

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – December 10, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Ken Strobel, co-chair; Robert Lilligren, Ward 6 City Council; Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Chelsea Adams and Amy Lavender, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Molly McCarthy, Stevens Supportive Housing; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Arlene Storandt, Deb Munter, Frank Anderson, Robert Fischer, Jerry Paulson, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye

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Meeting agendas and minutes are at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Agendas_and_Minutes/

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements – contact SSCO to volunteer or for more info	There were no announcements.	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 1/28, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

<p>Ward 6 report – City Council Member Robert Lilligren</p>	<p>Robert Lilligren announced that, for the seventh time in the past nine years, Minneapolis won National Night Out’s top award for citizen participation in cities with populations greater than 300,000.</p> <p>On 12/7, the City Council approved its budget for 2010, which includes over \$100 million in spending cuts. Thanks to a recent court ruling regarding pension fund obligations, the property tax increase will be lower than anticipated. The Council used cash reserves and funds reallocated from other programs to plug an \$8 million hole in the MPD budget. To deal with the budget shortfall, the Police chief had recommended, among other things, that the Crime Prevention Specialist positions and the mounted patrol be eliminated. After a public outcry, the Council managed to save the mounted patrol (used for crowd control downtown) and 18 of the 21 Crime Prevention Specialist jobs in the CCP/SAFE unit, which leverages thousands of volunteer hours and helps provide citizens with a way to take ownership of safety issues on their blocks and in their neighborhoods. Funds for staff in the City Attorney’s office to support restorative justice programs was cut 50%, but at least some of the resources remain. The Council tried to protect funding for public safety and economic development (especially for small businesses) as much as possible.</p> <p>Lilligren responded to questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Did the Council cut its own budget while sacrificing police staff? The Council cut \$30,000 from its operating budget and had eliminated five staff positions in previous years. ▪ Are there more budget cuts to come? Considering the uncertain economic times, an expected 20% to 25% drop in property tax revenue due to declining values will affect the 2011 budget. The State is predicting a budget shortfall of \$5.5 billion over the next three years, which could lead to a further loss of local government aid. The US government, through community development block grants (CDBG), has become a stronger partner with Minneapolis, although the grants, which are competitive, require certain ongoing financial commitments from the City. The grants are a fairly reliable annual source of income and can be used in a flexible way. For example, CDBG funds were shifted from the Affordable Housing trust fund to the Police department to save the Crime Prevention Specialist positions. ▪ With over 50% of the property in the city off the tax rolls for various reasons, how can some of this lost revenue be captured? In the past few years, the City has decided to collect various fees (such as for street lighting and storm water management) from nonprofit organizations. There is no similar fee related to the use of public safety services. Residents of Nicollet Island, which is technically Park Board land, pay a fee in lieu of property taxes. The Downtown Improvement District (DID) pays about \$6 million per year for special services in the central business district, including holiday lighting. <p>There was a discussion about a vehicle arson incident in the neighborhood on 12/4 and how the Fire and Police departments respond to and investigate such crimes. The standard procedure is for Fire department staff to respond to the scene, determine whether arson is suspected, and if so, write and forward an initial report to a Police arson investigator who opens and conducts a criminal investigation. No squad is dispatched to the scene unless there are special circumstances, such as the presence of witness(es) who observed the crime or saw suspect(s) fleeing the area.</p>	<p>Contact info: Robert.Lilligren@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2206</p>
<p>Community Probation report – Probation Officer Jean Schwalen</p>	<p>Jean Schwalen reported that she will supervise two new clients who are on the 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kenneth Nickaboine, who will be released from the workhouse on 12/15. ▪ Judy Peters, who was sentenced to a year and a day for 4th degree assault of a police officer and will be furloughed from the workhouse to a treatment program. <p>The neighborhood appears to be relatively quiet. Businesses which recently moved from 19th & Nicollet, including Anthony Shane Florist and Blasted Art, will be missed.</p>	<p>Contact info: Jean.C.Schwalen@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8212</p> <p>Bobbi.Harrington@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8075</p>

<p>Minneapolis Police report – CPS Chelsea Adams, CPS Amy Lavender</p>	<p>Chelsea Adams confirmed that the neighborhood seems to be pretty quiet. She provided a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during November. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 robberies: 11/7, midnight, at 1929 3rd Ave in which a victim got out of his car, approached this apartment building, and was assaulted by three male suspects who stole his wallet and cell phone; 11/9, 7:20 p.m., at the Family Dollar Store at 1816 Nicollet Ave in which a suspect aimed a handgun at a clerk and demanded money; 11/27, 11:25 p.m., at Franklin & 2nd in which a victim who refused to give a suspect money was hit on the back of the head with an unknown object. ▪ 1 aggravated assault: 11/1, 1 a.m., at 1805 1st Ave, in which a male (Harlan Curtis Williams, 7/9/85) who was passed out in a hallway of this apartment building became aggressive and spit on an officer who attempted to wake him and bring him home. ▪ 2 burglaries: 11/11 at 1829 3rd Ave in which a suspect forced entry to a common area of this condo building by prying an entry door; 11/17 at 1706 2nd Ave in which a next-door neighbor ended up asleep in the wrong apartment. ▪ 3 thefts from motor vehicles: 11/10 at 300 Ridgewood Ave; 11/17 at Franklin & Lyndale; 11/23 at 18th & 1st. <p>Statistics for the first 11 months of the year show that the total number of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood dropped over 16%, from 246 in 2008 to 205 in 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Homicide: 0 in 2008, 1 in 2009 ▪ Rape: 8 in 2008, 6 in 2009 (-25%) ▪ Robbery: 17 in 2008, 19 in 2009 (+12%) ▪ Aggravated assault: 27 in 2008, 16 in 2009 (-41%) ▪ Burglary: 47 in 2008, 32 in 2009 (-32%) ▪ Theft: 120 in 2008, 110 in 2009 (-8%) ▪ Auto theft: 27 in 2008, 20 in 2009 (-26%) ▪ Arson: 0 in 2008, 1 in 2009 <p>There may be some changes coming in 2010 in the way that the SAFE program (which includes the Crime Prevention Specialists) and the community response team (CRT, which investigates narcotics complaints) are structured and organized. More information will be forthcoming.</p> <p>SSCO's Google maps and lists of arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, from 11/9/09 to 12/6/09 showed 28 alcohol-related arrests (10 in 2008), 5 narcotics-related arrests (5 in 2008), and 0 prostitution-related arrest (1 in 2008). Year to date: 385 alcohol-related arrests (351 in 2008), 134 narcotics-related arrests (157 in 2008), and 33 prostitution-related arrests (24 in 2008). For the same period, SSCO's Google maps showed 11 police reports for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave) and 37 for the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St). Information in text format is at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Crime_Information/index.htm</p>	<p>Contact info: Chelsea.Adams@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2819</p> <p>Marie.Przynski@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5595</p> <p>Contact SSCO to receive printed or e-mailed copies of the Google maps, which are updated weekly. The e-mailed versions now include links to mugshots of chronic offenders.</p>
<p>Priority concerns, hot spots, chronic offenders</p>	<p>1912 3rd Ave – There are reports of drug dealing at this apartment building. http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/docs/drughouseinfo.pdf</p> <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update featured cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Walter Bray: 9/24/09 trespassing at 2124 Garfield Ave. ▪ Inez Green: 9/13/09 felony narcotics violation and possession of drug paraphernalia at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ Vernon Lee: 4/14/09 consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & 1st. 	<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>

Restorative Justice Community Action report	Community conferences to address livability offenses in south Minneapolis neighborhoods are scheduled for 1/19 at 5:30 p.m. and 3/4 at 5:30 p.m., locations to be determined. To participate in either of these restorative justice conferences, contact Taryn Runck.	Contact info: Taryn Runck TRunck@rjca-inc.org 746-0784
Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt	<p>From 11/13 to 12/9, 10 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 9 shifts, contributing a total of 40 hours. 10 shifts were cancelled. On 11/21, Block Patrol participated in a “meet and greet” event in Stevens Square Park which was sponsored by the Outreach & Events committee.</p> <p>The Block Patrol guidelines and application are at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Block_Patrol/</p>	Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol.
Community Prosecutor report	<p>Community Attorney Chris Dixon was scheduled to arrive toward the end of the meeting. The committee was a half hour ahead of schedule on the agenda, however, and with no further business to conduct, opted not to wait. The coordinator provided updates on some Stevens Square CLEAN sheet offenders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the workhouse: Walter Bray (7/18/10 release); William Ernst (12/11/09 release); Maurice Giles (12/30/09 release); Jessica Matt (1/9/10 release); Kenneth Nickaboine (12/15/09 release). ▪ Pamela Cobenais was released from the workhouse on 11/27. ▪ Anthony Ford goes to court on 12/21. ▪ Curtis Batton had a court appearance set for 12/9 on four cases and another is scheduled for 12/14 on two more. ▪ Pamela Beaulieu was released from the workhouse on 11/20. She was arrested on 11/25 at Franklin & Nicollet for theft from person. The case is under investigation by the County Attorney’s office. <p>The 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet is at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/docs/Pct5CLEAN.pdf</p> <p>The coordinator passed around copies of community impact statements submitted by SSCO to the court on 11/16 regarding Ronald King and on 11/18 regarding Earlis Robinson. King is in custody on \$1,000 bail pending a court appearance on 12/11. Robinson failed to appear in court and bench warrants were issued for his arrest.</p>	Contact info: Christopher.Dixon@ ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5402

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.