



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

Community Safety meeting minutes – August 24, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Corwin Morton and John Littlejohn, co-chairs; Kathy Waite and Eric Dison, Minneapolis Police department; Matt Wilcox, City Attorney’s office; Drew Kirch and Leah Opheim, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Malcolm Williams, Plymouth Congregational Church; Dave Enghusen, Groveland Food Shelf; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Jerry Paulson, Ken Strobel, Jill Ferguson, Leslee Jackson, Susan Holter, Uma Oswald, Derryl Peterson, Michael Theurer, John Ryser, Devin Ross, Rebecca Konietzko, Kayla Mark, Sarah Myers, Claudio B., Kyla, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoe (dave_sscoweb@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"> ▪ 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 & Nicollet. ▪ Next Community Safety meeting: 9/28 at 6 p.m. 	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 9/28, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Loitering and criminal activity along Groveland Ave between Nicollet and LaSalle, especially on Plymouth Church property and outside the Groveland Food Shelf	<p>There was an open discussion about loitering and criminal activity along Groveland Ave between Nicollet and LaSalle, especially on Plymouth Church property and outside the Groveland Food Shelf. Summary of comments/questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This is an ongoing problem, groups of intoxicated people loiter here every day from 5 or 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. and harass passersby and physically fight among themselves. ▪ Certain offenders, including Ellery Charging Thunder (2/20/54) and Rachael O’Gorman (12/24/76), hang out in this area constantly and cause trouble. ▪ The same people loiter outside the apartment building at 20 Groveland Ave (across from the church) and sometimes gain entry to the building, urinating and defecating in the stairwells and hallways and verbally harassing and physically grabbing female residents. ▪ The same aggressive behavior is directed toward clients going to and coming from the Groveland Food Shelf. ▪ Intoxicated people can be found frequently passed out on church property, on the lawn and on the steps on either side of the food shelf. ▪ The number of people causing problems in this area has increased significantly this summer. ▪ When police respond to complaints, the offenders usually scatter and run away. ▪ This is the same group which has been the subject of complaints at the "triangle" where Hennepin & Lyndale merge – have they been displaced and moved to this area by police enforcement there? ▪ Volunteers and employees at the food shelf have been assaulted by members of this group, as recently as this week. ▪ Call 911 to report incidents and request police response. If the situation is dangerous, move away quickly. ▪ Why does the church not post No Trespassing signs and ask police to enforce them? This worked at LaSalle Community garden. ▪ Once a small group starts loitering at the church, it attracts more people until there are sometimes 20 to 30 people hanging out there. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Install surveillance cameras in that area to monitor and respond to problems. ▪ The main problem is the liquor stores which sell to those who are causing trouble in the community. ▪ Has the sale of liquor on Sunday contributed to the problem? Some local liquor stores were opposed to that change. ▪ Community Attorney Matt Wilcox: Property owners can issue trespass notices to offenders which prohibits them from returning to the property for up to a year. ▪ Can photos of the offenders be posted at the food shelf? ▪ Malcolm Williams, Plymouth Church safety manager: Malcolm is on duty at the church during summer for several days per week, from mid-afternoon to mid-evening. The church is taking steps to resolve these problems and is looking into hiring a private security agency to patrol the area (maybe Monday through Friday, 6 to 10 a.m. for a few weeks in September) in order to prevent the groups from loitering and causing trouble and to trespass those who refuse to comply. Over the winter, when the activity subsides, the church and its partners will evaluate the strategies and come up with a plan for the spring. ▪ SSCO safety coordinator: Plymouth Church has given SSCO staff authority to trespass offenders on church property. This is an experiment to see if targeting the top troublemakers is enough to resolve the problem. SSCO will report back at the 9/28 Safety meeting on whether these strategies are working and encouraged community members to continue to report problems and share ideas. ▪ Would more police patrol in the area affect the level of loitering? Even so, displacing the problem from one location to another does not solve anything. ▪ Matt Wilcox: Hennepin County's HOMES Court provides a way to help the chronically homeless who are often in court for low level offenses by offering them housing and services to stabilize their lives and reduce the number of times they are arrested. ▪ SSCO safety coordinator: Many of the offenders who cause trouble along Groveland Ave are already in HOMES Court and continue to offend in the neighborhood – this court does nothing to help the community that has to deal with the problems caused by their clients. ▪ 5th Precinct Inspector Kathy Waite: To help reduce this kind of behavior which is often fueled by alcohol or drugs, community members need to stop giving money to panhandlers. There are ways to contribute to legitimate organizations which seek to help this population. 	
<p>Updates from law enforcement partners – 5th Precinct Inspector Kathy Waite, Sgt Eric Dison, Community Attorney Matt Wilcox, Probation Officers Drew Kirch and Leah Opheim</p>	<p><u>Report</u> by 5th Precinct Community Attorney Matt Wilcox: Update on recent cases of interest to the neighborhood and on active offenders on the 5th Precinct CLEAN list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alexander Lanier (7/26/91) pled guilty to motor vehicle theft – he stole a police bait vehicle – at Franklin & Nicollet from 2/20 and was sentenced to 19 months, stayed for three years, and placed on supervised probation; Probation Officer Drew Kirch may take his case after Lanier completes court-ordered treatment. ▪ Steven Bates (10/16/81) pled guilty to 3rd degree felony assault from 10/20/16 and gross misdemeanor 5th degree possession of drugs from 5/22/17. He received stayed sentences of 15 months and 365 days, respectively, and was placed on supervised probation. A theft case from 5/8/17 at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave, was dismissed. ▪ Ellery Charging Thunder (2/20/54), who failed to appear in HOMES Court on 8/22, was arrested for ten misdemeanor warrants today. ▪ David Brenner (7/5/75) will be released from the workhouse on 8/26 and will not be on probation. ▪ William Ernst (11/22/65) was released to the Department of Corrections today to serve the rest of his felony assault sentence after violating parole conditions; his sentence expires on 12/10. ▪ Rachael O’Gorman (12/24/76), who is no longer in HOMES Court, had her court appearance on two cases which 	<p>Crime Prevention Resources</p> <p>911 / 311 information</p> <p>Matthew.Wilcox@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p>

	<p>was scheduled for today postponed.</p> <p>No map or list of Part 1 (serious) crimes in the neighborhood for the past month was available.</p> <p><u>Report</u> by 5th Precinct Inspector Kathy Waite: There has been a string of robberies in the area, mostly after dark, some around 9 to 11 p.m., others after 2 a.m. In several incidents, a perpetrator approached victims from behind, choked them until they lost consciousness, and then robbed them of wallets and cell phones. Most of the victims have been males. She advised people that reporting incidents of crime to social media sites such as Nextdoor is not a substitute for making a police report. Some of the information may not be accurate and the authorities may have no knowledge of crimes reported that way and no way to respond to them. Waite said that MPD has not yet hired a Crime Prevention Specialist for the northern section of the 5th Precinct. Stevens Square – Loring Heights now has three beat patrols working in its area: the Franklin Nicollet beat and Lyndale Ave beat during days and a new night beat staffed by Officers Swanson and Jama.</p> <p>MPD data compiled by SSCO showed that Part 1 (serious) crimes reported in the neighborhood from January through July were up in every category compared to last year. The most significant increases were in incidents of motor vehicle theft (from 8 in 2016 to 19 in 2017) and other theft (37 in 2016, 83 in 2017). Overall, property crimes were up 105% compared to 2016. Roberries were up from 10 in 2016 to 17 this year. A community member asked how the current numbers compared to those of previous years when there was more crime in the area.</p> <p>Waite said that the population of the city was up along with 911 call volumes. Each precinct has a different situation, but crime is on the rise. Shoplifting has been a huge problem in the 5th Precinct this year. Businesses face a dilemma in how to react to an increase in theft: it's dangerous for staff to intervene, but loss of revenue to theft can affect a store's ability to prosper. Beat officers connect with and help local businesses, but the level of theft is frustrating for owners and employees. Community members who step up and get involved in crime prevention activities are a force multiplier for the officers here who love their jobs and do their best.</p>	<p>CRT 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 concerns</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There was a question about whether a sexual assault had recently occurred at a certain address in the neighborhood. Inspector Waite said that there are no police reports of any incidents at that location. ▪ A community member stated that she had been sexually assaulted at 6:45 a.m. at 19th & Nicollet earlier this summer. The person made a police report. ▪ There was a complaint about recent problems involving groups of intoxicated males in Stevens Square Park. ▪ There was a report of a recent high speed hit-and-run incident on Groveland Ave which caused a parked car to be pushed 23 feet; damage was estimated at \$10,000. ▪ The dumpster enclosures behind the Village Center Mall on Nicollet Ave have been posted for No Trespassing and the abandoned sofa in the area has been ordered to be removed. ▪ The biff in Stevens Square Park may again be occupied by one or more persons who are living there. This is at least the third time this has happened this summer. <p>The National Night Out event in Stevens Square Park on 8/1 went smoothly; the weather cooperated. MN Adult & Teen Challenge (MNTC) volunteers prepared and served 270 meals. MNTC donated the food and beverages. 112 community members registered for prize drawings. Ten SSCO volunteers helped staff the event: one of them told the</p>	

	<p>group that it was her first National Night Out event and it was fun interacting with community members who were happy to be there. Sponsors of the event included MN Adult & Teen Challenge, The Apartment Shop, Kleinman Realty, Stevens Community Apartments, Historic Abbott Apartments, Rand Management, Mint Properties, Copenhagen Enterprises, and SSCO.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Leslee Jackson</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Leslee Jackson: From 7/27 to 8/24, 14 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 17 regular shifts, contributing 64 hours. 3 new volunteers joined Block Patrol. 6 Block Patrol volunteers helped staff the National Night Out event in Stevens Square Park on 8/1, contributing 17 hours. Altogether, 17 volunteers contributed 81 hours to Block Patrol during the past four weeks.</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; frequently patrolled the park, LaSalle Community Garden, and Groveland Ave by Plymouth Church; visited Scratchy's book box; received thanks from a number of community members for keeping the neighborhood safe; encountered an angry person who accused a team of discrimination because they were watching 19th & 3rd instead of Franklin & 3rd, where the person lives; gave directions to a driver on 3rd Ave who was lost; received free chocolate bars from staff at the Sisters Camelot food bus which was parked on Nicollet Ave; spoke with a person who wanted information about Block Patrol – when she found out that Block Patrol works with the police, she said that she was interested in "cop watch" instead and walked away; observed numerous bags of empty aluminum cans stashed along the north side of the hardware store on Nicollet Ave, between the building and the parking lot – and reported the matter to employees there, who were aware of the situation and believed that a scrapper had left the bags there and would probably return to retrieve them; encountered an intoxicated male at Franklin & Nicollet who attempted to feed a slice of pepperoni pizza to a Block Patrol canine volunteer – not a good idea.</p> <p>During the 3 p.m. shift on 8/11, a team at Franklin & Nicollet called 911 regarding two males at a bus stop who were involved in a verbal confrontation that appeared to be escalating into a physical fight. Several times the males moved toward each other with threatening gestures, and then backed off. One of the males retreated into the street. All this was happening while others, including families with children, were waiting for a bus. Nine minutes later a Metro Transit Police squad responded. One of the two males had just left the bus stop with a female. When they saw the squad approach, they ran and boarded a westbound bus on Franklin Ave and left the area. An officer spoke with the other male, who was still at the bus stop.</p> <p>During the 1 p.m. shift on 8/3, a team encountered a male at 19th & 1st who was carrying a large tree stump, with many roots still attached. He told the team that he had passed out somewhere and when he woke up, he saw the tree stump in front of him and knew that something spiritually significant had occurred. He said that he was taking the stump to the American Indian Center on Franklin Ave so that it could be properly displayed. The male asked the team for a ride, but the team was on foot. The male wished the team well and walked off, carrying the tree stump.</p> <p>Jackson reported that Block Patrol was planning to organize some late night shifts; it's important to help older people out alone at night and to call for help for people who are passed out on the ground.</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>