

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>

Safety Committee minutes – September 22, 2011, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave



Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Robert Lilligren, Ward 6 City Council; Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Jack Kelly, Gary Manty, Aimee Colegrove, Nick Hwang, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Deb Loveland, Minnesota Teen Challenge; Malcolm Williams, Plymouth Church; Rob Helmerich, Rand Management; Julian Gray, Fades of Gray; Lucy Minn, Lupe Development; Arlene Storandt, Samantha Teschendorf, Jerry Paulson, Aaron Szczech, Jill Ferguson, George Demars, Eddie Chambers, Suzanne R., and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_sscoweb@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
<p>Announcements</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 through 10/12. ▪ Chris Dixon (City Attorney’s office), Chelsea Adams (5th Precinct), and Chanti Calabria (Restorative Justice Community Action) were unable to attend. 	<p>Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 10/27, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</p>
<p>Community Prosecutor report</p>	<p>Copies of the 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet were made available. The list of top offenders was updated on 9/1: three Stevens Square offenders were removed (Curtis Batton, Frank Keezer, and Harry Leftbear) and four were added (Kathleen Croud, Ahmed Hired, Brandon Miller, and Eric Robinson).</p> <p>Over the past month, SSCO submitted community impact statements regarding four chronic offenders: Brandon Miller, Larry Harper, Kathleen Croud, and Ahmed Hired. Copies of the statements were passed around.</p>	<p>Christopher.Dixon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5402</p>
<p>Minneapolis Police report – Lt Jack Kelly, Sgt Gary Manty, Officers Aimee Colegrove and Nick Hwang</p>	<p>Jack Kelly reported on 5th Precinct Inspector Matt Clark’s plan to counter the influx of new offenders who are loitering and causing trouble along Franklin Ave and surrounding blocks, primarily from 3rd Ave to 4th Ave. The beat officers plus the day and night Community Response Teams (CRT) are focused on aggressive enforcement in this area; additional officers are working buyback (overtime) shifts in this area from 8 p.m. to 1 or 2 a.m. on Wednesdays through Sundays for the next three weeks. Call 911 to report suspicious activity or crimes in progress; officers need this information in order to respond effectively. Police are also looking at new strategies involving bait vehicles and have requested the placement of a mobile camera in the area. Surveillance cameras operated by businesses can also provide valuable information for police. There was a complaint that bus shelters with striped windows which face away from the street, such as the one on the southeast corner of Franklin & 3rd, make it difficult to observe any criminal activity occurring inside and make it dangerous to walk by or wait at the bus stop. Council Member Robert Lilligren reported that he has been advocating for a more balanced and coordinated approach to enforcement by the 3rd and 5th Precincts since the effort to clean up Peavey Park and Franklin & Chicago which began in July has turned into a community movement which is not going to stop or go away.</p> <p>Officers in the precinct have made a number of recent arrests for burglary and theft from motor vehicle. All parked vehicles should be kept locked with valuables removed or out of sight in order to take away the opportunity for someone to commit a crime. Bike owners should record the serial number to make it easier to recover the bike if it is stolen.</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>911 / 311 information</p>

Kelly thanked Lilligren for his work in support of imposing stronger conditions on the liquor license for Gangchen Bar and Restaurant, which will make it easier to regulate how this business operates.

Copies – provided by CPS Chelsea Adams – of a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during August were made available. There were:

- 2 rapes:
 - 8/3 to 8/4, address unknown, in which a victim met a suspect downtown and was later sexually assaulted, possibly not in the neighborhood.
 - 8/9 at an address on the 1700 block of 3rd Ave in which a victim and others met a suspect on the street and returned to the victim's home. The suspect later forced entry to the victim's home and sexually assaulted her. Police arrested Level 3 sex offender [Archie Randle](#) (4/13/78) who is in custody on \$200,000 bail pending a 9/26 court appearance.
- 6 robberies:
 - 8/5, 9:45 p.m., at Franklin & Nicollet in which a suspect took a victim's cell phone.
 - 8/6, 11:30 p.m., near 18th & Nicollet in which a victim was hit on the head from behind by a blunt object, lost consciousness, and had money stolen.
 - 8/8, 4:15 p.m., at 19th & Stevens in which a victim walking her dog got into a verbal altercation with the driver of vehicle, who got out and assaulted her. A second suspect stole the victim's bike.
 - 8/17, 4:30 p.m., at 1801 3rd Ave in which a known suspect robbed a victim at knifepoint. Police arrested Zameer Rahamat (12/30/84).
 - 8/21, 3:20 p.m., at 1921 3rd Ave in which a victim walking around this building was pushed from behind and robbed of a backpack.
 - 8/27, 12:50 a.m., at 19th & 1st in which a known suspect approached a victim leaving a nearby bar, got into a verbal altercation with the victim regarding money and cell phone usage, and demanded money at knifepoint.
- 9 apartment burglaries: 8/5 at 1906 3rd Ave; 8/9 at an address on the 1700 block of 3rd Ave (tied to the 8/9 sexual assault above); 8/14 at 102 East 19th St; 8/16 at 1915 3rd Ave; 8/17 at 1915 3rd Ave; 8/21 at 1801 3rd Ave; 8/23 at 1810 3rd Ave; 8/29 at 1926 3rd Ave; 8/30 at 1815 1st Ave.
- 3 motor vehicle thefts: 8/3 at 1900 3rd Ave; 8/22 at 19th & 1st; 8/31 at 1906 Clinton Ave.
- 1 theft from motor vehicle: 8/31 at 1829 3rd Ave.
- 8 other thefts.

Adams also provided an MPD press release regarding the 8/30 officer involved shooting at 2012 Nicollet Ave:

Just after 6:30 p.m., officers from the 1st Precinct Community Response Team were engaged in an ongoing narcotics investigation on the 2000 block of Nicollet Ave. During the investigation, the adult male suspect drove his van at officers in an attempt to escape. The suspect vehicle struck a police vehicle and at least one officer fired a duty firearm at the suspect, striking him and causing a non-life threatening injury. The suspect continued to flee in his vehicle down an alley until he stopped on West 22nd St and was taken into custody. A second suspect in the vehicle fled on foot and was not located. The wounded suspect was taken by ambulance to HCMC for treatment and later booked at the jail. No officers were injured. A quantity of narcotics was located along the route the suspect vehicle had traveled.

Deandre Quinteiz Austin (8/29/86) has been charged with three felonies: 1st degree possession of a controlled

	<p>substance, 1st degree sale of a controlled substance, and fleeing police in a motor vehicle. He is in custody on \$200,000 bail and is set to appear in court on 10/21/11.</p> <p>The coordinator asked if the committee wanted to sponsor a special 30-minute presentation at its 10/27 meeting by Officer Michael Killebrew regarding ways for residents and property managers to get involved in reducing crime in the neighborhood. This would include information about how to trespass offenders, make a citizen's arrest, and provide useful information to police. The committee could invite owners and residents of properties in the Clinton sector who have been especially impacted by the increase in street crime and loitering in that area this summer and ask police to provide an update on what's happening there. The suggestion was put forward by Chelsea Adams. The committee was in favor of organizing such a presentation.</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 8/22/11 to 9/18/11 showed 29 alcohol-related arrests (34 in 2010), 20 narcotics-related arrests (9 in 2010), and 1 prostitution-related arrest (4 in 2010). Year to date, there were 139 alcohol-related arrests (258 in 2010), 107 narcotics-related arrests (90 in 2010), and 10 prostitution-related arrests (24 in 2010). For the period from 8/22/11 to 9/18/11, SSCO's Google maps showed 52 police reports for the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St), 14 for the Stevens Square Park area (Stevens Ave to 2nd Ave, 17th St to Franklin Ave), and 37 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 – Even though it appears that the owner of this property will soon have enough public financial support to go ahead with redevelopment, residents are encouraged to keep reporting security problems at this vacant and boarded property. There are ongoing problems with loitering, drinking alcohol, and trespassing in the parking lot on the west side of 1st Ave near the greenway along I-94. ▪ Stevens Square Park, 1801 Stevens Ave – There have been reports of drug dealing in the park near the corner of 18th & Stevens, with dealers sometimes hiding narcotics under the portable toilet. ▪ Graffiti – Thanks to a group of eight students from North Central University who volunteered to clean up graffiti in the neighborhood on 9/13. 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. In the meantime, that committee was approached by an artist willing to paint murals for free if SSCO could get the permission of property owners. That project is going forward. There was a suggestion that walls be designated or constructed for those interested in putting up graffiti, with the intent that other property in the area would be spared. Anyone interested in these and other arts-related projects is encouraged to attend the meetings of the Neighborhood Development committee on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave. ▪ LaSalle community garden, north of 1801 LaSalle Ave – Thanks to the 5th Precinct – specifically Lt Diaz, Sgt Bantle, and the beat officers – for increasing enforcement at this community garden, and to SSCO for making improvements in the area. Residents of a nearby apartment building are reported to feel much safer in the area. Community members can give compliments to, or make complaints about, an officer online. ▪ 1801 3rd Ave – There is a report of suspicious activity, especially at night, in and around the alley behind this apartment building. Crime-related problems at an apartment building can be reported to CPS Chelsea Adams, Chelsea.Adams@ci.minneapolis.mn.us SSCO will get involved if there are confirmed reports of narcotics or 	<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>prostitution traffic to a building. Call 911 to report suspicious activity or crimes in progress.</p> <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update included a case involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Robert Yellow Wolf (27 arrests in the area in the past seven years) – 6/25/11 consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & Nicollet. 	
<p>Ward 6 report – City Council Member Robert Lilligren</p>	<p>Robert Lilligren reported that Metro Transit rejected his request to remove the northbound bus stop at 19th & 3rd, which he had made at the committee's request. Metro Transit argued that removing the stop put too much distance between the remaining stops at Franklin & 3rd and 17th & 3rd. Lilligren will try again with a new approach. There were suggestions to make security improvements to the parking lot on the south side of the Third Avenue Market to discourage loitering and trespassing, including installing a fence around the lot and blocking, gating, or otherwise limiting access to the stairs from the sidewalk to the lot. The new owner of that property recently replaced the asphalt retaining wall along the sidewalk at Emily Peake Community Garden with attractive landscaping and had previously expressed a willingness to make other security improvements to the property.</p> <p>The city stepped up regulatory activity and enforcement at the Silver Building on the northwest corner of Franklin & 4th. The interior is now in compliance with code and the next step is for Zoning Administration to address the façade and boarded windows.</p> <p>There was a question about whether the number or frequency of 911 calls regarding a residential rental property affected the owner's license, which is up for review annually. Although the city aggressively enforces the conditions of its rental licenses, it depends on the source and nature of the 911 calls. An owner needs a license for each building, and revocation of multiple licenses can put all of the owner's licenses at risk.</p> <p>The city's 2012 budget process is underway. The recent issue regarding laying off firefighters was tied to state cuts to local government aid for this year, although there should be no further reductions to Fire department staff in 2012. The City Council managed to save 34 of the 40 jobs which were in jeopardy. The 2012 budget should include minimal cuts to the Police department.</p> <p>Lilligren summarized a press report issued today regarding the officer related shooting of a speeding driver on I-394 who subsequently confronted the officer with a handgun. After learning that a fatal shooting had occurred, one of the motorists stuck in the ensuing traffic jam told a reporter, "It shouldn't be happening over here. I mean, hello – we're by Minnetonka." Lilligren asked, where exactly should that have occurred? He suggested that an appropriate response to a similar incident in the neighborhood would be, "It shouldn't be happening here. I mean, for goodness sakes, this is Stevens Square."</p>	
<p>Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt</p>	<p>Arlene Storandt reported that, from 8/26 to 9/22, 12 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 19 shifts, contributing a total of 73 hours. Two new volunteers joined Block Patrol.</p>	<p>Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol. Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>
<p>Building Safety Improvement program</p>	<p>In June, the SSCO Board asked the committee to consider expanding the guidelines of the Building Safety Improvement program to include funding the purchase of surveillance cameras. The Board suggested a maximum of \$500 in matching funds (instead of the current \$1,000) per project. The program, which has focused on lighting and</p>	

fence improvements, received \$15,000 in NRP Phase 2 funding, of which \$7,900 is still available. The committee considered the request at its 6/23/11 meeting. There was disagreement about the maximum funding per project, and a number of suggestions and questions arose which required further research. The matter was tabled.

The committee co-chairs and staff met recently to address the questions and suggestions and to review and amend the guidelines. A draft of the amended guidelines was distributed with proposed changes highlighted in **bold text**. Key changes included:

- Adding motion detector lights to the list of eligible projects.
- Adding surveillance camera systems to the list of eligible projects, requiring that the cameras have night vision capability and with an as yet to be specified minimum line resolution. There would be one-to-one matching grants of up to \$500 for buildings with one or two residential units and one-to-one matching grants of up to \$1,000 for buildings with more than two residential units.

There was a discussion about the proposal. Comments included:

- Surveillance cameras are not needed everywhere; sometimes motion detector lights are a better (and cheaper) option.
- Cameras need to be regularly maintained and monitored, unlike other projects funded by the program. This is not addressed in the guidelines. A solution would be to include conditions addressing these concerns in any agreement the committee reaches with an applicant when a project is approved.

Staff asked whether the eligibility guidelines for the program should be changed to emphasize the committee's current priorities, such as giving priority to projects in certain areas (the Clinton sector, for example) or of a certain kind (say, cameras instead of fences). Comments included:

- Limiting eligibility also limits community involvement. More options with fewer restrictions are preferable. It's impossible to anticipate every need, especially as time goes on.
- Instead of restricting eligibility, focus on ways to market the program to those who would benefit most from it.
- As long as funds remain, continue to market the program periodically, as new needs or interests may emerge.

Committee members agreed that adding surveillance camera systems to the list of projects would be an improvement and would probably get more property owners and residents involved with SSCO. Police also see private surveillance cameras as additional resources to help them prevent and solve crimes. The committee did not express interest in changing the program's eligibility guidelines.

On a motion by Samantha Teschendorf, seconded by Lucy Minn, the committee recommended that the Board approve the amended guidelines of the Building Safety Improvement program.