

**Stevens Square Community Organization**

**(612) 874-2840**

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



**Safety Committee minutes – October 27, 2011, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave**

Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Robert Lillgren, Ward 6 City Council; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Matt Clark, Chelsea Adams, Michael Killebrew, Brianna Garman, and Jodene Malloy, Minneapolis Police 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct; Chris Dixon, City Attorney’s Office; Deb Loveland, Minnesota Teen Challenge; Malcolm Williams, Plymouth Church; Michael Graca, The Boiler Room Café; Kristin Unterseher, Starbucks Coffee; Mary Gunderson, CVS; Randall Chevront, MyMinneapolisApartments.com; Arlene Storandt, Jerry Paulson, Jill Ferguson, Eddie Chambers, Suzanne R., Rochelle Peyton, Howard Penas, Jeanne Krueger, Paul Soderquist, Carla Andersen, Terrence Folz, Todd Mellgren, M. Mellgren, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave\_ssc@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

| Agenda item  | Notes/decisions   | Follow up  |
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| <p>Announcement</p> <p>Contact SSCO to volunteer or for more info.</p>           | <p>Due to the holidays, the committee changed its meeting schedule for the next two months. The committee will meet on 11/17 and 12/15.</p>   | <p>Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 11/17, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</p>         |
| <p>How citizens can help police respond to crime – Officer Michael Killebrew</p> | <p>Michael Killebrew presented information about how citizens can help police respond to crime in the neighborhood. Citizens have a <a href="#">responsibility to prevent and report crime</a>. The police can’t do their jobs effectively without the help (and 911 calls) of the citizens. Prevention advice included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Leave nothing of value in a <a href="#">parked vehicle</a>.</li> <li>▪ Close and lock <a href="#">garage doors</a>.</li> <li>▪ Use <a href="#">bike locks</a> and record the make, model, and serial number in case of theft.</li> <li>▪ Install <a href="#">motion detector lights</a> in dark areas outside buildings.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Trim shrubs and trees</a> to eliminate hiding places.</li> <li>▪ Be aware that privacy fences can hide criminal activity.</li> <li>▪ Keep a list of neighbors’ phone numbers in order to contact them in case of suspicious persons or activity or to inform them of a crime.</li> </ul> <p>Call <a href="#">911</a> to report suspicious or criminal activity in progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Give a detailed description of the suspect(s).</li> <li>▪ Describe the activity you see. Be specific.</li> <li>▪ Try to be available when police respond.</li> </ul> <p>Call 911 when you want a squad to respond, not just for emergencies. Accurate <a href="#">descriptions of suspects</a> and incidents can give responding officers probable cause to stop, identify, and search the suspects.</p> <p>As a witness, it is important to help officers identify the suspect(s) when they respond to a 911 call and, if necessary, make a citizen’s arrest. Police can cite or arrest an offender for a misdemeanor only if they have witnessed the offense. Misdemeanors are crimes such as consuming alcohol in public, disorderly conduct, loitering with intent to buy or sell narcotics, trespassing, tampering with a motor vehicle, etc. which carry a maximum sentence of 90 days and/or \$1,000 fine. A witness, however, can make a citizen’s arrest after police arrive. This involves filling out a form describing the incident and telling the offender that he or she is under arrest. Officers – not the witness – deal with the arrestee. Killebrew stated that no one he has ever helped make a citizen’s arrest has ever had to go to court. A community member expressed concern that an offender could retaliate against a witness, by finding out where the witness lives or subsequently encountering the witness on the street.</p> | <p><a href="#">Crime Prevention Resources</a></p> <p><a href="#">911 / 311 information</a></p> |

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|  | <p>Chris Dixon explained that the state rules of criminal procedure limit officers’ discretion to arrest and book a misdemeanor offender in jail. Most misdemeanor offenders are placed under non-custodial arrest, which means that they are issued citations or judicial release receipts (which set a court date) and released. A custodial arrest, which means that the offender is booked in the jail, is allowed only when it appears necessary to prevent harm to the offender or others or to prevent further criminal activity, or if there is a substantial likelihood that the offender will not respond to the citation.</p> <p>Property owners and managers can help police by posting the yellow MPD-issued <a href="#">No Trespassing</a> signs on their building(s). The signs can be obtained from the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct, 3101 Nicollet Ave, by signing an <a href="#">affidavit</a> authorizing police to enforce the city trespassing ordinance at the property. Officers are then able to asks suspects what they are doing at the address, point out the No Trespassing sign, determine if the suspects have a reason to be there, order them to leave if they have no reason, and arrest the suspects for a misdemeanor if they refuse to leave or return to the property later. Offenders with two or more misdemeanor convictions for trespassing can be charged with gross misdemeanor trespassing under state statute (with a maximum sentence of 365 days) for any subsequent offenses. Citizens are encouraged to call 911 to report trespassing violations.</p> <p>Property owners or their representatives can also enforce the state trespassing statute by giving any violator who refuses to leave the property a <a href="#">trespass notice</a>, which is a written demand to depart from the premises and to not return for one year. Violation of a trespass notice carries a maximum sentence of 365 days and/or \$3,000 fine. Officers can assist in this process if the violator refuses to cooperate.</p> <p>In response to questions from community members, additional information and advice was presented, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Take photos or videos of offenders for use by police, but don’t jeopardize your safety by doing this in a conspicuous or reckless way.</li> <li>▪ Stay at a safe distance if you follow a suspect while waiting for police to respond.</li> <li>▪ The city <a href="#">Solid Waste ordinance</a> prohibits theft of material from trash cans, dumpsters, and recycling containers.</li> <li>▪ Be aware of the risks involved in carrying <a href="#">personal safety devices</a> such as a taser or pepper spray since they can be taken away by an attacker and used against the victim.</li> <li>▪ For <a href="#">personal safety</a> reasons, always be aware of your surroundings and prepared to take action to evade suspicious persons and avoid dangerous situations.</li> </ul> <p>A free self-defense workshop, taught by Mary Brandl and sponsored by the Uptown Association and the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct, is set for 11/10 at 6 p.m. at Bryant Square Park, 31<sup>st</sup> &amp; Bryant. To attend, register online by 10/4:<br/> <a href="https://www.thedatabank.com/dpg/354/personal2.asp?formid=event&amp;c=561266">https://www.thedatabank.com/dpg/354/personal2.asp?formid=event&amp;c=561266</a></p> |   |
| <p>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Chris Dixon</p> | <p>Chris Dixon distributed copies of the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct <a href="#">CLEAN sheet</a> and updated the committee on some of the offenders active in Stevens Square, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Patrick Addy</a> – new trespassing case will be charged by complaint as a gross misdemeanor, will request geographic restrictions.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Darryl Brooks</a> – set for court on 11/15 for violating geographic restrictions.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Joseph Conklin</a> – in the workhouse until 12/1/11.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Kathleen Croud</a> – nine active bench warrants, will request geographic restrictions.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Anthony Ford</a> – five active bench warrants.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Larry Harper</a> – will be charged by complaint for violating geographic restrictions.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Ahmed Hired</a> – two 5<sup>th</sup> degree assault cases set for court, will request geographic restrictions.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Ronald King</a> – four cases set for court on 11/4, will request geographic restrictions.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Lynn Love</a> – on probation, restricted from the area by court order.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Jessica Matt</a> – nine cases set for sentencing on 12/19, restricted from the area by court order.</li> </ul>   | <p>Christopher.Dixon@Minneapolismn.gov<br/>673-5402</p> |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Randy McNellis</a> – in the workhouse until 1/24/12.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Brandon Miller</a> – seven cases set for court on 11/8.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Zaki Sugule</a> – in prison until 7/4/13.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Frederick Washington</a> – four cases set for court on 12/20, will request geographic restrictions.</li> </ul> <p>The push for the next couple of months will be to restrict more of these offenders from the area by court order. The geographic restriction area has just been expanded: LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 28<sup>th</sup> St. Four of the offenders on the CLEAN list (<a href="#">Darryl Brooks</a>, <a href="#">Larry Harper</a>, <a href="#">Lynn Love</a>, and <a href="#">Jessica Matt</a>) are already restricted from part of this area and Dixon has requested that five more be restricted. Any offender who violates geographic restrictions can be charged with criminal contempt of court, a misdemeanor. Other initiatives under way include asking officers to issue more judicial release receipts (instead of regular citations) for misdemeanors to chronic offenders. This release form sets a court date about two weeks out and leads to a bench warrant being issued if the defendant fails to appear. Officers also are working closely with rental property managers, especially in the Clinton sector, to enforce trespassing at apartment buildings where drug-related loitering has been a problem.</p> <p>There was a discussion about <a href="#">aggressive panhandling</a>. It is against the law to verbally request money (or to offer an item or service of little value for a donation) <u>in locations including</u> a restroom, within ten feet of a crosswalk, on a public transportation vehicle, a bus or light rail stop, park land or public entertainment venue including within 50 feet of entry/exit, a parked or stopped vehicle, a sidewalk café, entrance to a commercial or government building, within 80 feet of an ATM or financial institution, at or within 10 feet of a gas station, liquor store, or convenience store <u>and in the following ways</u>: involving physical contact; blocking a path or entrance; following a person who said “no” and asking again; using obscene/profane/abusive language; creating fear of bodily harm; threatening a criminal act upon property; intimidating a person; while under the influence of alcohol or drugs; in a group of two or more; after sunset and before sunrise. Call 911 to report an aggressive panhandler. Do not give money to panhandlers; direct them to a meal, shelter, or other social services as requested. Downtown, aggressive panhandling generates the most complaints of any category of crime.</p> <p>There was a question about <a href="#">loitering</a> at bus stops. That behavior in itself is not prohibited. However, under certain circumstances, a person arrested or cited for a crime at a bus stop or on a transit vehicle can be trespassed for a period of time from Metro Transit property by Transit police. A community member recommended leaving the bus shelter on the southeast corner of Franklin &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> as is and not changing its orientation toward the street in order to protect those waiting for a bus from being splashed by passing traffic. This particular corner and bus stop has attracted a large amount of drug-related loitering in the past few months.</p> <p>Over the past month, SSCO submitted community impact statements to the court regarding five chronic offenders: <a href="#">Ahmed Hired</a>, <a href="#">Kathleen Croud</a>, <a href="#">Charles Bailey</a>, <a href="#">Darryl Brooks</a>, and <a href="#">Ronald King</a>. Copies of the statements were passed around.</p> |  |
| <p>Minneapolis Police report – Inspector Matt Clark, CPS Chelsea Adams, Officer Brianna Garman, Officer Jodene Malloy</p> | <p>Matt Clark reported that, with the increase in drug dealing in the area starting in August, 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct beat officers, day and night community response teams, and other officers working overtime shifts at night have worked hard to reduce and eliminate this traffic. The area most affected has been the blocks along Franklin Ave from 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. A majority of those arrested in that area during the past three months have been 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct offenders, who were likely displaced due to the heavy enforcement at and around Peavey Park. A plan to have undercover officers buy drugs on the street in the area in order to take down the drug dealers has been successful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Four offenders have been charged with felonies and warrants have been issued for their arrest: <a href="#">Leroy Thompson</a> (already convicted and serving 36 months in prison), William Vann, <a href="#">Yolanda Bowers</a>, and Kara Collins.</li> <li>▪ Six more felony cases are pending.</li> <li>▪ Warrants have also been issued for six misdemeanor cases.</li> </ul>  | <p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov<br/>673-2819</p> <p><a href="#">CRT</a> line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716 or contact Sara.Metcalf@ci.minneapolis.mn.us</p> |

Using an undercover officer – rather than a confidential informant – to make a narcotics buy increases the likelihood of getting a long prison term for the offender. This plan has been coordinated with the County Attorney’s office and is producing great results.

Chelsea Adams distributed a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during September. There were:

- 4 robberies of person:
  - 9/19, overnight, at 1920 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave in which a victim went to a suspect’s apartment and was robbed by four male suspects of money, a cell phone, a coat, and shoes.
  - 9/19, 10:40 p.m., at 214 East 19<sup>th</sup> St, in which a resident of this building was robbed of a wallet and pushed to the ground while trying to enter by the back door.
  - 9/20, 12:45 a.m., at 1915 Clinton Ave, in which a victim went outside to smoke a cigarette and was stabbed by a known suspect. Gene Whitfield (6/28/76) was subsequently arrested and charged with 1<sup>st</sup> degree aggravated robbery and is in custody on \$50,000 bail.
  - 9/21, 5 p.m., at 18<sup>th</sup> & Nicollet in which a person walking home was struck from behind by an unknown person with an unknown object. The victim lost consciousness and was robbed of i.d. and credit cards.
- 1 aggravated assault: 9/11, 6:30 a.m., at or around Franklin & Blaisdell in which a victim, who had been hit in the head with a bat or pipe, did not want to cooperate with police.
- 1 apartment burglary: 9/9 at 128 East 18<sup>th</sup> St.
- 1 business burglary: 9/28 at Hot Wireless, 1812 Nicollet Ave.
- 2 motor vehicle thefts: 9/5 at 220 East 19<sup>th</sup> St; 9/11 at 232 West Franklin Ave.
- 3 thefts from motor vehicles: 9/14 at 17<sup>th</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup>; 9/25 at 18<sup>th</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup>; 9/28 at 1933 Lyndale Ave.
- 6 other incidents of theft.

Adams distributed information about:

- [Community impact statements](#) (c.i.s.) which can be submitted regarding a particular kind of offense, a specific offender, any criminal case in which a suspect has been charged, and in regard to problems at any licensed business. The statements can be sent to Adams at the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct, 3101 Nicollet Ave, 55408, or to [Chelsea.Adams@minneapolis.gov](mailto:Chelsea.Adams@minneapolis.gov) .
- [Crime prevention resources](#).
- [Crime prevention contacts](#) in the precincts.
- [GovDelivery e-alert](#) system.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct quarterly e-newsletter – contact Adams to subscribe.
- [Aggressive panhandling](#).

Gangchen Bar and Restaurant, 1833 Nicollet Ave, is under new ownership and there are proposals to add conditions to the business’ on-sale liquor license. Anyone who has had problems or concerns regarding this business in the past is encouraged to submit a statement to Adams about the issues.

Due to city regulations, no massage parlors are allowed to operate anywhere in the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Violations can be reported to Adams.

SSCO’s Google maps and lists of arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St, from 9/19/11 to 10/23/11 showed 40 [alcohol-related arrests](#) (26 in 2010), 20 [narcotics-related arrests](#) (20 in 2010), and no prostitution-related arrests (none in 2010). Year to date, there were 179 alcohol-related arrests (284 in 2010), 126 narcotics-related arrests (110 in 2010), and 10 prostitution-related arrests (24 in 2010). For the period from 9/19/11 to 10/23/11, SSCO’s Google maps showed 66 police reports for the [Nicollet corridor](#) (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St), 8 for the [Stevens Square Park area](#) (Stevens Ave to 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, 17<sup>th</sup> St to Franklin Ave), and 58 for the [Clinton sector](#) (3<sup>rd</sup> Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave).

[Crime Prevention Resources](#)

[911 / 311 information](#)

Contact SSCO to receive printed or e-mailed copies of the Google maps, which are updated weekly. The e-mailed versions include links to mugshots of chronic offenders.

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| <p>Priority concerns / hot spots / chronic offenders</p>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Narcotics-related loitering and trespassing in the Clinton sector, especially on and around Franklin Ave – see the Minneapolis Police report above.</li> <li>▪ 110 East 18<sup>th</sup> St – CPS Chelsea Adams contacted the owner of this vacant and boarded property with instructions to remove brush, trim trees, and clean up trash in the parking lot on the west side of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave near the greenway along I-94 where there have been ongoing problems with loitering, drinking alcohol, and trespassing. The owner complied.</li> <li>▪ Stevens Square Park, 1801 Stevens Ave – There was a report about a group of males who regularly loiter at benches in the park, sometimes causing damage to park property.</li> <li>▪ LaSalle community garden, north of 1801 LaSalle Ave – There are reports of periodic loitering in and around the garden, although most people move on after about five minutes. There was a recent incident in which an unknown suspect cut off a copper gas pipe connected to a gas meter at 1801 LaSalle Ave, causing a gas leak which prompted the evacuation of this apartment building.</li> </ul> <p>SSCO’s monthly chronic offender update included cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Larry Harper</a> (21 arrests in the area in the past seven years) – 5/24/11 possession of drug paraphernalia and criminal contempt of court at Franklin &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>; 7/29/11 trespassing and possession of drug paraphernalia at 1929 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave; 8/4/11 littering at 22<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup>; 8/27/11 trespassing at 2011 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. SSCO submitted a community impact statement for these cases.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Ahmed Hired</a> (13 arrests in the area in the past two years) – 6/8/11 possession of liquor in a park and disorderly conduct at 1801 Stevens Ave, Stevens Square Park; 9/2/11 open bottle and disorderly conduct at Franklin &amp; Nicollet; 9/8/11 5<sup>th</sup> degree assault and obstructing the legal process at Franklin &amp; Nicollet. SSCO submitted a community impact statement for these cases.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Eric Vaughn Robinson</a> (12 arrests in the area in the past four years) – 6/28/11 felony obstructing/interfering with the operator of a transit vehicle at Franklin &amp; Stevens.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Lynn Love</a> (12 arrests in the area in the past six years) – 6/28/11 open bottle and consuming alcohol in public at Franklin &amp; Nicollet. SSCO submitted a community impact statement for this case.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Deandre Austin</a> – 8/30/11 1<sup>st</sup> degree possession of a controlled substance, 1<sup>st</sup> degree sale of a controlled substance, and fleeing police in a motor vehicle at 2012 Nicollet Ave.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Erik Green</a> (3 arrests in the area in the past five months) – 5/24/11 trespassing, open bottle, and weapons violation at 1831 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave; 9/13/11 tampering with a motor vehicle at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; Clinton.</li> </ul> | <p>Contact SSCO to receive a printed or e-mailed copy of the monthly chronic offender update, which features the outcome of court cases resulting from arrests in the area along with the names of the sentencing judges and mugshots of the offenders.</p> |
| <p>Ward 6 report – City Council Member Robert Lilligren</p> | <p>Robert Lilligren reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <a href="#">Public Technology Institute</a> has recognized Minneapolis at one of the nation’s top ten “citizen-engaged communities”.</li> <li>▪ The <a href="#">Results Minneapolis</a> web site makes it easy to learn how the city is achieving its key service goals.</li> <li>▪ Thanks to the citizens for your patience in dealing with the traffic congestion caused by the recent power outage which affected the timing of <a href="#">traffic signals</a> at 700 of the 800 signal-controlled intersections in the city. The problems have been resolved.</li> <li>▪ The <a href="#">domestic violence conviction rate</a> in Minneapolis has improved by 50% since the city adopted new ways to respond to and prosecute cases as the result of a successful 2008 pilot project in the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct. This approach has received national recognition.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Street sweeping</a> began on 10/25.</li> </ul> <p>The City Council is currently working on <a href="#">2012 budget</a> issues. With a 0% property tax rate increase proposed by the mayor and approved by the Board of Estimate and Taxation, 2012 will be the most painful year yet for budget cuts. The good news is that the <a href="#">police and fire pension funds</a> have agreed to merge with a state fund, thus relieving the city of millions of dollars of pension obligations starting in 2012. These pension obligations had been driving the recent annual property tax increases.</p> <p>A community member asked if there were any city grants available to pay the volunteers who currently spend time picking up trash and litter in the neighborhood for free. Lilligren did not know of any grant opportunities: <a href="#">Solid Waste and Recycling</a> funds</p>   | <p>Robert.Lilligren@Minneapolismn.gov</p> <p>673-2206</p> <p><a href="#">Ward 6 web site</a></p>  |

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|   | <p>small grants for <a href="#">anti-graffiti projects</a> but none for cleaning up litter, although the department does sponsor and provide supplies for neighborhood <a href="#">Clean Sweep</a> projects. Hennepin County <a href="#">Sentence-to-Service</a> crews could be brought into the neighborhood to pick up trash. Cleaning up trash and litter is often the first strategy used by citizens trying to regain control of an area and reduce crime and disorder. There was information about a program in Whittier in which residents who are unable to work and receive free housing are encouraged to volunteer to clean up litter or clear snow from corners. Minneapolis Public Housing has a back-to-work program which provides a way for volunteers to help with projects which benefit the community. Minnesota Teen Challenge always provides dozens of volunteers for SSCO's Clean Sweep projects and has sponsored a National Night Out party for the community in Stevens Square Park for the past several years.</p>   |  |
| <p>Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt</p>    | <p>Arlene Storandt reported that, from 9/23 to 10/27, 12 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 27 shifts, contributing a total of 93 hours. Storandt shared some stories from the Block Patrol log.</p>   | <p>Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol.<br/><a href="#">Application and guidelines</a> are at the SSCO web site.</p> |
| <p>Safety coordinator report – Dave Delvoye</p> | <p>The coordinator presented information about the mayor's proposed <a href="#">2012 Police department budget</a>, which includes the elimination of 5 of the <a href="#">18 Crime Prevention Specialist (CPS) positions</a> in the city. One of those positions (in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct) is currently unstaffed. Fourteen of the CPS positions cover neighborhoods within the five police precincts; three are assigned to cultural outreach to the American Indian, Hispanic, and Somali communities in the city; one is part of the Juvenile Diversion program. It is unclear where the cuts would be made and how the CPS program would be reorganized, although many contingency plans are reportedly being considered.</p> <p><a href="#">Crime Prevention Specialists</a> are civilian employees who work with residents, block clubs, neighborhood organizations, and businesses. It is the responsibility of the Crime Prevention Specialists to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recruit and train block leaders to get block clubs started;</li> <li>▪ Maintain block clubs;</li> <li>▪ Present safety and neighborhood livability information to the public;</li> <li>▪ Publish and distribute crime alerts;</li> <li>▪ Promote National Night Out;</li> <li>▪ Resolve complaints about problem properties;</li> <li>▪ Respond to crime trends.</li> </ul> <p>There are currently two Crime Prevention Specialist positions in the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct serving 20 neighborhoods with a population of just over of 100,000 – 26% of the city's population. Assistant Police Chief Janee Harteau has stated that there are no plans to have less than two Crime Prevention Specialists in the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct. A third position was eliminated due to budget cuts in 2010.</p> <p>The mayor's proposed budget calls for total reductions of \$4.2 million to the Police department, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$1.16 million from the Police Community Engagement program, including the 5 CPS positions and 7 sworn officer positions from the Community Engagement Team;</li> <li>▪ \$1.51 million from the Public Safety Services program, including 9 sworn officer positions;</li> <li>▪ \$1.76 million from contractual services in all programs including 3 positions.</li> </ul> <p>The proposed 2012 Police department budget of \$134.5 million is a 1.3% decrease from 2011. 24 staff positions would be eliminated, including 5 CPS positions, 17 sworn officer positions, and 2 managerial positions. The sworn positions would be reduced through attrition and reassignment. If the proposed budget is approved, Police department staffing will have declined 11.4% since 2009, from 1,092 FTE (full-time equivalent) in 2009 to the proposed 968 FTE in 2012.</p> |  |

The coordinator reported that the proposal to eliminate the Crime Prevention Specialist positions is simply an effort to cut dollars from the budget and is not being driven by any existing plan to reorganize or improve the CPS program. Cuts to the CPS program would likely be accomplished by laying off those in the program with the least seniority, which includes 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct CPS Chelsea Adams and Amy Lavender.

Robert Lilligren explained that the mayor has moved toward priority based budgeting for the 2012 budget, but in a hybrid way that makes it difficult for City Council members, department heads, and citizens alike to understand exactly what is being proposed, especially in terms of staffing. This approach – combining the old business lines with the new program categories – has produced a distressing amount of inaccuracies, instances where the numbers don't add up, and obstacles in comparing proposed 2012 budget expenditures with those of previous years. In regard to cutting Crime Prevention Specialist (CPS) positions in the Police department, this has become an annual discussion, with various cuts to the program having been proposed and made over the past decade. Part of what's driving this is the shrinking amount of federal Community Development Block Grants, which has been used to fund CPS positions. A core group of City Council members is committed to maintaining the CPS program, highly values those who do the job, and will try to find alternate funding in order to retain the positions which are proposed to be eliminated. There is strong interest in solving the immediate problem, but finding a long-term funding source for the CPS program will be a challenge. Lilligren can advocate on this issue with other Council members, but neighborhoods need to unite and make their voices heard, too. The city's goal for a long time in the face of budget shortfalls has been to try to keep sworn officers on staff at all costs. This usually means that civilian positions in the Police department – including the Crime Prevention Specialists – have the lowest priority and therefore tend to be sacrificed in order to achieve that goal.

Matt Clark stated that he works with the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Crime Prevention Specialists every day, that they provide important services to both the department and the community, and that the two persons currently in those positions are among the best in the city and do a phenomenal job.

The committee was in agreement that this is an important issue that directly affects the safety of the neighborhood. Committee members praised and thanked Adams for all of the work she does on behalf of the neighborhood; the CPS job description above does not begin to describe all of the crucial services that she provides to community members. There was a discussion about how SSCO could help prevent the budget cuts and keep the CPS positions staffed. Suggestions included:

- Ask SSCO to write a letter in support of keeping the CPS positions funded and staffed.
- Ask citizens to write individual letters or e-mails of support to the mayor and all City Council members.
- Provide talking or writing points to those who want to express support.
- Coordinate with other neighborhoods to express support. The executive director is already working on this.

**On a motion by Howard Penas, seconded by Eddie Chambers, the committee recommended that the SSCO Board write a letter to the Mayor and City Council members asking that they maintain the current level of staffing for Crime Prevention Specialist positions in the 2012 Police department budget.**

The remaining public hearings on the 2012 Minneapolis budget are set for 11/30 (6:05 p.m.) and 12/14 (6:05 p.m., followed by vote to adopt the budget).

Having run out of time on the agenda, the coordinator asked the committee to table discussion of changes proposed by the Board to the guidelines of the Building Safety Improvement program which the committee approved at the 10/27 meeting.