera-Mendez (1/18/60).</p> <p>No map or list of Part 1 (serious) crimes in the neighborhood for the past month was available. MPD has not posted any monthly neighborhood crime stats online since April.</p> <p><u>Report</u> by Sgt Eric Dison: There has been a small pattern of recent robberies in the neighborhood involving an unknown suspect who approached victims from behind, strangled them until they became unconscious, and then robbed them of phones and wallets. Two incidents occurred on 7/19: 10:30 p.m. at 17<sup>th</sup> &amp; 1<sup>st</sup> and 10:45 p.m. at 1831 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. There has also been a series of robberies in the area involving three males which have all occurred in the evening after dark.</p> <p><u>Report</u> by Neighborhood Probation Officer Drew Kirch: William Ernst (11/22/65) was released from prison on intensive supervised release on 7/17 and is now a wanted fugitive with a warrant out for his arrest. Ernst is serving a sentence for felony assault of hospital personnel.</p> <p>There was a discussion about police response and staffing. Answering a question about why it can take up to two hours for officers to respond to calls in the neighborhood, Wilcox explained how 911 dispatchers prioritize calls based on the seriousness of the incident and the availability of squads to respond. Dison said that a number of other factors</p>	<p><a href="#">Crime Prevention Resources</a></p> <p><a href="#">911 / 311 information</a></p> <p>Matthew.Wilcox@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>may be impacting response times, including the current policy that two officers staff each squad for safety reasons, which results in fewer squads on the street. A new 911 dispatching system is in place. MPD is losing more officers to retirement or to other departments than it is able to hire. A cadet class recently graduated, but it will be about a year, due to field training, before any of those officers will be ready to work on their own. Applications are being accepted for a new cadet class starting soon. A community member stated that MPD needs to add more officers in order to keep up with the city's growth in population.</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 10 police reports in this area during the past five weeks, compared to 15 during the previous four weeks. There was one narcotics-related arrest: 7/21 at 2000 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. There was one arrest for aggravated assault: 7/8 at 2014 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Property crimes reported include a home burglary at 339 East 18<sup>th</sup> St on 6/23 and two thefts from motor vehicles. No robberies of person were reported.</p> <p>Year to date, in the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St, there have been 27 narcotics-related arrests compared to 23 in 2016. Alcohol-related arrests in the same area are down 49%, from 55 in 2016 to 28 this year.</p> <p>Following up from last month: No one currently appears to be living in the biff in Stevens Square Park. The male who may be living in a dumpster enclosure (now posted for No Trespassing) behind the mall center on Nicollet Ave is still around.</p> <p>SSCO staff reported that, of the 25 street lights out reported to 311 on 4/25, 24 of the cases were still listed as "open" as of 7/26. One case was "closed" and that problem has apparently been resolved. The Ward 6 City Council office has the information and is working to resolve the problem. Block Patrol did the initial inventory of lights out.</p> <p>Additional concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The flashing lights are out on the pedestrian crossing sign at 17<sup>th</sup> &amp; 1<sup>st</sup>;</li> <li>▪ There is a large amount of trash and litter plus overgrown shrubs, grass, and trees in the area just south of the walkway along I-94 near 1<sup>st</sup> Ave;</li> <li>▪ A sidewalk near 1707 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave needs to be repaired – if there has been no response within a certain period of time after reporting the problem to 311, follow up with the City Council office;</li> <li>▪ Human excrement can often be found on the ledges – at street level on the north side – of the commercial building at 1801 Nicollet Ave – no one cleans this area. That led to a discussion about a lack of public-access restrooms in the area. A community member said that the City doesn't provide more facilities due to liability issues.</li> </ul>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From June 23 to July 27, 10 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 19 regular shifts, contributing 67 hours. 2 new volunteers joined Block Patrol. 4 Block Patrol volunteers helped staff Cinema &amp; Civics in Stevens Square Park on June 28, contributing 13 hours. 9 Block Patrol volunteers helped staff the Red Hot Art festival, contributing 52 hours. Altogether, 13 volunteers contributed 132 hours to Block Patrol during the past five weeks. Block Patrol beverage sales during Cinema &amp; Civics and Red Hot Art totaled \$592. An additional \$101 in donations was collected from attendees.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams: spoke with hundreds of community members at events and on the streets; spoke with Sgt Dison and our Franklin Nicollet beat officers; visited the coffee shops in the area; gave information</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>

about SSCO's Facebook page to the owner of the market at 19<sup>th</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>; frequently patrolled the park and LaSalle Community Garden; encountered a suspicious male loitering by the dumpsters behind the hardware store, and notified staff at the store; spoke with a male at 19<sup>th</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> who stated that he was homeless and diabetic and likes to drink beer; called 911 regarding a collision at 19<sup>th</sup> & Nicollet involving a car and a bike – as an officer responded, the person on the bike fled eastbound on 19<sup>th</sup> St and left the area; received information from a driver in the parking lot of the mall center – he had called 911 regarding an intoxicated male who was passed out – the team went to look for the male and eventually found him just as a squad arrived; noted that the flashing lights were not working in the pedestrian crossing sign at 17<sup>th</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup> and that a large amount of trash and litter had accumulated south of the pathway along I-94 between Nicollet Ave and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave; watered a garden plot at LaSalle Community Garden and ate fresh tomatoes; at the request of a community member, checked on a male who was sitting in the parking lot behind the mall center – he said he was okay, then stood up and walked away; received a tour by the owner of the commercial buildings under renovation on the 1900 block of Nicollet Ave – he fed the team some delicious challah bread and said that he plans to have an open house for the community before the tenants move in later this year; picked up trash and disposed of broken glass at the park – and found an open, almost full 750 ml bottle of Kamchatka vodka.

During the noon shift on 7/13, a team called 911 regarding an intoxicated male – he fell over twice – who urinated at the bus stop on the southwest corner of Franklin & Nicollet in full view of passersby and riders waiting for a bus, including children. He then staggered to a bus bench and sat down. The team leader told the 911 operator that he was willing to make a citizen's arrest if the officers were willing and had time. A squad responded 55 minutes later, and two officers spoke to the male at length. Another person joined that conversation, and then walked over and asked the team why they had called the police. The person said that the male who had urinated was homeless and that the officers were going to take him to jail. The person asked why the team did not go and talk with the male and offer to help him, instead of calling police. The team gave the person, who said he was a candidate for election to the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, a copy of the Block Patrol guidelines which clearly state that volunteers are prohibited from confronting offenders and instead are directed to call 911 when they witness a crime being committed. In the end, the intoxicated male did not go to jail or detox, did not get cited for any offense, and remained at the bus stop.

There was a suggestion that Block Patrol organize some late-night shifts to deal with concerns about loitering, especially along Nicollet Ave, and other problems – look at the police reports to see what's going on. Perhaps Block Patrol teams could offer to walk residents home from bus stops after dark, watch out for older residents who have to be out late, and just stay vigilant to help others feel safe. SSCO staff said that, a number of years ago, officers who worked the neighborhood late at night said that Block Patrol is more effective during hours when there are people out and about, not when the streets are mostly deserted and most businesses are closed. It's up to Block Patrol's volunteer leaders to decide whether to organize any late-evening shifts. There was a discussion about whether surveillance cameras would be a better option than having Block Patrol teams out late. MPD has an extensive camera system downtown, but has no cameras in the neighborhood. Years ago, SSCO had looked into securing a mobile camera for the neighborhood, but it didn't work out for a number of reasons. MPD used to periodically place a mobile camera along Nicollet Ave, at 19<sup>th</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, and in Stevens Square Park in response to complaints about crime at those locations.