

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Community Safety meeting minutes – July 28, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Aaron Szczech, co-chair; Corey Grandner and Roxane Watson, Hennepin County Probation; Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police department; Matt Wilcox, City Attorney's office; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; John Ryser, Corwin Morton, Jerry Paulson, Ken Strobel, Jill Ferguson, one person who did not sign in, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye

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 |
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| Announcements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Saturday and Sunday, 7/30 & 7/31 – Red Hot Art festival in Stevens Square Park. ▪ Tuesday, 8/2 – National Night Out in Stevens Square Park. ▪ Thanks to Laura Blue Bird for two years of thoughtful, outstanding service as co-chair of this committee! ▪ Inspector Kathy Waite, the new commander of the 5th Precinct, plans to attend the 8/25 Community Safety meeting. | Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 8/25, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave |
| Updates from law enforcement partners – 5 th Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams, Community Attorney Matt Wilcox, Probation Officers Corey Grandner and Roxane Watson | <p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: In the past month in Stevens Square – Loring Heights, there were two robberies of person (7/6 in Stevens Square Park, 7/28 at 209 East 19th St), one aggravated assault (7/4 at 18th & Nicollet for which Shandra Maria Gardner, 12/10/80, was arrested), one apartment burglary (6/26 at 1900 Clinton Ave), one business burglary (7/16 to 7/18 at Twin Cities Wireless, 1841 Nicollet Ave), two motor vehicle thefts (6/24 at Franklin & Clinton, 6/27 at 19th & 3rd), two thefts from motor vehicle (7/5 at 1831 2nd Ave, 7/9 at 1819 Nicollet Ave), and two other incidents of theft (6/27 at Family Dollar Store, 1816 Nicollet Ave, for which Robert Hall, 9/8/75, was cited, and 6/29 at 18th & Nicollet). Crime trends in the area include burglaries and thefts from motor vehicles via unlocked windows / doors. Apartment buildings present a number of security challenges, including intruders following residents into the building, randomly buzzing apartments trying to get access, and propping open doors. Adams provided copies of summer safety tips, information about how to become a block leader, and an updated 5th Precinct resource list.</p> <p>Mohamed Ali Elmi (1/1/90) has been sentenced to life in prison without parole for 1st degree criminal sexual conduct, 2nd degree criminal sexual conduct, kidnapping, and 1st degree aggravated robbery for an incident on 8/4/15 which began outside 1831 2nd Ave.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Corey Grandner and Roxane Watson: Grandner has no clients on the 5th Precinct CLEAN list, although his client Marshaund O'Neal has a trespassing case from the neighborhood. Grandner may supervise offender Sharee Barrett, who has a warrant, if she is sentenced to probation. Watson has five clients on the CLEAN list, including Dahir Yusuf Aden (in the workhouse until 10/8, may be released to treatment), Harry Leftbear (in the workhouse until 11/5, after which he will be off probation), and Sharmake Abdullahi Mohamed (in HOMES court, active warrant). Samuel Momanyi is employed and doing well on probation.</p> | <p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p>Crime Prevention Resources</p> <p>911 / 311 information</p> <p>Matthew.Wilcox@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p> <p>CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716</p> |

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| | <p><u>Presentation</u> by Matt Wilcox: Update on 5th Precinct CLEAN list offenders active in Stevens Square. Sharee Barrett, who has picked up 14 cases in the past year, was conditionally released to treatment pending trial. Warrants for her arrest were issued on 7/26. Top offender Darryl Brooks, who is on probation for gross misdemeanor trespassing, has a new consuming and disorderly conduct case. William Ernst has court dates set for a 4th degree assault case. Farid Yusuf Suleiman, who has been found incompetent to stand trial, is in jail for a new theft case. Robert Yellow Wolf is in HOMES Court and is on probation for open bottle. Patrick Addy, who is on supervised probation for gross misdemeanor obstructing the legal process, has been released to treatment.</p> <p>Wilcox said that he is pushing for the court to include "remain law abiding" as a condition of release because it makes it easier to get a probation violation for <u>any</u> new offenses, not just specific ones. Wilcox also is looking into ways to combat the court's new payable citation policy, perhaps by filing formal criminal complaints for payable misdemeanors which would require a court appearance. Wilcox will participate in the 2016 StandDown for homeless veterans on 8/2 and 8/3 at Fort Snelling.</p> <p>SSCO staff made information available about Part 1 (serious) crimes reported in the neighborhood from January 1 through June 30: Compared to 2015, violent crime is down 4.6% and property crime is down 43.1%.</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 were six police reports in this area during the past month, the same number as the previous month. There were two arrests: 7/6 at 1820 4th Ave for disorderly conduct; 7/8 at 18th & 3rd for possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of injection equipment, and giving police a false name. There was one apartment burglary and two motor vehicle thefts. No violent felonies were reported.</p> <p>In the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, arrests for narcotics-related offenses are down 37.9% compared to last year.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Illegal consumption of alcohol in the neighborhood. Year to date, there have been 55 arrests or citations for alcohol-related offenses in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, compared to 69 in 2015. 15 of those arrests (27.2%) occurred in Stevens Square Park.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Groups of suspicious, often intoxicated males causing problems at and around Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge (1717 2nd Ave), Stevens Square Park, LaSalle Community Garden, and Nicollet Ave (especially the bus stops). Complaints about drinking, loitering, trespassing, fighting, aggressive panhandling, harassment of strangers, and other disorderly conduct continue to proliferate. 5th Precinct, Park police, and Metro Transit officers continue to respond to 911 calls for service and engage in proactive patrol of hot spots in the neighborhood. Community members noted the same problem occurring daily on East 19th St between Nicollet Ave and 1st Ave (at any time of day) and at the bus stop near 1707 3rd Ave (especially late mornings). Block Patrol and other persons continue to watch these areas and report problems to 911.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> There is a report of drug dealing out of an apartment building on the 1800 block of 3rd Ave; police and the rental property manager have been notified. Call 911 to report suspicious activity in progress. Call the 5th Precinct Community Response Team (CRT) at 673-5716 to report ongoing drug-related activity at specific locations or addresses.</p> | |

Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel

Presentation by Ken Strobel: From 6/24 to 7/28, 19 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 25 shifts, contributing 66 total hours. 7 new volunteers joined Block Patrol. Several guests, including Community Attorney Matt Wilcox, Neighborhood Probation Officer Corey Grandner, and staff from St Stephen's Street Outreach, came along on shifts. Block Patrol volunteers staffed Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park on 6/29.

Block Patrol leaders, in partnership with staff from MN Adult & Teen Challenge, The Apartment Shop, and Historic Abbott Apartments, have been planning the National Night Out event in Stevens Square Park which is set for 8/2 from 5 to 7 p.m.

During the past month, Block Patrol teams: spoke with hundreds of community members at events and on the streets; frequently spoke with our Franklin-Nicollet beat officers; patrolled the Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge property on 2nd Ave in response to complaints about suspicious males loitering in the area and harassing staff and residents; called 911 regarding a physical altercation between a female (who was the aggressor) and two males at 19th & Nicollet, and cancelled the call when the participants went separate ways; spoke with former SSCO Board member Irro Mohamed at 18th & 3rd; visited with a long-time resident of the Clinton sector on her front porch in regard to a driver who was inappropriately using a handicapped parking spot; checked for and reported graffiti throughout the neighborhood to 311 – a large amount of property damage was done to commercial and apartment buildings – one of the tags was AU, which appears to stand for "Acid Users"; picked up trash and litter; played Trivial Pursuit at Franklin & 2nd; came across a male who was passed out on the ground in the parking lot at Loring Nicollet Center, up against the building – the team shouted and woke him up – he claimed to be okay and walked away; gave directions to a male at 17th & 3rd who said he had just been released from the penitentiary; watched a tow truck on 2nd Ave remove a car which had been crushed when a tree fell down after a severe storm; spoke with a gardener who complained about groups of suspicious people loitering at LaSalle Community Garden at all hours of the day and night – some are intoxicated, some harass the gardeners, some vandalize the gardens and leave trash in the area, all make it a potentially dangerous place, especially for women who are there alone; checked on a male who was passed out on the ground at an apartment building on LaSalle Ave; noted suspicious loitering outside the Third Avenue Market; spoke with a former neighborhood resident who now works as a tow truck driver – he said he still spends a lot of time in the area; called our beat officers regarding offender W.G.E. who was sitting on the steps and blocking a door at an apartment building on Groveland Ave which is posted for No Trespassing – the officers responded and the team made a citizen's arrest for trespassing – the officers then left to deal with an incident of customer trouble at a store nearby; called Metro Transit Police on offender D.B. who had urinated in public in a bus stop at Franklin & Nicollet – 5th Precinct squad 8511 arrived at the same location to deal with a different incident – after a while, Transit police responded and D.B. walked away; posted flyers for a Teen Challenge event and for Red Hot Art; checked on various persons passed out in the park; witnessed what appeared to be a drug deal involving the occupants of a car parked on 19th St near Nicollet Ave; broke up a "party" involving at least nine males who were loitering at LaSalle Community Garden, and even convinced two of them to clean up the empty bottles and cans strewn around the area; checked on the welfare of offender S.A.M. who was intoxicated in the park and ended up slumped in front of a business on Nicollet Ave.

During the 3 p.m. shift on 7/22, a team encountered offender S.L.B. at Franklin & Nicollet. S.L.B. was supposed to be in court-ordered treatment, not hanging around intoxicated at a bus stop. The team called Community Attorney Matt Wilcox to find out if she had a warrant – the answer was yes, she had an active felony warrant. The team moved away to call 911 when 5th Precinct Inspector Todd Loining drove by, honked, and waved. The team flagged him

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_ssko@yahoo.com

[Application and guidelines](#) are at the SSCO web site.

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| | <p>down and told him what was happening. Loining turned around and drove to a location near where S.L.B. was sitting. Loining got out and spoke with her. Soon, a squad arrived and the officers also approached. After a while, the squad left, S.L.B. left, and Inspector Loining came back to the team to report that, after checking with the County Warrants Desk, it was determined that S.L.B. did <u>not</u> have a warrant. Apparently offender R.Y.W., who was at the scene, told police that "everybody knows that S.L.B. has a felony warrant." Loining explained that he was in the process of moving his belongings from the 5th Precinct to his new office in the 2nd Precinct. The team thanked him and called Matt Wilcox back, who confirmed that S.L.B. had a warrant that was issued that day. Later, the team saw S.L.B. walking northbound on Nicollet Ave to downtown.</p> | |
| <p>Election of a committee co-chair to serve a two-year term.</p> | <p>Last year, the SSCO Board instituted two-year staggered terms for committee co-chairs. Laura Blue Bird's term is up; Aaron Szczech will remain co-chair for another year.</p> <p>Staff explained the duties and responsibilities of the co-chairs and the election procedures, and conducted the election. Corwin Morton was the only candidate; he introduced himself and explained why he is interested in and qualified for the position. On a motion by Ken Strobel, seconded by Jill Ferguson, the committee suspended the rules and elected Corwin Morton to the co-chair position by acclamation. Morton will serve as co-chair through July, 2018.</p> | |

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.