



**Community Safety meeting minutes – August 27, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.**

Present: Laura Bluebird and Aaron Szczech, co-chairs; Rena Dudgeon and John Elder, Minneapolis Police department; Nikki Appelbaum, City Attorney's office; Anne Forsyth-Gillette, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Julian Gray, Fades of Gray; Ken Strobel, Jerry Paulson, John Ryser, Howard Penas, Melissa Lowe, Corwin Morton, Mary Sheppard, Kandis Storm, Eliana Silbermann, John Louis, Katrina Kubeczko, Cherie Hays, Paul Soderquist, Nathan Krueger, John P., Kelly, Edgar, five others 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
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>▪ Stevens Square Farmers Market, every Wednesday from 2:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Plymouth Church parking lot at Franklin &amp; Nicollet.</li> </ul>	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 9/24, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – Sgt Rena Dudgeon, Community Attorney Nikki Appelbaum, Neighborhood Probation Officer Anne Forsyth-Gillette	<p>Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams was unable to attend. <u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff: From January through July, there was no significant change in the total number of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood: 128 in 2015, 129 in 2014. However, there were significant differences in crimes reported per category: robbery dropped from 8 to 11 while aggravated assault increased from 13 to 18; burglary increased substantially from 8 in 2014 to 20 in 2015 and motor vehicle theft was up from 5 in 2014 to 7 this year.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Nikki Appelbaum: Update on the cases of three Stevens Square offenders featured on the <a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> Precinct CLEAN list</a>. <a href="#">Ahmed Hired</a> is serving 365 days for a gross misdemeanor trespassing conviction and is due to be released from the workhouse on 3/14/16. <a href="#">Patrick Addy</a> is on probation for disorderly conduct. <a href="#">David Omurwa</a> is in treatment and is restricted from the area as a condition of release.</p> <p>There is a current trend in which thieves steal documents from motor vehicles and use them to commit identity theft and fraud. If this happens to you, please make a police report – call 311 if there is no evidence at the scene which might be useful to police, otherwise call 911 for a squad to respond.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> about geographic restrictions (as a condition of release) and <a href="#">restraining orders</a> (to protect one person or group from another). Call 911 to report an offender who is in an area or at an address from which he or she is restricted; that is considered a probation violation by the court. Call 911 and make a police report regarding a person in violation of a restraining order; that will lead to a process in court.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff on the outcome of cases from the neighborhood involving two offenders.</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>Nicole.Appelbaum@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p>
Neighborhood-	<u>Community concern</u> Request for more police presence after dark in and around Stevens Square Park, especially at 19 <sup>th</sup>	

<p>related safety ideas and concerns</p>	<p>&amp; Stevens. Sgt Rena Dudgeon explained that police presence is affected by a variety of issues, including the number of 911 priority calls pending and the level of staffing available at any given time. Citizens can call their precinct (5<sup>th</sup> Precinct for Stevens Square – Loring Heights and Whittier: 673-5705) and ask for extra patrol in specific areas at specific times; this gives police an area to focus on. The monthly Community Safety meeting is a good forum for community members to find out what's going on and to share information and concerns with police. Dudgeon will follow up on the request regarding the park and surrounding blocks, along with 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> (see below).</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> How to better communicate with new residents. It can be difficult for newcomers to the neighborhood to find out about SSCO and its meetings, activities, and events. SSCO has a <a href="#">web site</a>, <a href="#">Facebook page</a>, and e-mail list, plus there is a Nextdoor site for neighborhood residents, but these can be hard to find if one is not specifically looking for them. SSCO's Neighborhood Development committee (6 p.m.) and Board of Directors (7:15 p.m.) meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 1925 Nicollet Ave. SSCO also posts flyers and door-knocks at residential buildings and conducts outreach in public spaces and at community events to publicize its activities and recruit volunteers. Residents can also contact Chelsea Adams (see the information above) at the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct for referral to community groups. SSCO welcomes new ideas for improving communication.</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 16 police reports in this area in the past month, compared to 11 in the previous month. There were no arrests for narcotics violations. There were two robberies of person (8/12 at 1929 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave in which a suspect was arrested; 8/19 at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> in which the suspect and victim were acquainted); three burglaries (7/19 at 329 East 18<sup>th</sup> St; 8/21 at 1718 Clinton Ave; 8/23 at the BP Service Station, 2000 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave); and one motor vehicle theft (7/25 at Franklin &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> in which a suspect was arrested). Of particular concern was an incident of arson on 7/29 at 220 East 19<sup>th</sup> St – community members reported that a fire was intentionally set in a back stairwell that resulted in smoke and fire damage. Community members reported ongoing suspicious loitering and traffic around the Third Avenue Market at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>.</p> <p>Year to date, there have been 41 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 27 arrests last year. A number of the felony arrests have occurred as a result of traffic stops – extra directed patrols have been deployed in Stevens Square – Loring Heights and Whittier. 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 85 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 83 arrests last year. There were three alcohol-related arrests in Stevens Square Park in the past month, compared to six during the previous month.</p>	
<p>Report on the 8/4/15 incident at an unlisted address on the 1800 block of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave – MPD</p>	<p>John Elder reported on an 8/4/15 incident on the 1800 block of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave which has generated significant community concern and questions; very little information has been released to the public. Police need to weigh the public's right to know and MPD's commitment to transparency against the rights of a victim and the nature of an ongoing investigation. Police try to err on the side of public information, but in some cases that's not the right thing to do if it would be detrimental to the investigation – and that decision is supported by State statute.</p>	

<p>Public Information Officer John Elder</p>	<p>The 8/4/15 incident involved robbery, kidnapping (moving a person from one location to another, even if the distance is slight), and physical assault by a stanger.</p> <p>One person – the ringleader – has been arrested and is in custody. Another suspect has been identified but is not in custody. Investigators are building a case and gathering evidence – and withholding information in order to prevent the second suspect from fleeing, covering up or destroying evidence, or manufacturing an alibi. Investigators are closely watching people of interest. The perpetrators live within a couple of miles of the incident address, but not necessarily in Stevens Square – Loring Heights neighborhood.</p> <p>This case is real and bothersome. The victim is innocent, and police are proud that the victim is continuing to work with investigators on solving the case so that this does not happen to someone else. The investigators are working hard to solve the case. There is no risk to the public at this time.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 7/24 to 8/27, ten Block Patrol volunteers participated in fifteen regular shifts and staffed the Red Hot Art festival and National Night Out in Stevens Square Park, contributing 94 hours total. Two Block Patrol volunteers helped plan the National Night Out event in the park on 8/4. One new volunteer joined Block Patrol. Block Patrol earned \$347 from beverage sales and tips at Red Hot Art.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams spoke with hundreds of community members on the streets and at neighborhood events; frequently spoke with our Franklin – Nicollet beat officers and neighborhood probation officers; visited Scratchy's Book Box; watched two officers on bikes patrolling the park; observed suspicious persons and activity at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>, Franklin &amp; Nicollet, 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; Nicollet, and in the park; saw arson notices posted at an apartment building, asking for information about suspects in several incidents during July; frequently visited LaSalle community gardens; pretended to call 911 on two suspicious persons sitting at a picnic table in the park – they quickly left the area; saw that a curb on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave which had been damaged years ago had finally been replaced; called 311 regarding a car parked on the street at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; Stevens which had its front and back windows smashed out – the team had first called 911 to determine whether the car had been reported stolen; crossed paths with a male who was walking northbound on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, carrying a home-made sign which stated, "I am not ashamed to be white"; encountered a male who asked a team to tell the police to "not bother the unfortunate"; watched one of our beat officers arrest a female for shoplifting at CVS; met a person who performs improv comedy, who stated that Block Patrol had a lot of potential.</p> <p>During the noon shift on 8/27, a team called 911 on an intoxicated male who urinated – in full view of passersby – on a recycling container in the park, within twenty feet of a portable toilet. The team followed the male as he wandered down the 1800 block of Nicollet Ave, entering – and being forcibly removed from – a half dozen businesses. The team upated the 911 call several times as the situation changed. After 35 minutes, the team cancelled the call when the male boarded a southbound Metro Transit bus and left the area. While waiting for Minneapolis police to respond, the team called Metro Transit police on two males who were drinking alcohol inside a bus shelter at 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; Nicollet. The team cancelled that call when the males finished the bottle and walked downtown.</p> <p>A community member emphasized the importance of persevering when calling 911 – don't become discouraged if the response is less than what is desired. Callers don't know the factors involved in dispatching squads to respond to complaints.</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 <a href="mailto:dave_ssco@yahoo.com">dave_ssco@yahoo.com</a></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: A successful National Night Out event on 8/4 in Stevens Square Park was organized by Block Patrol volunteers and staff from <a href="#">Historic Abbott Apartments</a>, <a href="#">The Apartment Shop</a>, and <a href="#">MN Adult &amp; Teen Challenge</a>. Other sponsors who contributed funding include Rand Management, <a href="#">Stevens Community Apartments</a>, <a href="#">Kleinman Realty</a>, <a href="#">Copenhagen Enterprises</a>, <a href="#">Mint Properties</a>, and the <a href="#">1920 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Resident Council</a>. Altogether, \$1,350 in cash donations was received. SSCO acted as the fiscal agent for the project. At the event, 147 people registered for prize drawings and MN Adult &amp; Teen Challenge volunteers served 380 meals.</p>	
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*Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.*

*Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.*