

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>

Safety Committee minutes – August 25, 2011, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave



Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Matt Clark, Chelsea Adams, and Aimee Colegrove, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Chris Dixon, City Attorney’s office; Deb Loveland, Minnesota Teen Challenge; Malcolm Williams, Plymouth Church; Kayla Scott, Stevens Supportive Housing; Rob Helmerich, Rand Management; Bjorn Monson, Copenhagen Enterprises; Adam Peterson, Mint Properties; Julian Gray, Fades of Gray; Lucy Minn, Lupe Development; Mary Gunderson, CVS; Arlene Storandt, Randall Chevront, Maureen Wells, Jerry Paulson, Blake Lewis, Jill Ferguson, Eddie Chambers, Sara Avelsgaard, Doreen Foster, Suzanne R., Charlotte Watkin, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoe (dave_ssco@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
<p>Announcement</p> <p>Contact SSCO to volunteer or for more info.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stevens Square Farmers Market, every Wednesday from 2:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Plymouth Church parking lot at Franklin & Nicollet. 	<p>Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 9/22, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</p>
<p>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Chris Dixon</p>	<p>Chris Dixon distributed copies of the 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet and updated the committee on some of the offenders active in Stevens Square, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Darryl Brooks – reappeared in the area this past week. ▪ Larry Harper – four cases set for court on 9/14. ▪ Ronald King – new court-ordered geographic restriction from the area. ▪ Lynn Love – eight active bench warrants. ▪ Jessica Matt – in custody, hold without bail pending a 9/19 court appearance for five cases. ▪ Randy McNellis – six active bench warrants. ▪ Maurice Patterson – active bench warrant. ▪ Duane Roy – arrested for twelve bench warrants, goes to court on 11/14. ▪ Frederick Washington – four active bench warrants. ▪ Walter Weyaus Sr – in the workhouse until 9/13. <p>The CLEAN sheet roster will be updated on 9/1. Some offenders who have been inactive will be removed from the list to make room for new offenders who are causing problems. In response to a question, Dixon explained that the Hennepin County district court’s policy committee rejected a request last year from the City Attorney’s office to allow offenders to be booked in the jail and held on bail for misdemeanor consuming alcohol in public and loitering with open bottle. SSCO had asked Dixon to pursue this issue and submitted a letter in support. The intent was to give officers the discretion to arrest (instead of cite and release) chronic offenders for these offenses.</p>	<p>Christopher.Dixon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5402</p>
<p>Minneapolis Police report – Inspector Matt Clark, CPS</p>	<p>Chelsea Adams distributed a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during July. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 rape: 7/12, 9:30 p.m., in the vicinity of 19th & 1st in which a victim told a friend that she had been raped. This case is under investigation although very little information is available. ▪ 3 robberies: 7/3, 3:10 a.m. at an address on the 300 block of East 18th St in which a victim was robbed by three 	<p>Chelsea.Adams@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2819</p>

Chelsea Adams,
Officer Aimee
Colegrove

male suspects, two of whom displayed handguns and one of whom – Calvin Rallings – was later arrested; 7/13, 11:35 p.m. at Franklin & 3rd in which a suspect – John Robert Lacy – hit a victim with a fireplace poker after demanding money and was arrested; 7/28, 1:55 a.m., in the alley behind 1900 1st Ave in which five male suspects followed and assaulted a victim and stole the victim’s phone.

- 2 aggravated assaults: 7/6, 5 a.m., at Franklin & 4th in which acquaintances got into a fight and a suspect – Jeffrey Cates Annette – stabbed a victim and was arrested; 7/29, 5:20 a.m. at 18th & 3rd in which a victim, who was assaulted by a suspect known to him, refused to provide information to police.
- 3 aggravated domestic assaults.
- 6 burglaries: 7/9 at 1801 3rd Ave; two on 7/15 at 1815 1st Ave; 7/18 to 7/21 at 1800 4th Ave; 7/19 at 1900 3rd Ave; 7/29 at 610 West Franklin Ave in which a suspect broke into the underground parking garage.
- 8 thefts from motor vehicles: 7/8 at 17th & 1st; 7/25 at 1920 LaSalle Ave; 6 incidents on 7/29 in the underground parking garage at 610 West Franklin Ave.
- 0 motor vehicle thefts.

Between 7/13 and 8/3 there were 9 burglaries of secured underground parking garages in the 5th Precinct, including 610 West Franklin Ave (see above), 9 West Franklin Ave (Greenleaf Lofts), and 22 East 22nd St. In each burglary, vehicles were broken into and items stolen. In total, there were 52 theft from motor vehicle or damage to property crimes committed. Adams provided information about serial burglar [Charles Medgar Hall](#) who has been charged with 2nd degree burglary in an incident on 7/23 in which an underground parking garage on the 2400 block of Pillsbury was broken into and six vehicles parked inside were damaged and items were stolen. Community impact statements regarding Hall can be submitted by 9/12 to 5th Precinct Paralegal Elizabeth.Clark@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

There was a question about how to contact condo associations regarding problems at condo buildings. It is often difficult to determine who is the contact person for an association and whether the association has a property management company. Some information might be posted in the entryway or by the mailboxes in the building, but it may not be accessible to the public.

Adams reported that Mark Christopher Bell, a notorious scam artist who operates in the neighborhood, other parts of south Minneapolis, and some of the southern and western suburbs, was recently arrested at 18th & Nicollet for aggressive panhandling plus 9 bench warrants for failing to appear in court. Bell was initially held on \$18,000 bail for 39 charges, but a judge reduced bail to \$25 and he was released. A request for community impact statements will be issued soon.

Since the 3rd Precinct began cleaning up Peavey Park and Franklin & Chicago in July, there has been a large increase in drug-related loitering and trespassing in Stevens Square, especially along Franklin Ave and adjacent blocks. For example, in the past month there have been 34 narcotics-related arrests or citations in the area (24 of them in a three-block area of the Clinton sector) compared to 14 during this period a year ago. The high arrest numbers show the impact of the 5th Precinct’s plan to counter the influx of criminals into the neighborhood, which includes extra patrols focused on narcotics and livability crimes; sharing information with landlords and enforcing No Trespassing signs; temporarily placing mobile cameras at Franklin & 3rd and Franklin & Nicollet; increasing proactive vehicle stops; and identifying and arresting chronic 3rd Precinct offenders who are now operating here. The beat officers, day CRT, and night CRT have played key roles in this strategy.

[CRT line](#) (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716 or contact Sara.Metcalf@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

[Crime Prevention Resources](#)

[911 / 311 information](#)

	<p>SSCO's Google maps and lists of arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, from 7/25/11 to 8/21/11 showed 22 alcohol-related arrests (29 in 2010), 34 narcotics-related arrests (14 in 2010), and 2 prostitution-related arrests (7 in 2010). Year to date, there were 110 alcohol-related arrests (224 in 2010), 86 narcotics-related arrests (81 in 2010), and 9 prostitution-related arrests (20 in 2010). For the period from 7/25/11 to 8/21/11, SSCO's Google maps showed 63 police reports for the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St), 8 for the Stevens Square Park area (Stevens Ave to 2nd Ave, 17th St to Franklin Ave), and 50 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"> ▪ Narcotics-related loitering and trespassing in the Clinton sector, especially on and around Franklin Ave – see the Minneapolis Police report above. ▪ 110 East 18th St – There are still problems at this vacant and boarded property, including overgrown shrubs, trash and litter in the area, and persons loitering and drinking under trees and shrubs in the parking lot on the west side of 1st Ave near the greenway along I-94. ▪ Stevens Square Park, 1801 Stevens Ave – There was a report about two instances of illegal gambling (dice games for money) in the park. ▪ Graffiti – There has been a recent visible increase in tagger graffiti in the neighborhood; even the mobile camera at Franklin & Nicollet was tagged twice. The committee will organize a graffiti clean-up project this fall. The mural project idea was passed along to the Neighborhood Development committee, which is in favor of it; staff will apply for a Clean City micro grant next spring to fund a mural or green walls project in the neighborhood. ▪ 1801 3rd Ave – There are concerns about a recent robbery and burglary at this apartment building. The property manager is working to resolve the problems. There were suggestions to check on the adequacy of exterior and interior lighting, the location of No Trespassing signs, and whether the security door locks need to be changed. ▪ LaSalle community garden, north of 1801 LaSalle Ave – There was a recent report of persons loitering, trespassing, and drinking in the garden, taking advantage of hiding places provided by overgrown trees and shrubs. Sgt Steve Bantle and the beat officers responded quickly, recommended changes in the area to improve visibility, and increased enforcement. SSCO's executive director and a volunteer trimmed the trees and shrubs and eliminated the hiding places. ▪ Clinton Ave – There was a question about how the 1800 and 1900 blocks of this congested two-way street with parking on both sides could be changed to a one-way street to make it safer and less risky to drive on. This is a traffic issue, which should be referred to Council Member Lilligren. <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update included cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ronald King (35 arrests in the area in the past seven years) – 8/2/11 criminal contempt of court at 1925 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Michael Haedtke – 2/20/11 disorderly conduct and gross misdemeanor assault at 1905 3rd Ave, Third Avenue Market. ▪ Ahmed Hired (11 arrests in the area in the past year) – 4/8/11 possession of liquor in a park at 2200 3rd Ave, Fair Oaks Park; 6/14/11 obstructing the legal process and disorderly conduct at 2000 Nicollet Ave, Starbucks Coffee; 6/28/11 terroristic threats, fleeing police on foot, and disorderly conduct at Franklin & Nicollet. 	<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>Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt</p>	<p>Arlene Storandt reported that, from 7/29 to 8/25, 17 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 18 regular shifts, contributing a total of 82 hours. 5 volunteers participated in Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park on 8/3, contributing 12.5 hours. Soda and water sales totaled \$29.25. 8 volunteers participated in the Red Hot Art festival in</p>	

	<p>Stevens Square Park on 7/30 and 7/31, contributing 54 hours. Soda and water sales at the event totaled \$355.76. Volunteers also sold \$560 in raffle tickets for SSCO. 7 volunteers participated in three meetings to plan Block Patrol's 20th anniversary celebration, contributing a total of 30 hours. A Block Patrol team attended the National Night Out party sponsored by Minnesota Teen Challenge in Stevens Square Park. Total hours for the past month: 178.5 Two new volunteers joined Block Patrol.</p> <p>Block Patrol is celebrating its 20th anniversary this month. On 8/5, the City Council and Mayor proclaimed 8/23 as SSCO Block Patrol Day in Minneapolis. The framed and signed proclamation and a letter from Police Chief Tim Dolan were passed around. A signed and framed poster from the 5th Precinct congratulating Block Patrol was displayed in the meeting room. Copies of the press release were made available. Block Patrol celebrated with a reunion party on 8/23 at The Nicollet coffeehouse, 1931 Nicollet Ave, which was attended by 53 people including current and former volunteers, law enforcement partners, and supporters. A KSTP TV crew filmed the noon Block Patrol shift that day and covered the event live that evening. Thanks to those who planned, organized, and staffed the event: Bob Duckworth, Mary Gunderson, Michele McGaughey, Arlene Storandt, Ken Strobel, Dee Tvedt, and Julie Wesenberg. Thanks to those who donated money, goods, or services for the event: Jeremy Konecny of The Nicollet, Tom Berthiaume, Katie Dailey, John Akre, Steve Gallagher, Randall Chevront, CVS at 2001 Nicollet Ave, Electric Fetus at 2000 4th Ave, Cub Foods at 5937 Nicollet Ave, Wuollet Bakery at 2447 Hennepin Ave, Starbucks Coffee at 2000 Nicollet Ave, Jimmy John's at 1 West Franklin Ave, Plymouth Congregational Church, and PPL Loring Nicollet Center. Thanks to Council Member Lilligren for his ongoing help and support. Chelsea Adams thanked Block Patrol for consistently being out on the streets and helping to keep the neighborhood safe.</p>	<p>Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol. Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>
<p>Coordinator report – Dave Delvoye</p>	<p>The co-chairs and staff decided to postpone the discussion about changing the guidelines of the Building Safety Improvement program to include funding the purchase of surveillance cameras until the 9/22 meeting.</p> <p>Eddie Chambers passed around photos of a recent Aeon meeting with Senator Al Franken. Chambers said that he spoke with the senator at length about SSCO and the good things which are happening in the neighborhood. Franken is sponsoring a bill designed to help support community groups.</p>	

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.