

**Next SSCO Safety Committee meeting:
Thursday, January 22, 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 December 18, 2008, at 1925 Nicollet Ave.**

PRESENT Michele McGaughey and Ken Strobel, co-chairs; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Lisa Godon, City Attorney's office; Taryn Runck, Restorative Justice Community Action; Molly McCarthy, Stevens Supportive Housing; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; John Martin, UPi Property Management; Don Lepper, Lydia Apartments; Arlene Storandt, Katie Dailey, Jerry Paulson, John Ryser, Charles Rosensteel, Bonnie Bona, Judy Austin, Aaron Kocher, Howard Penas, Eddie Chambers, Peter Paszkiewicz, Jennifer Bader, Mary Gunderson, Don Davis, Robert Fischer, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- SSCO is now accepting donations of "good stuff" for the 6th annual neighborhood rummage sale on April 25 & 26. All proceeds benefit SSCO; contact Dave at 874-2840 for further information.
- The 3rd annual Fancy Pants Ball, a fundraiser for SSCO, is set for February 21 at the Van Dusen Mansion carriage house.

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 offender Pamela Beaulieu is in custody, serving a 90-day sentence for 5th degree assault. She said that Beaulieu, who will be released from the workhouse on February 7, also pled guilty to prostitution and was sentenced to serve 90 days concurrent with the assault charge, with an additional 275 days stayed. Godon said that if Beaulieu had reported to the workhouse on the date ordered by the court, she would have had to serve only 45 days. She said that offender Darryl Brooks was in custody for a 5th degree assault on a stranger: he threw rocks at a female and was arrested by the day beat officers. Godon said that Brooks has two prior assault convictions, and a third assault can be charged as a felony. She said that the County Attorney's office, however, won't charge the case because there is no corroborating evidence. Godon said that Brooks is in jail on a Department of Corrections hold; he may be sent back to prison to serve about four months remaining on a previous sentence. She passed around copies of the Court Watch sheets from the Lyndale, Kingfield, and CARAG neighborhoods; that group is following several high profile cases, including the homicide on 1st Ave in Kingfield earlier this year for which two teenage males were arrested and charged. The coordinator passed around copies of SSCO's community impact statement regarding chronic offender Nanette Haghi, who has been arrested in the area 20 times over the past three years, including three times for prostitution and once for loitering with intent to commit prostitution in the past two months. Godon said that Haghi was scheduled to appear in court today, but didn't know yet if that had happened. There was a question about offender Brandon Gales, who was charged with felony simple robbery. Harrington said that Gales was sentenced to 85 days and had served his time and been released.

COMMUNITY PROBATION REPORT – Probation Officers Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen

Harrington said that offender Johnathan Moore will have an active warrant on December 19. The coordinator said that Moore had been cited for trespassing at 1912 3rd Ave in the aftermath of the drug-related robbery and shooting at that building.

MINNEAPOLIS POLICE REPORT – Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams

Adams said that two violent crimes were reported in the neighborhood in November:

- A robbery at the Money Xchange, 12 East Franklin Ave, at 8:30 a.m. on November 3 in which a suspect with a knife robbed an employee who was opening the business.
- An assault at Franklin & Nicollet at 3 p.m. on November 5 in which two juvenile suspects attacked a juvenile victim because they thought he was in a gang.

Adams also provided information about 8 burglaries in the neighborhood in November, including:

- business burglaries at Hot Wireless, 1812 Nicollet Ave, on November 2 and African Market, 1823 Nicollet Ave, on November 11 and 15.
- apartment burglaries at 1900 Clinton Ave on November 10 and 1904 1st Ave on November 14 (possibly a domestic).
- condo burglary at 1720 3rd Ave on or before November 12.
- laundry room break-ins at 1926 3rd Ave on November 13 and 28.

Adams talked about the laundry room burglaries, another of which was reported at 1912 Stevens Ave on December 3, in addition to others on the 33XX block of Fremont and the 24XX block of Aldrich. The coordinator said that there appear to be a number of such burglaries in the neighborhood which have not been reported to police. Adams listed some ways in which laundry room burglaries might be prevented, including using a card system instead of coins, removing coins regularly from machines and posting signs to that effect, locking laundry room doors, and urging residents not to let strangers into the building. She passed around mugshots of two persons who have a history of breaking into laundry rooms: Ernest Lee Baugh and Doris Darlene Brown. There was a discussion about the multiple break-ins at 1926 3rd Ave. Runck said that residents need to make sure that the building security doors latch when entering or leaving, especially during the winter when the latches don't always catch. Davis asked if police recommended that owners install cameras to record and/or deter break-ins. He said that there are advantages to having either hidden or visible cameras. He said that the losses incurred in two laundry room burglaries would cover the cost of purchasing and installing a camera. Rosensteel and Penas said that the video from the cameras in their buildings can be monitored by residents on their TVs.

Adams distributed copies of the 2008 neighborhood policing plan, which is available at

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/docs/StevensSquareLoringHgtsPolicingPlan2008.pdf>

She said that the plan shows the commitment made by police to address the concerns expressed by residents, and what SSCO agreed to do in return. In regarding to staffing the neighborhood beat patrols in 2009, Adams said that Officers Hubert and Jensen have been assigned to the day beat and Officers Vah and Vang to the night beat; she will make sure that the beats are mentioned as a key component of the policing strategy. The coordinator said that he will invite the new night beat officers to attend the January 22 committee meeting if they are on duty that day. Adams said that the performance measures for the 2008 policing plan included a 5% decrease in business burglaries and a similar decrease in burglaries involving no forced entry. She said that, through November, burglaries in the neighborhood are down 9.6% compared to last year. The coordinator summarized the 2008 plan.

2008 SSCO concerns

- Livability crimes, including consuming in public, loitering with intent, and aggressive panhandling.
- Chronic offenders.
- Locations: community gardens, vacant buildings, bus stops.
- Feeling of being unsafe and embarrassed by the level of public disorder.

2008 SSCO commitments

- Continue working with Law Enforcement Group.
- Educate residents about 911, 311, and the CRT line (673-5716, to report ongoing narcotics and prostitution problems).
- Block Patrol.
- Alcohol task force.
- Support the initiative for a police safety/security camera system for Nicollet Ave.
- Monthly Safety committee meetings.

Adams asked the committee to identify the neighborhood concerns to be included in the 2009 plan. She said that if the 2008 concerns were still valid, there was no need to change them. Strobel said that there was a lot of concern expressed over the summer regarding suspicious activity in Stevens Square Park. He said that the increase in problems there might be tied to the absence of Park programming staff, who used to work with kids and keep an eye on activity in the park during the summer. The coordinator said that the Park & Rec Board used to provide two staff to work with kids during the summer, and that the staffing and programming had been completely eliminated over the course of a couple years due to budget cuts. Strobel said that, in order to ensure that the park is safe for everyone, it would be important to either get the Park staff back or find some alternative. Adams agreed to pass along that recommendation for the policing plan, and acknowledged that the Park police are a separate entity whose staffing has also been cut recently.

Adams spoke about some imminent changes within the Police department: SAFE Central is being dissolved and the responsibilities for producing and providing information for the community, performing business security checks, and coordinating National Night Out will fall to the Crime Prevention Specialists in the precincts. She said that the City will continue to sponsor National Night Out.

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 November 17 to December 14, there were 9 alcohol-related arrests (11 last year), 7 narcotics-related arrests (10 last year), and 2 prostitution-related arrests (10 last year). Year to date, there have been 351 alcohol-related arrests (384 last year), 159 narcotics-related arrests (221 last year), and 26 prostitution-related arrests (28 last year). The coordinator made available copies of Google maps and summaries of police reports of incidents and arrests in specific areas. For the period from November 17 to December 14, 13 reports were generated in the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave) and 34 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

PRIORITY CONCERNS / HOT SPOTS / CHRONIC OFFENDERS

- Security issues at Franklin & Nicollet businesses – A community member spoke about the safety concerns of Starbucks Coffee employees and the measures proposed by management to address them, which does not include hiring a security guard to deal with the issues of operating the business in a high crime area. There was a discussion about the problems involved in dealing with intoxicated, drugged, or unruly people on and around the premises. Another community member complained about the drinkers who hang out on the patio area at Starbucks during warmer weather, consuming alcohol and harassing and panhandling other customers and passersby, and asked whether the business has a policy to move them along or trespass them from the property.
- 2020 Nicollet Ave – The coordinator noted that there have been three apartment burglaries in this building in the past two weeks, at least two of which did not appear to involve forced entry.

SSCO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY – Environment committee co-chair Katie Dailey

Dailey said that many organizations have environmental sustainability policies, and that the Environment committee (which does not have a regular meeting schedule yet) is developing one for SSCO. She read the proposed policy to the committee, copies of which were made available. Dailey said that she is presenting the draft policy to every committee, and asked for comments, additions, concerns, and questions. She said that the idea is for each committee eventually to adopt an action plan to address any pertinent issues raised by the policy, and said that the Safety committee, for example, might want to look at ways to cut down on the amount of paper used in its mailings and at its meetings. McGaughey asked whether the committee might present some documents at its meetings using PowerPoint or an overhead projector, although the image might not be visible to everyone in the room. Runck asked if the Google maps were available online. The coordinator said that the maps are not available to the public on the Google map site but that he can e-mail the links to anyone who requests them. He said that SSCO has decided not to link the information to its web site. McGaughey suggested reusing, or recycling, any leftover paper. Dailey said that there may be easy ways to address these

issues and thanked the committee for its suggestions. Contact SSCO at 874-2840 with any further recommendations or comments.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMUNITY ACTION REPORT – Community Coordinator Taryn Runck

Runck reported that the program has not had many cases lately, and that staff is looking for new ideas for the referral process. She said that the good news is that the County will continue to fund the program; she thanked everyone who had advocated on RJCA's behalf. Runck distributed the schedule for upcoming 5th Precinct (January 29, 5:30 p.m.; March 16, 6 p.m.) and 1st Precinct (downtown – January 27, 5:30 p.m.; February 13, noon; February 28, 10 a.m.; March 18, 5:30 p.m.) community conferences and asked anyone interested in participating to contact her at 746-0784. Kocher asked how referrals are made in the 5th Precinct. Runck said that stickers or inserts with program information are often inserted with citation forms. Adams said that the information is given to the beat officers, who then use their discretion to decide whether an offender might qualify for the program and be amenable to restorative justice. She said that this might result in fewer offenders being referred to the program, but that those who were referred would more likely qualify and succeed. Adams said that these direct referrals might be expanded to include other officers and areas in the precinct. Runck said that the court referral system has changed and that sometimes the precincts' referrals standards differ from those of the program. She said that offenders have to meet certain criteria to be eligible for having their charge dismissed at the end of the restorative justice process.

BLOCK PATROL REPORT – Judy Austin

Austin reported that, from November 21 to December 17, six volunteers participated in ten shifts, contributing a total of 25 hours. Seven shifts were cancelled. Austin said that it was an unusually quiet month for Block Patrol, and shared a story from the Block Patrol log.

SAFETY COORDINATOR REPORT – Dave Delvoe

The coordinator said that next month he will present the final report on this year's grant from the City to reduce graffiti in the neighborhood, and will invite several of the volunteers who were involved in the project to share their observations and opinions.

The coordinator said that a recent meeting of SSCO's committee co-chairs produced some questions which were referred to the Safety committee.

- How does the community impact crime?
- How should SSCO document that impact in order to change perceptions about the neighborhood?
- What should SSCO say about how the neighborhood has improved in regard to crime?
- How should SSCO share with the public what the Safety committee – including Block Patrol – does?
- How do residents reduce crime by getting involved?

The coordinator asked the committee members to think about these questions and prepare for a discussion at the January 22 meeting.