

Stevens Square Community Organization

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<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – February 24, 2011, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave

Present: Michele McGaughey and Ken Strobel, co-chairs; Robert Lilligren, Ward 6 City Council; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Matt Clark, Chelsea Adams, Brianna Garman, Aimee Colegrove, and Nick Hwang, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Chris Dixon, City Attorney’s office; Jen Wendland, Whittier Alliance; Lucy Minn, Lupe Development Partners; Rob Helmerich, Rand Management; Diane Hansen, Copenhagen Enterprises; Linda Ferris, Ray Ferris, Sue Crockett, David Crockett, Ray Alex Perry, Maureen Wells, Arlene Storandt, Kandis Storm, Karen Ives, Frank Anderson, Randall Chevront, Eddie Chambers, Charles Rosensteel, John Ryser, Howard Penas, Jerry Paulson, Judy Austin, Cheryl Curtis, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoe (dave_sscoweb@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Art Squared fundraiser, 4/23, at Stevens Square Center for the Arts, 1905 3rd Ave, featuring: live music; beer, wine, and food available for a donation; high quality art (donated by local artists) for sale. Proceeds will be used for 2011 SSCO arts programming in Stevens Square Park, including Cinema & Civics and Red Hot Art. ▪ There have been four incidents of vandalism this year at First Christian Church, 2201 1st Ave. Unknown suspect(s) threw bricks through windows. Church staff, the 5th Precinct, Park police, and Minneapolis Institute of Arts security are on alert. Call 911 to report any suspicious activity. ▪ The Boiler Room Café at 1820 3rd Ave is open for business. <p>Contact SSCO to volunteer or for more info.</p>	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 3/24, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.
Community Probation report – Probation Officers Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen	Bobbi Harrington reported that most of their clients who are on the 5 th Precinct CLEAN sheet are in custody. Jean Schwalen reported that chronic offender Judy Peters was released from prison on 2/23 and is on parole. Peters was convicted of felony assault of a police officer.	<p>Bobbi.Harrington@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8075</p> <p>Jean.C.Schwalen@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8212</p>
Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Chris Dixon	<p>Chris Dixon said that the information compiled by SSCO regarding offenders arrested in the area five or more times per year shows how effective the community’s partnership with law enforcement has been: 9 offenders were arrested here five or more times in 2010, compared to 33 in 2005. Everyone involved deserves credit for this progress.</p> <p>Dixon distributed copies of the 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet. 21 of the 30 CLEAN offenders are active in Stevens Square; 11 are currently in custody or in treatment and 8 were recently released from custody.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patrick Addy has been furloughed to treatment. ▪ Darryl Brooks has been furloughed from the workhouse to treatment. Offenders who have failed treatment in the past are periodically given another opportunity to succeed. Brooks received a 90-day sentence, with 45 days stayed, for a disorderly conduct offense on 2/1/11 at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave. SSCO submitted a community impact statement for this case, requesting that the defendant serve the maximum amount of time in custody if convicted and be restricted from the 	Christopher.Dixon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5402

	<p>neighborhood if conditionally released. Even though Brooks is the top neighborhood offender with 40 arrests in the area in the past seven years and 34 prior convictions in Hennepin County, the court ignored these requests. Dixon will take steps to ensure that impact statements are being used effectively in court and to increase the push for geographic restrictions for 5th Precinct offenders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Walter Bray is cooperating with St Stephen’s regarding housing. ▪ A number of offenders have release dates within the next few months: Michael Jones on 3/7, Ronald King on 4/9, Curtis Batton and Joseph Conklin on 5/19. ▪ Kenneth Nickaboine has been removed from the 5th Precinct list and added to the Downtown 100 list. 	
<p>Minneapolis Police report – Inspector Matt Clark, CPS Chelsea Adams, Officer Brianna Garman, Officer Nick Hwang, Officer Aimee Colegrove</p>	<p>Chelsea Adams distributed a map and list of Part 1 crimes in the neighborhood during January. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 robberies of person: 1/1, 4:20 p.m., 1810 3rd Ave in which three male suspects assaulted a victim and took his wallet; 1/4, 2:05 a.m., at 1915 Clinton Ave in which a male suspect robbed a victim at gunpoint and fled in a vehicle with two other males. ▪ 2 robberies of business: 1/11, 1:05 a.m., at 1703 2nd Ave in which a pizza delivery driver was robbed by male suspects, one with a gun and another with a knife; 1/25, midnight, at 17th & 2nd, in which a pizza delivery driver was robbed at knifepoint by a male suspect. ▪ 2 aggravated assaults: 1/24, 9:10 a.m., at 1807 2nd Ave in which a known suspect threatened a victim and later came back and assaulted the victim; 1/31, 1:15 p.m., 18th & Stevens in which a male suspect hit a vicim on the head with an empty glass bottle following a verbal altercation. ▪ 2 burglaries of dwellings: 1/29 at 220 East 19th St; 1/30 at 1800 LaSalle Ave. ▪ 2 burglaries of businesses: 1/21 at 1845 Nicollet Ave, Net Market; 1/27 at 1814 Nicollet Ave, AM Food Market. ▪ 2 motor vehicle thefts: 1/22 at 1904 1st Ave; 1/31 at 18th & 4th. ▪ 3 thefts from motor vehicles: 1/13 at 18th & 1st; 1/17 at 17th & 1st; 1/26 at 1920 3rd Ave. ▪ 4 other incidents of theft. <p>The Minneapolis Police department is sponsoring two crime prevention presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preventing identity theft and mail fraud, in conjunction with the US Postal Inspection Service, 3/2, 6 p.m., at Temple Israel, 2324 Emerson Ave South. ▪ Preventing burglary, 3/23, 6 p.m., at Temple Israel, 2324 Emerson Ave South. <p>The committee welcomed Inspector Matt Clark, the new commander of the 5th Precinct. He started the job in January and is familiar with a number of the issues facing the neighborhood through his previous experience as a lieutenant in the 1st Precinct. SSCO has a strong, effective partnership with law enforcement which has contributed to the reduction of crime in the area. How residents perceive the neighborhood is the key to stability; if they feel comfortable and safe here, they will stay and get involved.</p> <p>In response to a question about a recent private study which characterized Minneapolis as one of the most dangerous cities in the country, Clark said that the group conducting the study did not use the accepted FBI guidelines on reporting crimes and therefore the data is flawed.</p> <p>In regard to neighborhood inquiries about the 2/16/11 stabbing incident at Gangchen Bar and Restaurant, 1833 Nicollet Ave, Clark said that the business has the attention of police and licensing inspectors. There may soon be a new owner for the business who would have to apply for a liquor license which would give the community and law enforcement an opportunity to express their concerns and advocate for conditions and security measures to address them. There have been complaints that community members don’t feel safe at the restaurant at certain times of day, that the bar often attracts a clientele at night which is perceived as dangerous, and that the business appears to be making most of its revenue from the sale of alcohol, not food, which would be in violation of its license. Clark has been in communication with both the current owner of the business and the person interested in buying it. A licensing investigator is making visits to the site and police officers have been encouraged to conduct licensing</p>	<p>Chelsea.Adams@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2819</p> <p>CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716 or contact Sara.Metcalf@ci.minneapolis.mn.us</p> <p>Crime Prevention Resources</p>

	<p>enforcement there, too. Although licensing enforcement can be a slow process, the city is focused on the problems which have occurred at this business.</p> <p>Reducing robberies and burglaries and making arrests for those crimes is a priority for the precinct. There was an incident this afternoon at Franklin & Nicollet in which day beat Officers Brianna Garman, Aimee Colegrove, and Nick Hwang arrested a suspect in an assault which turned out to be a robbery of person. Thanks to a good witness, who provided an accurate description of the suspect, and good police work, officers were able to make an arrest. The suspect has a long criminal history. Clark responded to questions. Robbery is always charged as a felony. Investigators decide whether an assault is charged as a felony or a misdemeanor based on medical information about the type and severity of injury sustained by the victim. Judges are not part of the law enforcement partnership with the community because they must remain independent for constitutional reasons. The community can try to influence judges' decisions by submitting impact statements and inviting them to attend community meetings to hear neighbors' concerns. Judges are elected officials and can be held accountable by voters. Referencing the Darryl Brooks case mentioned above, Council Member Lilligren noted that impact statements don't always work. Judges don't live in this neighborhood; therefore, it may be necessary to educate them about the effect of livability crimes on the community. Some judges are willing to meet with community members to discuss these issues.</p> <p>Clark invited Linda Ferris to come forward and receive a citizen's award from the Police department for valor. Officer Garman, who responded to the incident, nominated Ferris for the award. This was in regard to an aggravated robbery of person which happened on 1/1/11 in front of 1810 3rd Ave. After calling 911, Ferris demonstrated bravery that showed obvious self-sacrifice in the face of death or serious injury by confronting three aggressive male suspects who were assaulting a victim. Without her intervention, the victim may have sustained far worse injuries and/or death. Ferris was alone and approached the suspects at extreme risk to herself. The suspects stopped the assault and fled. Ferris then went to assist the victim, helping him into her home and administering first aid. Ferris's self-sacrifice demonstrates a commitment to her community and to the citizens of Minneapolis. Clark thanked and congratulated Ferris, and the committee applauded her. Clark and Ferris thanked Garman for submitting the nomination. No arrests have been made in the case.</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 1/24/11 to 2/21/11 showed 6 alcohol-related arrests (18 in 2010), 10 narcotics-related arrests (10 in 2010), and no prostitution-related arrests (2 in 2010). Year to date, there were 9 alcohol-related arrests (32 in 2010), 12 narcotics-related arrests (13 in 2010), and 2 prostitution-related arrests (8 in 2010). For the period from 1/24/11 to 2/21/11, SSCO's Google maps showed 21 police reports for the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St), 6 for the Stevens Square Park area (Stevens Ave to 2nd Ave, 17th St to Franklin Ave), and 14 for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave).</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Priority concerns / hot spots / chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 19th & 3rd – There are still reports of sporadic loitering outside the market at this corner. Police continue to watch the area and stop suspicious persons. ▪ 110 East 18th St – There is a report of a window open or broken out on the 2nd floor of this vacant building along 1st Ave. Residents are encouraged to watch the area and report suspicious activity to 911. ▪ 1800 LaSalle Ave – There are reports of suspicious traffic to a unit in this condo building. Police are working to resolve the problem. <p>There was a complaint about certain property owners in the neighborhood who fail to remove snow and ice from their sidewalks. This is a public safety issue for neighborhood residents who have a difficult time getting around on foot in the winter. The reporting and mitigation process the city has in place is not effective in resolving these problems quickly. The process starts with a call or e-mail complaint to 311 and can take up to seven weeks to produce a result. The city subsequently bills property owners for the cost of clearing sidewalks. There was a suggestion that, if city crews are unable to clear snow and ice from sidewalks in a timely manner, the city should use private contractors instead. Council Member Lilligren agreed that the system is not working well this winter and that the city's efforts are not sufficient. He will look into ways to possibly shorten the response time.</p>	

	<p>Another problem is that, even if property owners clear snow from the corners, plows block the corners up again during the next snowfall.</p> <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update included cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Darryl Brooks – 10/7/10 trespassing at 2119 Pillsbury Ave; 2/1/11 disorderly conduct at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Ronald King – 12/7/10 criminal contempt of court for violating geographic restrictions at 1812 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Maurice Patterson – 9/17/10 public urination at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ Rashid Nur – 12/30/10 disorderly conduct and loitering with intent to buy or sell narcotics at 18th & Nicollet. ▪ Miguel Chaske – 12/11/10 robbery of business and aggravated robbery of person at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave. 	<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 thanked the committee for its excellent work and acknowledged the improvements which have occurred in the neighborhood. He also thanked those who are complying with the winter parking restrictions, which create a difficult situation in the neighborhood.</p> <p>The city is looking for residents to serve on the Charter Commission's redistricting advisory group which will set boundaries for election districts in 2012 and beyond. The application deadline is 3/25/11.</p> <p>City crews have been making temporary patches to potholes in streets since January and are gearing up for one of the worst seasons in years. Report potholes which need to be patched to 311 or online.</p> <p>The city has a new and improved web site for its Municipal Code of Ordinances. The city also has a new web site featuring the names of property owners who have had their rental licenses revoked, properties condemned or demolished, and those who have been ruled ineligible to hold a rental license for five years.</p> <p>The owners of 110 East 18th St, the vacant City of Lakes building, are applying for tax increment financing for the property to help fund their redevelopment plans. 1924 4th Ave, the Silver Building, has been placed on the vacant/boarded property list.</p> <p>Park Commissioner Anita Tabb is prepared to have a conversation about improvements to Stevens Square Park and should be invited to attend an upcoming committee meeting.</p> <p>A meeting is being scheduled to reach agreement on going ahead with the feasibility study for the police safety/security camera system for the area. Inspector Matt Clark has a lot of experience with the camera systems in place downtown. The scope of the project may change from the original plans developed in 2008 and could include mobile cameras as an alternative to fixed-location cameras. More information will be available at the 3/24 committee meeting.</p>	<p>Robert.Lilligren@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2206</p> <p>Ward 6 web site</p>
<p>Restorative Justice Community Action report</p>	<p>Staff passed around copies of a letter of apology from an RJCA client who is a well-known neighborhood chronic offender.</p>	<p>Chanti Calabria CCalabria@rjca-inc.org 746-0784 RJCA web site</p>
<p>Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt</p>	<p>From 1/28 to 2/24, 7 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 15 shifts, contributing a total of 33 hours. Block Patrol completed the first half of its two-month door-knocking campaign to promote SSCO and recruit new volunteers. During this period, Block Patrol teams door-knocked 249 apartments in 11 buildings, spoke with 100 residents, signed up 37 to receive the SSCO e-mail newsletter, and gave Block Patrol applications to 17 residents who expressed interest. Arlene Storandt shared stories from the Block Patrol logbook and passed around copies of the new color publicity poster which was designed by an RJCA client.</p>	<p>Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol.</p> <p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.