

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – February 26, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Ken Strobel, co-chair; Robert Lilligren, Ward 6 City Council; Molly McCarthy, Stevens Supportive Housing; Arlene Storandt, Judy Austin, Deb Munter, Maureen Wells, Laura Blue Bird, Robert Fischer, BJ Siljenberg, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_sscoweb@yahoo.com or 612-874-2840) 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Due to the snowstorm, our law enforcement partners from probation, the police, and the City attorney's office were unable to attend the meeting and instead sent information to share with the committee. A number of other regular participants were also unable to attend.▪ Donations of "good stuff" are being accepted for the 6th annual Stevens Square rummage sale on 4/18 & 4/19. Contact SSCO.▪ A "call for artists" has been issued for the Red Hot Art festival on 6/6 & 6/7. Submissions are due 3/20. Apply online at http://www.redhotart.org	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, March 26, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.
Community prosecutor report	<p>Lisa Godon updated the membership of the 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet, adding three Stevens Square offenders (Brian Balint, Walter Bray, Roderick Horton) and removing one (Robert Henry). There are 12 other Stevens Square offenders still on the sheet: Osman Afrah, Pamela Beaulieu, Darryl Brooks, Pamela Cobenais, Joseph Conklin, Maurice Giles, Tammie Houle, Ahmed Hulbale, Kyle Kawakami, Kenneth Nickaboine, Maurice Patterson, and Earlis Robinson.</p> <p>http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/docs/Pct5CLEAN.pdf</p> <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update included cases involving Pamela Cobenais (1/20/09, consuming alcohol in public and criminal contempt of court at 1815 Nicollet Ave), Randy McNellis (11/17/08, public urination at Franklin & Nicollet), and Nanette Haghi (10/9/08, prostitution at Franklin & Nicollet; 10/29/08, prostitution at Franklin & 4th; 11/6/08, prostitution at Franklin & 3rd; 12/10/08, loitering with intent to commit prostitution at Franklin & 4th).</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.
Minneapolis Police report	<p>Information provided by Chelsea Adams showed that, in January, there were no robberies or aggravated assaults reported in the neighborhood. There were two attempted apartment burglaries, a condo burglary at 520 Ridgewood Ave, a laundry room burglary at 1706 Stevens Ave, and an attempted burglary at CVS Pharmacy, 2001 Nicollet Ave.</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 1/20 to 2/22 showed 18 alcohol-related arrests (14 last year), 13 narcotics-related arrests (19 last year),</p>	Contact SSCO to receive printed or e-mailed copies of the Google maps, which are updated weekly.

	<p>and 1 prostitution-related arrest (7 last year). Year to date: 22 alcohol-related arrests (22 last year), 16 narcotics-related arrests (26 last year), and 1 prostitution-related arrest (12 last year). For the same period, SSCO's Google maps showed 18 police reports for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave) and 31 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/</p> <p>Other news: Stevens Square day beat Officer Steve Jensen is transferring to the Identification Unit downtown; his last day on the beat will be 2/27.</p>	
<p>Priority concerns / hot spots</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1801 2nd Ave – Police and the property manager are working to resolve complaints about drug traffic to an apartment in this building. ▪ 1900 1st Ave – Police and the property manager are working to resolve complaints about drug and prostitution traffic to an apartment in this building. ▪ 1820 4th Ave – The coordinator gave an update on procedures which have been put into place by the property manager to resolve any complaints from the community about problems at this rooming house. He noted that the property manager has been very forthcoming, responsive, and cooperative. 	
<p>Ward 6 report – City Council Member Robert Lilligren</p>	<p>Council Member Lilligren reported that he had met with Ken Strobel and staff and agreed to reconvene the Alcohol task force. He expressed concern that the arrest numbers for alcohol offenses in the area were not going down and that the current strategies don't seem to be solving the problems. Lilligren said that it was important to make sure that Liquor Licensing staff participate in the process. The task force meeting will include an update on the status of the feasibility study for a police camera system on Nicollet Ave. Business Information Services department has postponed the study until 1) a new camera vendor is chosen and 2) a decision is made about whether to monitor all cameras at a central location. There are also unresolved questions about data storage and public access to camera images.</p> <p>Lilligren reported on changes being made to the 2009 City budget and how they will impact public safety. State aid to Minneapolis was cut by \$13 million at the end of 2008, and additional cuts of \$17 million in 2009 and \$18 million in 2010 are expected. An amended City budget will probably be approved in early March, which will take into account potential funding from the federal Economic Recovery Act. The City is focused on keeping its public safety infrastructure (police, fire, regulatory services) intact, but is concerned about maintaining these services at the current level after the one-time federal stimulus dollars are spent. President Obama announced that the stimulus funds had already saved the jobs of 57 Minneapolis police officers, whose positions were in jeopardy due to state aid cuts. The 2009 police budget is facing a \$6.5 million cut, \$5 million of which will be offset by federal money, while \$1.5 million will be saved through non-personnel cuts and closer management of overtime hours. No sworn officers will be laid off. Any cuts to the force of sworn officers would harm ongoing efforts to promote diversity within the police department. The City has also established</p>	<p>The Alcohol task force will meet on 4/1 at 6:30 p.m. To participate, contact SSCO.</p>

	a high-level work group to seek federal grant funding for law enforcement services. Considering the successful investment of public dollars and community effort in inner neighborhoods, City leaders are optimistic that gains in public safety can be sustained under the circumstances.	
Block Patrol report	From 1/23 to 2/25, 13 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 18 shifts, contributing a total of 80 hours. Three shifts were cancelled. Block Patrol directed guests to the Fancy Pants Ball on 2/21. Block Patrol will door-knock Stevens Community Apartments buildings during March and April to recruit new volunteers. There was a discussion about the need for new phones and vests and about the status of the police substation and the search for a new location.	Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol.
Safety coordinator report	The SSCO Board on 2/19 discussed the Good Neighbor pledge in light of questions raised at the January Safety meeting. Ken Strobel said that there were concerns about whether certain businesses which generate complaints should be asked to sign the pledge, and what kind of message it would send to the community if those businesses displayed the Good Neighbor decal. On the other hand, arguments were made that SSCO should look at ways to encourage these businesses to cooperate and become good neighbors. The Board suggested that businesses which sell alcohol and tobacco products be asked to sign a special version of the pledge which would address issues specific to those types of business. The Board referred the matter to the Alcohol task force.	The Alcohol task force will consider changing the language of the Good Neighbor pledge to address concerns about businesses which sell alcohol and tobacco products.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.