

Community Safety meeting minutes – August 28, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.



Present: Ken Strobel and Laura Blue Bird, co-chairs; Anne Forsyth-Gillette and P J Bensen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Chelsea Adams, Rob Illetschko, Scott Watry, and Brianna Garman, Minneapolis Police department; Jennifer Saunders, City Attorney's office; Tracy Fuller, Minnesota Teen Challenge; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Steve Frenz, The Apartment Shop; John Louis, Amanda Hilligoss, Jerry Paulson, Emma Erspamer, Arlene Storandt, Corwin Morton, John Ryser, Rob Kneviel, Regal Johnson, Huy Nguyen, Chrstina Tavares, Natasha Villanueva, Glori Hinck, Barb Snow, Rebecca Konietzko, Jesse Menard, Robert Aman, Frank Fallon, Geoff Campbell, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoeye (dave_ssc@yahoo.com)

Note: A sheet with some of the information presented at this meeting is available from SSCO on request. Contact the safety coordinator at dave_ssc@yahoo.com or 874-2840.

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Stevens Square farmers market takes place every Wednesday from 2:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Plymouth Church parking lot on the northwest corner of Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ In response to community concerns about crime in the area, 5th Precinct Inspector Todd Loining has arranged for a mobile police camera to be placed at 19th & 3rd as soon as one becomes available – most are currently in use on the north side. ▪ Contact John Louis at sscojohn@gmail.com with any suggestions regarding information to post on the new SSCO web site plus comments on what you like or do not like about http://www.sscoweb.org/ 	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 9/25, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave
Updates from law enforcement partners – 5 th Precinct CPS Chelsea Adams, Officers Rob Illetschko, Scott Watry, Brianna Garman; Community Attorney Jennifer Saunders; Probation Officer Anne Forsyth-Gillette, Probation Supervisor P J Bensen	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: A list and map of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during the past month included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 homicide – 8/16, 2:20 a.m., in the area of Franklin & 4th, in which an adult female victim with a stab wound was transported to a hospital where she died of her injuries. The suspect fled the scene before police arrived and no arrest has been made. Anyone with information about this incident (case no. 14-288551) is asked to send a text to 847 411 and enter MPD and the tip or call the tipline at (612) 692-TIPS (8477). All texts are anonymous. ▪ 1 criminal sexual assault – 8/26, 3:45 a.m., in the vicinity of Stevens Square Park in which a woman who was outside was drawn into a short conversation with an unknown male who touched her over her clothes as he was about to leave. The woman told him no and the male backed off but then approached her from behind and attempted to get her on the ground. The woman struggled with the male and was able to get him off. The male fled. The woman sustained scrapes and bruises from the struggle but was otherwise uninjured. The suspect was described as an African American male in his late teens to early 20's, medium build, approximately 5'9", with a medium complexion, short black hair, wearing a gray hoodie and light-colored, knee-length shorts. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to send a text to 847 411 and enter MPD and the tip or call the tipline at (612) 692-TIPS (8477). All texts are anonymous. ▪ 2 aggravated assaults – 8/6, 7 p.m., at 1820 4th Ave in which mutual combatants/acquaintances got into a physical fight involving a shovel and were transported to a hospital; 8/16, 6:48 a.m., at 19th & 3rd in which two adult males (a victim and a suspect) exchanged words, possibly arguing over a female. The suspect drew a firearm and fired at the victim but missed. The suspect fled. There were no reported injuries. Based on preliminary investigative information, this appears to be a target-specific event and not random. Anyone with information about this 	<p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p>Crime Prevention Resources</p> <p>911 / 311 information</p> <p>CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716</p> <p>Jennifer.Saunders@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p>

	<p>incident (case no. 14-288701) is asked to send a text to 847 411 and enter MPD and the tip or call the tipline at (612) 692-TIPS (8477). All texts are anonymous.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 robberies of person – 8/1, 10:10 a.m., at 1801 Stevens Ave, Stevens Square Park, in which a male loaned his phone to a female acquaintance who went inside a building and did not come back; 8/24, 1:15 a.m., at 1808 Stevens Ave in which a male suspect with a gun approached a male victim outside this address and demanded his wallet and cell phone and then fled with the victim’s phone; 8/24, 2 a.m., 1728 3rd Ave in which a male suspect robbed a male victim at gunpoint of his wallet and cell phone. ▪ 1 theft from person – 8/24, 7 p.m., 1921 1st Ave, Norpol Residence, in which a suspect took cash from a victim’s wallet and fled. The victim and suspect are acquaintances and both were intoxicated. ▪ 4 burglaries – 7/29 at 1820 4th Ave; 7/31 to 8/5 at 8 East Franklin Ave; 8/7 at 415 Ridgewood Ave; 8/16 at 130 East 18th St. <p>Police response to these incidents includes extra patrol in the area – which is already a focus zone for the 5th Precinct – and upcoming placement of a mobile police camera at 19th & 3rd. Adams distributed information about keeping safe while walking, driving, and at home and spoke about how to become a block or building leader.</p> <p>There was a question about whether the offenders in these and other incidents reside at particular addresses in the area. There is no evidence to support that conclusion except sometimes in the event that the victim and suspect are acquainted. When no suspect is arrested or identified, police supervisors look at a number of factors including the description of the suspect(s), the presence of evidence, the method used, the location, time of day, the type of victim, and the way the suspect(s) approach the victim in order to decide whether to assign the case for investigation.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Jennifer Saunders: 5th Precinct CLEAN list. Saunders provided updates on ten offenders frequently arrested in the neighborhood. Staff made available the results of four criminal cases SSCO has been tracking and passed around copies of two community impact statements submitted to the court in the past month.</p> <p>Saunders explained the different kinds of warrants used in the criminal justice system including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bench warrant, issued when a defendant fails to appear in court; ▪ Arrest warrant, issued usually for felonies after charges are filed and the defendant is not in custody; ▪ Arrest and detention warrant, issued when an offender violates probation conditions. <p><u>Presentation</u> by SSCO staff: From January through July, violent crime in the neighborhood was down 20.6% and property crime was down 2% compared to last year. This includes a 57.2% drop in incidents of criminal sexual conduct/rape, a 52.4% decline in burglaries, and an 18.8% decrease in aggravated assaults. The number of robberies and motor vehicle thefts remained the same as last year.</p>	
<p>Neighborhood-related safety ideas and concerns</p>	<p><u>Community concern</u> Drug-dealing and related loitering and traffic at apartment buildings in the neighborhood. How can this be stopped? How can the community hold rental property owners accountable for problems at their buildings?</p> <p>A common problem involves suspicious vehicle traffic in the alleys to the rear doors of apartment buildings, characterized as drive-through drug dealing. A person comes out of the building and conducts a transaction with occupant(s) of the vehicle or allows occupant(s) of the vehicle to enter the building in order to conduct the transaction out of public view. Witnesses should:</p>	

- Call [911](#) with the location, a description of the activity and those involved, and the make, model, and license plate number of the vehicle if possible, and ask that a squad be dispatched.
- Provide the information (who, what, when, where) if there is ongoing suspicious activity to the rental property owner/manager and to the [5th Precinct Community Response Team](#) (CRT, 673-5716) so that they may take appropriate action to deal with it.
- Notify CPS Chelsea Adams and SSCO staff so that they can follow up.

Installation of [surveillance cameras](#) on and around apartment buildings can help to deter the traffic and to identify those involved. Posting MPD-issued [No Trespassing signs](#) on buildings allows officers to stop and question anyone on the premises to determine whether they have a legitimate reason to be there and to send them or arrest them if they don't. Under [State law](#), unwanted persons can also be trespassed from the property for a year by the property owner or his or her representative (manager, caretaker, etc.). The initial maximum penalty for violating a trespass notice is 90 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine, with penalties enhanced if further violations occur. [Block and building leaders](#) can help to identify those who do or don't belong at a residential property. When SSCO receives complaints about suspicious activity at an address, staff shares the information with the rental property owner/manager and encourages witnesses to report ongoing activity to 5th Precinct CRT at 673-5716. If SSCO has information from two or more reliable sources regarding a problem, staff will consider notifying CRT directly even though the information is second-hand. Updates on complaints about problem properties are provided at every Community Safety meeting until the problems are resolved; this is a way to hold everyone accountable for doing their part to resolve the problems.

Rental property owners operate under local, state, and federal regulations intended to prevent illegal housing discrimination and to ensure that tenants are not allowed to engage in criminal activity on the premises. In order to evict a tenant, owners need to meet objective criteria and follow a legal process which can take time and cause them additional expense. The large rental property companies operating in the neighborhood conduct thorough criminal background checks on prospective tenants as a way to help prevent problems. Despite those measures, there is no way to determine during the screening process whom a tenant associates with and what their associates' backgrounds are without violating anti-discrimination laws. There was an estimate that 80% of the drug dealing that occurs at rental properties involves the guests and associates of single females with children who passed background checks. Drug dealers are also known to target vulnerable adults by taking over their apartments and conducting illegal business until action is taken by the property owner or Adult Protection services to remove the tenant. The City provides [resources](#) to rental property owners – and has significant enforcement capabilities – through the rental licensing process. Owners are offered free training in how to comply with the ordinances and prevent problems plus the option to sign up for e-mail alerts tied to their rental addresses, both for incidents at those addresses and arrests of persons who gave those addresses as their place of residence. The [Conduct on Licensed Premises ordinance](#), which governs the process, may be revised soon by the City to address incidents which generate complaints from citizens beyond narcotics, prostitution, and weapons violations. Failure to comply with the conditions of the City ordinance can ultimately result in the revocation of all of a property owner's rental licenses. Many rental property owners in the neighborhood share information with each other regarding these kinds of issues; in the 1990s, Stevens Square rental property owners and the police formed an association to promote a crime-free lease addendum as an effective way to keep criminal activity out of rental buildings and stabilize the neighborhood.

Other issues discussed include:

- [Nuisance letters](#) sent to rental property owners by the City are protected under data privacy laws and are not public information because the allegations involve the tenant(s) of specific unit(s).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data from 911 calls is public information subject to redaction for various reasons – such as to protect the identity of the caller or of a victim – and can be obtained by filing a request for public data with the City. ▪ If a caller has a problem with an operator or a complaint about service when calling 911, ask to speak with a supervisor. <p>Staff made available the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There were 16 police reports during the past month in the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave), 5 of which involved non-domestic violent crimes. There were no drug-related arrests in this area. ▪ In the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, arrests for drug-related offenses are down 47.1% compared to last year and arrests for alcohol-related offenses are down 35.2% Total arrests for livability offenses (narcotics, drugs, prostitution) are down 38.9%. 	
Adjournment	The meeting ended at the scheduled time; there was no motion to continue. A number of agenda items were not addressed, including additional community concerns, Block Patrol news, and the progress report on the community safety plan.	

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.