

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>

Safety Committee minutes – June 25, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.



Present: Michele McGaughey and Ken Strobel, co-chairs; Robert Lilligren, Ward 6 City Council; Karen Clark, District 61A State Representative; Don Stickney, Minneapolis 311; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Chris Dixon, City Attorney’s office; Kelby Grovender, Stevens Supportive Housing; Don Lepper, Lydia Apartments; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; John Ryser, Jeanne Krueger, Frank Anderson, Charles Rosensteel, Arlene Storandt, Jennifer Bader, Leeann Phillips, Robert Fischer, Jerry Paulson, Hannah Spencer, 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 info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park, every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. through 7/15. ▪ Stevens Square Farmers Market, Wednesdays starting in July in the Plymouth Church parking lot at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ SSCO is hiring a part-time Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator. ▪ Tillie’s Bean, a new neighborhood coffee shop, will open soon at 1931 Nicollet Ave. 	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 7/23, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.
Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Chris Dixon	<p>Chris Dixon introduced himself as the new 5th Precinct community prosecutor. Dixon has 15 years of experience as a prosecutor, including nine years with the City Attorney’s office and six years with a district attorney’s office in Georgia working on felony cases, including a number involving narcotics trafficking. Dixon stated that he is happy to be here and excited to meet and work with community members.</p> <p>Dixon distributed copies of the 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet, which is at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/docs/Pct5CLEAN.pdf, and provided updates on some Stevens Square offenders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pamela Beaulieu is in the workhouse for a prostitution conviction until 8/12, at which time she is due to appear in court on a 5/22 charge of possession of liquor in a park. ▪ Darryl Brooks fled from an officer after committing crimes at 1801 LaSalle Ave on 6/24 and will be charged by complaint. ▪ Pamela Cobenais is restricted from the area from LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St. ▪ Osbin Davis was released from jail on 6/18 and was due in court today on an open bottle charge. ▪ Tammie Houle appeared in Mental Health Court on 6/13. She is restricted from the area from LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St. ▪ Ahmed Hulbale has had no new arrests since January. ▪ Kyle Kawakami has active warrants. ▪ Ronald King goes to court on 7/6 for an open bottle case. ▪ Rick Martinez goes to court on 7/8 for a theft at 22nd & Nicollet. ▪ Kenneth Nickaboine is in the workhouse until 7/13, then goes to court on a new charge on 7/14. 	Contact info: Christopher.Dixon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5402

	<p>There was a discussion about how to stop other offenders, those who are not on the CLEAN sheet, from committing crimes here. Citizens are encouraged to call 911 to report criminal activity; the police want this information. The City Attorney's office handles between 30,000 and 60,000 cases a year, and therefore, due to this huge caseload, needs to concentrate on prosecuting the worst offenders. The membership of the CLEAN sheet is updated quarterly to include the offenders causing the most problems in the precinct. It appears that the City Attorney's office will lose a number of prosecutors through upcoming budget cuts.</p> <p>The 5th Precinct's pilot project to increase domestic assault convictions has been very successful and is being expanded citywide.</p> <p>Day beat officer Deb Hubert will be out on medical leave during July.</p>															
<p>Community Probation report – Probation Officers Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen</p>	<p>Bobbi Harrington said that she is supervising CLEAN sheet offender Aaron Davis. Jean Schwalen said that Chris Dixon covered most of the probation news in his report.</p>	<p>Contact info: Bobbi.Harrington@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8075 Jean.C.Schwalen@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8212</p>														
<p>Minneapolis Police report – Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams</p>	<p>Chelsea Adams provided a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during May. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 robberies of person: 5/12 at 1 a.m. at 1815 Clinton Ave at gunpoint; 5/13 at 10:25 p.m. at 1808 Stevens Ave at gunpoint and assaulted by five suspects; 5/30 at 11:15 a.m. at 1707 3rd Ave in which an acquaintance punched a victim and stole her purse. ▪ 1 criminal sexual assault: 5/26 at Franklin & Stevens in which a victim was assaulted by a known suspect. ▪ 3 apartment burglaries: 5/12 at 400 West Franklin Ave; 5/13 at 1801 3rd Ave; 5/14 at 1826 LaSalle Ave. A report of a 5/8 burglary at 1904 1st Ave proved to be unfounded. ▪ 1 motor vehicle theft: 5/21 at 1920 Stevens Ave. ▪ 3 thefts from motor vehicle: 5/25 at 1917 Stevens Ave; 5/29 at 18th & 1st; 5/30 at 18th & 1st. <p>Adams presented neighborhood crime statistics for the first five months of the year. The total number of Part 1 crimes dropped 53%, from 113 in 2008 to 53 in 2009.</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Rape</td> <td>4 in 2008, 1 in 2009 (-75%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robbery</td> <td>9 in 2008, 7 in 2009 (-22%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aggravated assault</td> <td>20 in 2008, 4 in 2009 (-80%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burglary</td> <td>17 in 2008, 12 in 2009 (-29%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Motor vehicle theft</td> <td>12 in 2008, 10 in 2009 (-17%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other theft</td> <td>51 in 2008, 18 in 2009 (-65%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arson</td> <td>0 in 2008, 1 in 2009 (a picnic table in Stevens Square Park)</td> </tr> </table> <p>SSCO's Google maps and lists of arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, from 5/26 to 6/21 showed 47 alcohol-related arrests (33 last year), 11 narcotics-related arrests (8 last year), and no prostitution-related arrests (0 last year). Year to date: 188 alcohol-related arrests (154 last year), 69 narcotics-</p>	Rape	4 in 2008, 1 in 2009 (-75%)	Robbery	9 in 2008, 7 in 2009 (-22%)	Aggravated assault	20 in 2008, 4 in 2009 (-80%)	Burglary	17 in 2008, 12 in 2009 (-29%)	Motor vehicle theft	12 in 2008, 10 in 2009 (-17%)	Other theft	51 in 2008, 18 in 2009 (-65%)	Arson	0 in 2008, 1 in 2009 (a picnic table in Stevens Square Park)	<p>Contact info: Chelsea.Adams@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2819</p> <p>National Night Out is Tuesday, August 4.</p> <p>Contact SSCO to receive printed or e-mailed copies of the Google maps, which are updated weekly.</p>
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	<p>related arrests (93 last year), and 5 prostitution-related arrests (15 last year). For the same period, SSCO's Google maps showed 7 police reports for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave) and 58 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>Priority concerns, hot spots, chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1826 LaSalle Ave and 1811 1st Ave – Problems at these addresses appear to be resolved. ▪ 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. ▪ More information is needed regarding reports of suspicious activity at a number of addresses on the 1800 and 1900 blocks of 1st Ave. <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update featured cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ronald King (4/30/09 consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & Nicollet; 5/6/09 possession of liquor in a park at 2200 3rd Ave; 5/13/09 consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & Lyndale; 5/22/09 trespassing at 2001 Nicollet Ave) ▪ Pamela Cobenais (5/21/09 criminal contempt of court at 1814 Nicollet Ave) ▪ Walter Weyaus (4/13/09 possession of liquor in a park at 2200 3rd Ave) ▪ Ahmed Hulbale (11/19/08 possession of liquor in a park at 2200 3rd Ave) ▪ Earlis Robinson (6/8/09 open bottle and trespassing at 2101 3rd Ave) ▪ Pamela Beaulieu (5/22/09 possession of liquor in a park at 2200 3rd Ave) ▪ Darryl Brooks (6/22/09 littering at Franklin & Nicollet) ▪ Osbin Davis Jr (10/1/08 5th degree assault at Franklin & Nicollet; 10/11/08 loitering with intent to buy or sell narcotics at Franklin & Nicollet; 4/3/09 crimianl contempt of court and violating conditions of release at 2020 Nicollet Ave; 4/22/09 consuming alcohol in public and littering at Franklin & 2nd) 	<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>Ward 6 report – City Council Member Robert Lilligren</p>	<p>Robert Lilligren congratulated the committee and the police for the significant drop in crime this year.</p> <p>Lilligren reported on the city's budget situation. The city is facing cuts in local government aid from the state of \$8.5 million in 2009 and an additional \$21.3 million in 2010 as a result of the governor's plan to unallot funds in order to balance the state budget. The city now receives 43% less annually in local government aid than it did six years ago. Anticipating severe cuts from the state, the city eliminated \$17 million from its 2009 budget in January, so no more reductions need to made this year. Federal funds will also offset some of the lost revenue. Citizens are encouraged to closely watch the city's 2010 budget process as priorities are being set. Lilligren's intention is to protect the recent gains made in public safety.</p> <p>The Police department now provides a way to compliment an officer or file a complaint online at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/forms/mpd-citizen-report/</p> <p>The Police department's Fall Citizens' Academy is set for Wednesday evenings from September 9 to November 18. Visit http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/news/fall2009citizensacademy.asp for information. Applications are due 8/1.</p> <p>Stevens Square-Loring Heights has the largest dog population of any neighborhood in the city. Dog owners are invited to take the Canines for Clean Water pledge and bring their dogs out to a special Park Board movie series: http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1146</p>	<p>Contact info: Robert.Lilligren@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2206</p>

	<p>Hennepin County has agreed to act as the public agent to request the sale of bonds for the Minnesota African American Museum at 1700 3rd Ave.</p> <p>Other items discussed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delays in the construction of a Police department DNA lab due to budget cuts. ▪ The mayor’s proposal to eliminate part of the city Civil Rights department – Lilligren does not support this. ▪ Parking issues in the neighborhood and the process of establishing a critical parking area: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/parking/critical/establishing-new-area.asp Parking violations can be reported to 311. <p>There was a suggestion to invite other elected officials, such as the mayor, to attend a community meeting to speak with citizens directly.</p>	
District 61A report – State Representative Karen Clark	Karen Clark reported on the recent legislative session, including the governor’s plan to unallot funds to balance the budget, the loss of additional local government aid, and other ways the outcome will effect the city and especially its low income residents.	Contact info: Rep.Karen.Clark@house.mn (651) 296-0294
Block Patrol report	<p>Arlene Storandt reported that, from 5/29 to 6/24, 6 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 9 regular shifts, contributing a total of 20 hours. One shift was cancelled. In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10 volunteers contributed 48 hours during the Red Hot Art festival on 6/6 & 6/7. ▪ 8 volunteers contributed 23 hours at Cinema & Civics on 6/10. ▪ 7 volunteers contributed 17.5 hours at Cinema & Civics on 6/17. ▪ 6 volunteers contributed 12.5 hours at Cinema & Civics on 6/24. <p>Block Patrol earned \$193 from soda and water sales at these events. Total volunteer hours: 121.</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.
Safety coordinator report	The coordinator reported on a proposal from some Board members to eliminate committee “co-chairs” and instead have the committees each elect a chair and vice chair, similar to the arrangement used by the Board. This may involve designating an appointed seat on the Board for each committee, which would be filled by the chair or vice chair depending on whom is available to attend the meetings. The details would need to be worked out by the Executive committee, the current committee co-chairs, and the Board. Two committee members expressed the opinion that the current co-chairs arrangement, which has been in place for many years, works well and asked why SSCO would want to change a process which is not broken. No one else had any comments.	Contact info: dave_ssc@yahoo.com 874-2840
Using 311 to solve problems in the neighborhood – 311 Director Don Stickney	Don Stickney said that he enjoys attending neighborhood meetings and educating community members about ways to use 311 to alleviate problems. 311 is the number to call for information or services provided by the city. Stickney said that SSCO’s executive director had contacted him last fall with questions about what issues had generated 311 complaints in the neighborhood and whether those complaints could be tabulated. As an example, Stickney provided data regarding the top five service requestes from Stevens Square-Loring Heights for April and May, along with the service goals and percentage of responses meeting those goals. Here are the totals for the issues which generated more than five complaints:	Call 311 for Minneapolis information and services.

April 2009

17 parking violations – 58% of the responses met the 5-day service goal.

6 graffiti reports – 100% of the responses met the 20-day service goal.

May 2009

19 graffiti reports – 100% of the responses met the 20-day service goal.

11 parking violations – 82% of the responses met the 5-day service goal.

City staff constantly looks for ways to improve service response as the number of reports and complaints to 311 continues to grow and citizens become accustomed to using the system, which began in January, 2006. 311 operates Monday through Friday (except on holidays) from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Further information is available at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/311/>. The number of online service requests has risen to almost 10,000 per year. 311 is working to expand service by incorporating information and referrals from more departments. 311 tracks response times against service goals, and looks at whether the goals are reasonable and if/where there are problems in the system which need to be addressed.

Council Member Lilligren said that the data gathered by 311 is valuable in showing how the city is performing and is included in Results Minneapolis, the new web site which provides performance information on the city's key issues: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results/>

Stickney said that 311 plays a key role in the city's emergency preparedness system, too, such as during the 35W bridge collapse and the GOP convention. He asked community members to contact him directly – Don.Stickney@ci.minneapolis.mn.us – if if they are dissatisfied with 311's service and invited the committee to visit the 311 facility at the 3rd Precinct for a tour. In response to questions, Stickney acknowledged that there are still problems with the system which need to be resolved – such as occasionally slow computer response times due to heavy traffic on the servers, and how online reports about parking violations are dispatched to Traffic Control. Some users recommended calling 311, rather than reporting online, to get a faster response. The brochure about when and how to use 911 and 311 is at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/docs/When_and_how_911-311.pdf

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.