

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>

Safety Committee minutes – April 23, 2009, 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; Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Molly McCarthy, Stevens Supportive Housing; Larry Borg, Pillsbury Residence, with four guests; Arlene Storandt, Judy Austin, Maureen Wells, Jeanne Krueger, John Ryser, Jerry Paulson, Jay Damberg, Robert Fischer, Eddie Chambers, Charles Rosensteel, 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 – contact SSCO to volunteer or for more information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4/25 & 4/26, Minneapolis – St Paul Home Tour. Three homes in the neighborhood near 18th & 3rd are on the tour. ▪ 6/6 & 6/7, Red Hot Art festival in Stevens Square Park. ▪ Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park, every Wednesday from 6/10 to 7/15. ▪ 5th Precinct Community Prosecutor Lisa Godon has been promoted to a supervisory position in the Criminal division of the City Attorney’s office and will be leaving the precinct in May. 	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 5/28, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.
Community Probation report	Probation Officer Jean Schwalen said that she’s been issuing warrant after warrant for clients who are not complying with their conditions. Probation Officer Bobbi Harrington spoke about a client who is a fugitive who made the news today.	
Minneapolis Police report – Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams	<p>Adams provided a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during March. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 robberies of person, one at Groveland & Nicollet at 8:08 a.m. on 3/2 in which a suspect grabbed money from a victim who was counting it, the other at 1820 Stevens Ave at 10:22 p.m. on 3/31 in which a suspect with a handgun wrapped in a towel demanded the victim’s money. ▪ 1 aggravated assault, at Rudolph’s Bar-B-Que, 1933 Lyndale Ave, at 1:01 a.m. on 3/1 in which a suspect who was arrested threatened a waitress with a knife. ▪ 1 apartment burglary, at 508 Ridgewood Ave on 3/3. ▪ 1 theft from person, at 18th & Nicollet on 3/9. ▪ 2 motor vehicle thefts, at 1801 1st Ave and 1901 Stevens Ave. ▪ 2 incidents in which license plates were stolen from vehicles parked on the 1800 block of LaSalle Ave. ▪ 1 incident of arson, in which two suspects set fire to a picnic table in Stevens Square Park on 3/30. <p>Ernest Lee Baugh was arrested on 4/15 for a laundry room burglary at 2601 Garfield Ave. Baugh has a history of committing similar crimes. Contact Adams at 673-2819 for information about submitting a community impact statement.</p> <p>Adams provided information about block clubs, which is at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/safe/blockclubs-home.asp</p>	<p>Block leader training, 5/12, 6:30 p.m., 5th Precinct, 3101 Nicollet Ave. Call 673-5407.</p> <p>5th Precinct open house, 5/14, 5 to 7 p.m., 3101 Nicollet Ave.</p> <p>Contact SSCO to receive printed or e-mailed copies of the Google maps, which are updated weekly.</p>

	<p>Adams presented neighborhood crime statistics for the first three months of the year. The total number of Part 1 crimes dropped 52%, from 67 in 2008 to 32 in 2009.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Rape</td> <td>3 in 2008, 0 in 2009</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robbery</td> <td>5 in 2008, 2 in 2009 (-60%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aggravated assault</td> <td>13 in 2008, 4 in 2009 (-69%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burglary</td> <td>7 in 2008, 7 in 2009</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Motor vehicle theft</td> <td>7 in 2008, 6 in 2009</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other theft</td> <td>32 in 2008, 12 in 2009 (-62%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arson</td> <td>0 in 2008, 1 in 2009</td> </tr> </table> <p>SSCO received a letter from Police Chief Tim Dolan indicating that the 2008 neighborhood policing plan's goal of reducing burglaries in the area by 5% was achieved, with the actual numbers showing a 9% drop from 57 in 2007 to 52 in 2008.</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 3/23 to 4/19 showed 31 alcohol-related arrests (30 last year) and 12 narcotics-related arrests (18 last year). There were no prostitution-related arrests, compared to 1 last year. Year to date: 76 alcohol-related arrests (76 last year), 39 narcotics-related arrests (61 last year), and 2 prostitution-related arrests (14 last year). For the same period, SSCO's Google maps showed 26 police reports for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave) and 42 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>	Rape	3 in 2008, 0 in 2009	Robbery	5 in 2008, 2 in 2009 (-60%)	Aggravated assault	13 in 2008, 4 in 2009 (-69%)	Burglary	7 in 2008, 7 in 2009	Motor vehicle theft	7 in 2008, 6 in 2009	Other theft	32 in 2008, 12 in 2009 (-62%)	Arson	0 in 2008, 1 in 2009	
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<p>Priority concerns, hot spots, chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Problems at 1900 1st Ave and 1801 2nd Ave are resolved. ▪ 1826 LaSalle Ave – Police and the property manager are working to resolve complaints about drug traffic to an apartment in this building. ▪ 1721 3rd Ave – The owner is working to resolve complaints about suspicious activity at this apartment building. ▪ Stevens Square Park – 5th Precinct and Park police are working to resolve problems in the park during late afternoons and evenings. Call 911 to report any suspicious activity in progress. <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update featured cases involving Larry Harper (2/20/09, consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & Clinton), Lavell Love (3/19/09, felony narcotics violation at Franklin & 3rd), and Pamela Beaulieu (3/31/09, possession of drug paraphernalia at 22nd & Nicollet).</p>	<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.</p>														
<p>Restorative Justice Community Action report</p>	<p>RJCA community coordinator Taryn Runck was unable to attend the meeting due to a last minute scheduling conflict. A community conference dealing with four Stevens Square cases – open bottle (2), public urination, possession of liquor in a park – is set for 6/11 at 5:30 p.m. Call Taryn at 746-0784 if you would like to participate.</p>															
<p>Ward 6 report – City Council Member Robert Lilligren</p>	<p>Council Member Lilligren explained how federal economic stimulus dollars are flowing to Minneapolis and how they can be used. There are ten different pipelines through which the money is being channeled for projects to save energy, upgrade public housing, improve transportation, maintain public safety, and train people for new jobs, among others. Some of the funds come directly to the city, others are accessed through a competitive bidding process. Thanks to these funds, the Police department will not lose any officers, although</p>															

	<p>the money will only cover the funding gap for one year. The city and state are performing well, with projects beginning within five weeks of approval. The process will be a shining example of how to spend these one-time federal dollars in a transparent and accountable manner.</p> <p>Citywide violent crime statistics for the first three months of this year show a dramatic decline compared to 2008: homicide is down 83%, robbery down 35%, and aggravated assault down 16%. There is a clear connection between the drop in crime and the work being done by neighborhood organizations around the city.</p> <p>Lilligren spoke about the three proposed amendments to the city charter (creating a new city administrator position, eliminating the Board of Estimate and Taxation, and eliminating the Park & Recreation Board), how the process of amending the charter works, and the four public meetings scheduled by the Charter Commission to discuss the proposals. More information is at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/charter-commission/</p> <p>The Alcohol task force meeting on 4/1 was well attended and accomplished a lot. The group is dealing with a trend in arrests for alcohol offenses in the area which has reached a plateau compared to the significant declines in narcotics and prostitution arrests. The task force is exploring a number of strategies with businesses, law enforcement, and social service providers, and plans to meet again soon. Maureen Wells praised Lilligren's facilitation of the meeting and his ability to directly express the concerns of his constituents. Charles Rosensteel spoke about a program from the 1970s in which police officers took certain chronic street drinkers to a social service group instead of jail, where they were offered the chance to participate in a two-week crash program to become and remain sober. Over 500 persons were successfully treated in this program. Lilligren said that street outreach workers from the project to end homelessness are able to steer drinkers toward existing treatment programs. In response to a question, Chelsea Adams provided information about the city's ordinance prohibiting aggressive panhandling, which is at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-reporting/AggressivePanhandling.asp</p>	
Block Patrol report	<p>Judy Austin reported that, from 3/27 to 4/22, 8 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 9 shifts, contributing a total of 32 hours. Six shifts were cancelled. These numbers do not include the six shifts during the SSCO rummage sale on 4/18 & 19; the totals for that event were not available yet. A Block Patrol leader attended a Kingfield neighborhood meeting on 4/21 to share information about how to organize and operate a citizens' walking patrol. Block Patrol teams door-knocked three Stevens Community Apartments buildings to recruit new volunteers. One new member joined Block Patrol.</p> <p>Austin modeled one of the ten new Block Patrol vests, and thanked Michele McGaughey for donating them to SSCO. Austin is adding pockets to the vests. Block Patrol's new phones will be in service starting in May.</p>	Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol.
Safety coordinator report	SSCO has applied for a \$4,000 matching grant from Minneapolis Solid Waste and Recycling for a graffiti prevention project which would 1) continue the rapid response approach from last year and 2) purchase a power washer which could be rented at minimal cost by private property owners to quickly remove graffiti from brick walls and other porous surfaces.	

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.