

**Next SSCO Safety Committee meeting:
Thursday, December 18, at 6:00 p.m.
Loring Nicollet Center, 1925 Nicollet Ave
For more information, visit www.sscoweb.org or call (612) 874-2840.**

**SSCO SAFETY COMMITTEE
Notes from the meeting of November 20, 2008, at 1925 Nicollet Ave.**

PRESENT Ken Strobel, co-chair; Robert Lilligren, Ward 6 City Council; Susan Segal and Lisa Godon, City Attorney's office; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Jennifer McDonald, Restorative Justice Community Action; Molly McCarthy, Stevens Supportive Housing; Don Lepper, Lydia Apartments; John Martin, UPi Property Management; John Ryser, Jeanne Krueger, Arlene Storandt, Judy Austin, Maureen Wells, Jessica Hayssen, Bonnie Bona, Melinda Langer, Laura Blue Bird, Mary Gunderson, Robert Fischer, Jerry Paulson, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- SSCO community meeting, November 22, 10 a.m. to noon, Plymouth Church.
- Light Up Loring Park, December 10, 6 to 8 p.m., 1382 Willow St.

CITY ATTORNEY SUSAN SEGAL

City Attorney Segal introduced herself and said that she was excited to attend the meeting. She said that Council Member Lilligren talks up this committee and that 5th Precinct community prosecutor Lisa Godon says that that this committee does great work as an organization and is a model which others try to replicate. Segal said that she's been on the job almost eight months and is still learning the office. She said she enjoys coming to neighborhood meetings and meeting people in the community. Segal said that SSCO plays a key role in helping law enforcement and prosecutors get better results, such as getting geographic restrictions for offenders who commit crimes in the neighborhood. She said that she has enjoyed getting to know and work with Council Member Lilligren, whom she characterized as a calm, thoughtful, and effective leader.

Segal described the City Attorney's operations, which employ 100 people, including 60 lawyers, half of whom work in the Criminal division. She said that the Criminal division prosecutes misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors, and that the County Attorney's office prosecutes felonies and juvenile offenses. She said that the Criminal division has been very busy, handling an anticipated 30,000 cases this year. Segal said that due to the huge caseload, priorities have to be set. For example, seven attorneys are assigned to prosecute domestic violence cases and three to prosecuting the cases of the top 200 chronic offenders. She said that judges take these cases seriously and that community impact statements make a difference. Segal said that prosecutors have a number of tools which they can use to get better outcomes for the community, including court-ordered geographic restrictions and enhanced sentences for repeated trespassing violations. She said that she is very supportive of the community prosecutor program, which assigns a prosecutor and a paralegal to each police precinct in the city. Segal said that the community prosecutors work with police and the community to get better results. As an example, she spoke about the successful 5th Precinct domestic assault pilot project, which has already exceeded its goal of getting convictions in 60% of the cases charged this year; the conviction rate so far is 79.5%. Segal said that Godon has worked with officers to help improve their methods of investigating and reporting these crimes, which can be charged with or without the assistance of the victims. She said that the officers can see the results, and that the project will be expanded to the 3rd Precinct next.

Segal said that the Civil division does most of the legal work for the City. She said that this is a hard-working group which has taken on some important mortgage foreclosure cases, including the successful lawsuit against T J Waconia. Segal also spoke about the great work being done on the recount of votes for the U.S. Senate race by the City Elections director and staff.

Segal said that the City is putting together its agenda for the 2009 legislative session, which includes making changes to the laws regarding prostitution. Lilligren said that Segal, who started her job as department head in

February, works at the executive level at City Hall but is always aware that she is working for the community. He said that Segal has been eager to meet with neighborhood groups and embraces community crime prevention.

Strobel asked about community impact statements, and said that the committee is frustrated when the statements submitted by staff on its behalf are not taken seriously by judges. Segal recommended that the statements be tailored to individual cases and that community members appear in court at sentencing to present them. McDonald asked whether it's appropriate to submit general statements about the impact of the crime, without knowing details about the offender. Godon said that there are two kinds of community impact statements, one focusing on the offender, the other on the offense, and that both are valuable to prosecutors. Strobel spoke about his experience at the sentencing of level 3 sex offender Damon Moore earlier this year, in which the judge threw out a lenient plea agreement after hearing the concerns of community members and imposed a stiffer sentence. Segal suggested inviting judges to attend community meetings in order to educate them about the residents' problems and concerns.

COMMUNITY PROSECUTOR REPORT – Assistant City Attorney Lisa Godon

Godon distributed copies of the CLEAN sheet, a list with mugshots of the 5th Precinct's top 30 offenders which is updated weekly with court conditions, appearance dates, and warrant and custody information. The CLEAN sheet is available at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/docs/Pct5CLEAN.pdf> Godon said that seven offenders had just been removed from the list and seven added, four of whom are active in Stevens Square: Osman Afrah, Ahmed Hulbale, Darryl Brooks, and Kenneth Nickaboine. She said that CLEAN sheet offender Pamela Beaulieu was ordered to report to the workhouse today to serve 45 days; if Beaulieu fails to report, she instead has to serve 90 days. Godon said that Beaulieu also has a new prostitution case. She said that there are now seven Somali offenders on the CLEAN sheet, and she mentioned recent news reports regarding problems with gangs and homicides in the Somali community.

MINNEAPOLIS POLICE REPORT and COMMUNITY PROBATION REPORT – Probation Officers Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen

Godon distributed material provided by Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams. The following violent crimes were reported in the neighborhood in October:

- 4 robberies of person – October 7, inside 1912 3rd Ave, in which shots were fired (no one was injured) as two suspects robbed a person during a drug deal; October 16, at Franklin & Nicollet, in which two suspects were arrested following a strong-arm robbery; October 26, at 18th & 2nd, in which a suspect was arrested after grabbing a female victim who was sitting in a vehicle and stealing her purse; October 28, at Franklin & 1st, in which a suspect stole a victim's purse and fled in a nearby vehicle.
- 1 incident of criminal sexual conduct – October 8, at 1820 4th Ave, in which officers took a report from a victim at HCMC.

Godon said that, in general, crime appeared to be low in the area. Wells asked why, and Schwalen said that a lot of the violent offenders have been caught during the past six months and are in custody. Harrington said that she has been in court a lot lately, especially for robbery cases which occurred last summer, and that the offenders are going to jail or prison. Schwalen and Harrington both said that their clients often get longer sentences for misdemeanors than for felonies, and thanked the City Attorney for the great work done by prosecutors such as Godon. Schwalen said that, in regard to budget cuts for County Corrections, the administration says that community probation is not going away, for now.

The coordinator made available copies of Google maps and lists of arrests for livability crimes in an area encompassing Stevens Square-Loring Heights and the section of Whittier from Franklin Ave to 24th St. For the period from October 20 to November 16, there were 19 alcohol-related arrests (27 last year), 6 narcotics-related arrests (30 last year), and 7 prostitution-related arrests (7 last year). Year to date, there have been 342 alcohol-related arrests (373 last year), 152 narcotics-related arrests (211 last year), and 24 prostitution-related arrests (18 last year). The coordinator said that most of the recent prostitution arrests occurred at night along Franklin Ave from 3rd Ave to 4th Ave. He made available copies of Google maps and summaries of police reports of incidents and arrests in specific areas. For the period from October 20 to November 16, 27 reports were generated in the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave) and 58 in the Nicollet corridor

(LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St). All of these reports, updated weekly, are available in text format on the crime information page at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Crime_Information/ To receive e-mailed or printed copies of the Google maps, contact Dave at 874-2840 or dave_ssc@yahoo.com

The coordinator made available copies of the MPD 2008 neighborhood policing plan, which can be found at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/docs/StevensSquareLoringHgtsPolicingPlan2008.pdf> The 2008 police strategies for Stevens Square-Loring Heights include reducing burglaries, targeting livability enforcement in specific areas, and working to implement a safety/security camera system along Nicollet Ave. The coordinator said that CPS Adams is asking that the committee identify its concerns and priorities for the 2009 neighborhood policing plan. This item will be on the agenda for the December 18 meeting.

The coordinator made available copies of the 311 top requests for service in the neighborhood in October. There were 32 complaints about graffiti (100% on-time response), 14 about parking violations (86% on-time response), 6 about exterior nuisances (100% on-time response), 6 about residential conditions (100% on-time response), and 4 about abandoned vehicles (75% on-time response). 311 will provide this report monthly.

PRIORITY CONCERNS / HOT SPOTS / CHRONIC OFFENDERS

- Laundry room break-ins – There was one report of a laundry room burglary in the past month, at 1926 3rd Ave, a building which had a similar break-in the month before.
- Security issues at Franklin & Nicollet businesses – There was a discussion about various problems – including shoplifting, loitering, and trespassing – at some of the retail stores on the corner and the way they are handled by the businesses. Council Member Lilligren said that Business Licensing might be able to address some of the problems if there are enough complaints from the community. A community member said that civil liability issues may come into play if injury results from a business neglecting to provide a safe environment.

WARD 6 REPORT – City Council Member Robert Lilligren

Council Member Lilligren congratulated the committee on its success, and said that lots of good work over the years appeared to be paying off. He said that a number of factors were contributing to the neighborhood becoming safer, including the great work of the probation officers and community prosecutor and the new demographic of owners who are investing in the area. Lilligren said that the 311 report is a great tracking tool and encouraged community members to use 311 to report problems and get information. He said that Minneapolis was the top city in its category for National Night Out participation this year, with over 60,000 residents taking part in over 1,100 events. Lilligren spoke about the new skyway-level Block E Safety Center downtown. He reminded residents that the deadline for removing political campaign yard signs – those promoting the election of individuals, not those advocating for a cause – was November 14. Lilligren said that the City is providing information on support and training for dislocated workers: call 673-6230 or 311. He said that the successful and popular Step Up program, a public-private partnership which provides summer jobs for young people (ages 14 to 21), is recruiting participants for next year; call 311 for further information.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMUNITY ACTION REPORT – Executive Director Jennifer McDonald

McDonald said that she recently met with staff from the 5th Precinct; officers continue to give program information and direct referrals to eligible offenders in the area. She said that, overall, court referrals to the program were down due to changes in the City Attorney's office.

BLOCK PATROL REPORT – Judy Austin

Austin reported that, from October 24 to November 19, 13 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 15 shifts, contributing a total of 61 hours. Five shifts were cancelled. Block Patrol teams spent eight hours on Election day reminding residents to vote and directing voters to the polls. Teams stood on street corners from noon to 8 p.m., holding "Vote Today" signs. Austin shared some stories from the Block Patrol log.