



Appendix – 1.4 KEY STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS
 Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan



Inspector Matt Clark, MPD

Interviewed November 23, 2010

The following is a summary of an interview conducted by Peter Musty, CLPC Master Plan Consultant, attended by Shane Zahn, Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District, Bob Hansen & John Novak, CLPC Livability Committee. The notes were reviewed and approved for accuracy by Inspector Clark on February 11, 2011.

Inspector Clark was the Sector Lieutenant in the 1st Precinct of the Minneapolis Police Department (Loring Park Neighborhood’s Precinct) at the time of the interview.

Inspector Clark’s Background

Originally from Seattle (Renton), Washington, Matt went to High School in Anoka, earned a college degree in Mankato State, and then earned a Masters in Public Administration from Concordia University in St Paul.

His career in law enforcement began in Madelia & Lake Crystal. In 1993 he was hired by the Minneapolis Police Department as an officer in the 3rd Precinct, then was transferred to the 1st Precinct – where he became Sector Lieutenant before transferring in 2011. Other experiences with MPD include time involved with Special Operations, White Collar (crime), and the Police Academy.

Asked what he likes about his job, he said “All of it.” Asked about his work with the community, he went on to explain, “Until you know what is going on, you can’t police it.” He said that Loring Park community leaders have a good reputation for working reasonably with the department on a range of matters, which makes the job more enjoyable.

Lt. Clark was kind enough to provide a driving tour of the district. He was asked to point out several places in the district and to discuss public safety issues. We drove for about 45 minutes throughout the district, noting issues at several locations – some of them hot spots, some of them places where Lt Clark related some lessons about public safety issues.

Grant & LaSalle
 Nicollet & Grant
 Nicollet & 14th
 Nicollet & 15th
 Alley south of 15th between Nicollet & LaSalle
 Nicollet I-94 Bridge
 Loring Hill
 14th & 15th Streets
 Loring Greenway

Spruce @ Minneapolis Community & Technical College (MCTC)
 Near Basilica of St Mary’s
 Laurel Village
 I-94 Panhandling
 Fawkes Block (Hennepin/Lyndale & Harmon Place)
 Northside 394 @ Laurel Village
 LaSalle Tunnel



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Discussion during the tour ranged from neighborhood wide issues and public safety trends to specific and anecdotal stories of incidents throughout the neighborhood.

Loring Towers (15 East Grant Street)

Residents don't have a place to sit.

Uniform Security in parking lot – southeast corner can be an issue.

Bus Shelters

Many are privately owned, contracted by City of Minneapolis through a public bid process. Companies are required by the City of Minneapolis to perform maintenance within 24 hours of a call (by City ordinance), 48 hours allowed for removal of snow over 4".

Skateboarders

Noise from skate-boarders is at times a problem for certain residents.

Gateway from Downtown

Grant & Nicollet is a Gateway to Loring, South Minneapolis from downtown for tourists.

SuperAmerica

This corner is pretty strong – although at times there are people hanging out.

Loitering with intent to Deal Narcotics

The places where dealers can be found are Nicollet and sometimes LaSalle, "...but they are not a scourge."

No Trees on Grant

Livability Chair Bob Hanson, who was along on the tour, pointed out that there are no trees on Grant.

Better Lighting Needed in Certain Areas

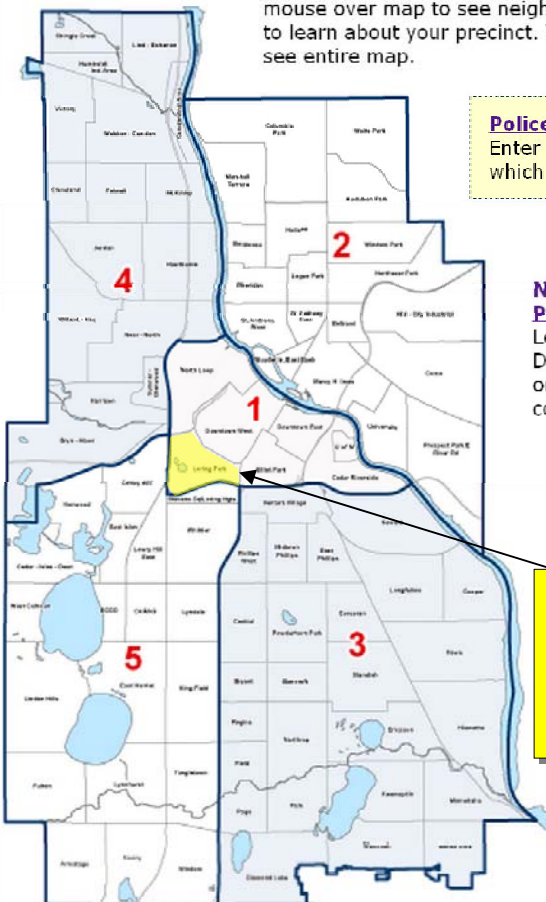
Bob Hanson also pointed out that there are low lighting levels on 14th & 15th.

Summer of 2010: Calls to Nicollet

The businesses and street scene near 14th & Nicollet "had issues" this summer. Tuesday night two-for-one specials in one of the restaurants led to some conflicts with patrons and passers-by.

Police Precincts & Neighborhoods

Minneapolis is divided into five precincts. Move your mouse over map to see neighborhood names and click to learn about your precinct. You may need to scroll to see entire map.



Police Precinct Finder
Enter your address to look up which police precinct you're in.

Neighborhood Policing Plans
Learn how the Police Department is focusing on your neighborhood concerns.

Loring Park
Neighborhood:
MPD 1st Precinct



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Public Safety: Perception vs Reality

Lt. Clark remarked that there may be an increased perception of public safety issues, perhaps due to some more visible dealing and the nighttime noise and police calls to bars, but he said the reality is that statistics for 2010 show that there is less overall.

“The Strip”

The sidewalk stretch near the Meter Farm parking lot at 15th & Nicollet is “...kind of the strip” – where there is a lot of “hanging out”. In terms of narcotics – it was unclear to Lt. Clark if dealing had increased lately or not.

Alley South of 15th between LaSalle & Nicollet

The alley really functions as a pedestrian thoroughfare, and Lt Clark mentions that the bright lights between the narrow breaks between apartment buildings are good for safety. It has cleaned up a lot.

The Void @ I-94

There was consensus with tour participants that the stretch between Loring & Stevens across Nicollet at the Interstate is a void, where there is ‘nothing going on’, and it’s a problem – both for walkability and public safety. It is a place for loitering, suspected prostitution, as it is a blank spot of mostly empty parking lots and less intensity, especially at night – it’s a “real blank spot”.

Stairway from Oak Grove to Clifton

Story was told by a tour participant that there was a stairway connection between Clifton and Oak Grove along the World Mission Prayer League Property, but it was closed due to public safety concerns.

Loring Greenway

The improvements in the recent years to the Greenway have led to an improvement in public safety, particularly the elimination of seating.

Spruce Place & Harmon Place

Lt Clark pointed out a security booth in the corner of a building at Spruce Place & Harmon Place near MCTC – and related that there are booths all over campus – and that the MPD has a good relationship with campus security. He says there is a switch to a 911 phone after 11 pm or so – when security personnel is not on duty.

Homeless near the Basilica of St Mary’s

Lt Clark mentioned that the Basilica had been allowing homeless folks to hang out without making them accountable, they’ve jointly addressed it – and the issue has gotten better.

Panhandling at I-94 overpass & Hennepin (in between Basilica of St Mary’s & Olson Advertising)

Lt Clark mentioned that by statute it is not easy to address the panhandling at this location.

Fawkes Block (Hennepin/Lyndale & Harmon Place)

This was pointed out as a success story. Monthly multi-jurisdictional meetings were held at Olson Advertising to address Part II livability crime (i.e. panhandling).

Loring’s Northside

The McNair Building (of Laurel Village) experienced some vandalism to the building near 13th Street N. & Hawthorne Avenue W.



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LaSalle Tunnel

It was remarked during the tour that direct public access from the Greenway to LaSalle would be an improvement for both pedestrian circulation and public safety.

Working with Neighborhoods

Lt Clark was asked at the end of the tour; what is the key to dealing with neighborhoods? Lt Clark responded,

“Listen to what they have to say, and include them on solutions. They have a lot of good ideas.”

Clark also related, “...Loring really likes to work with MPD ...meetings in other neighborhoods can be shouting matches.”

“Crime is seasonal, it’s not going to go away.”



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Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District (DID)

Lt Clark and Shane Zahn, DID's Director of SafeZone Operations, were also kind enough to give Peter Musty of the Master Plan Consultant Team and Bob Hansen, CLPC Livability Committee a brief tour of the 1st Precinct Headquarters, which is also location of Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District's high tech Fusion Center. There has been discussion in the past regarding in the community regarding the potential benefits of extending DID further south into other portions of the Loring Park Neighborhood.

DID: Making a Difference	
–	Total as of 1/31/2011
Pedestrian Assistance/Recommendations/Escorts	112,191
Tire & Debris (pounds)	1,407,201
Graffiti Removed	5,419
Lives Saved	29+

“The Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District (DID) is a non-profit entity that maintains a higher standard of care and behavior throughout downtown. It was formed in early 2009 after 5+ years of formative planning and advocacy by the Minneapolis Downtown Council.

The DID's mission is to support, preserve, create and enhance a vibrant, competitive and thriving downtown that attracts and retains businesses, employees, residents and visitors. To that end, the DID pursues several goals:

- *to create/support a competitive and thriving downtown through effective provision of clean, green, safe and better services;*
- *to pool resources and bring more effective implementation of services and initiatives;*
- *to bring a sustainable funding source to long-term initiatives;*
- *and to create and sustain an ecosystem that encourages a thriving public space in support of retailers, businesses, employees, visitors and residents.*

The DID encompasses over 120 blocks of downtown. By eliminating the contrast of conditions throughout downtown the DID can make a noticeable impact. The Minneapolis

DID is funded largely by charges to commercial properties that are included as special assessments on property tax invoices. Voluntary contributions are also collected from exempt properties, including government, certain non-profit and residential parcels.” – quoted from Minneapolis DID website on 2/10/2011: <http://www.minneapolisdid.com>



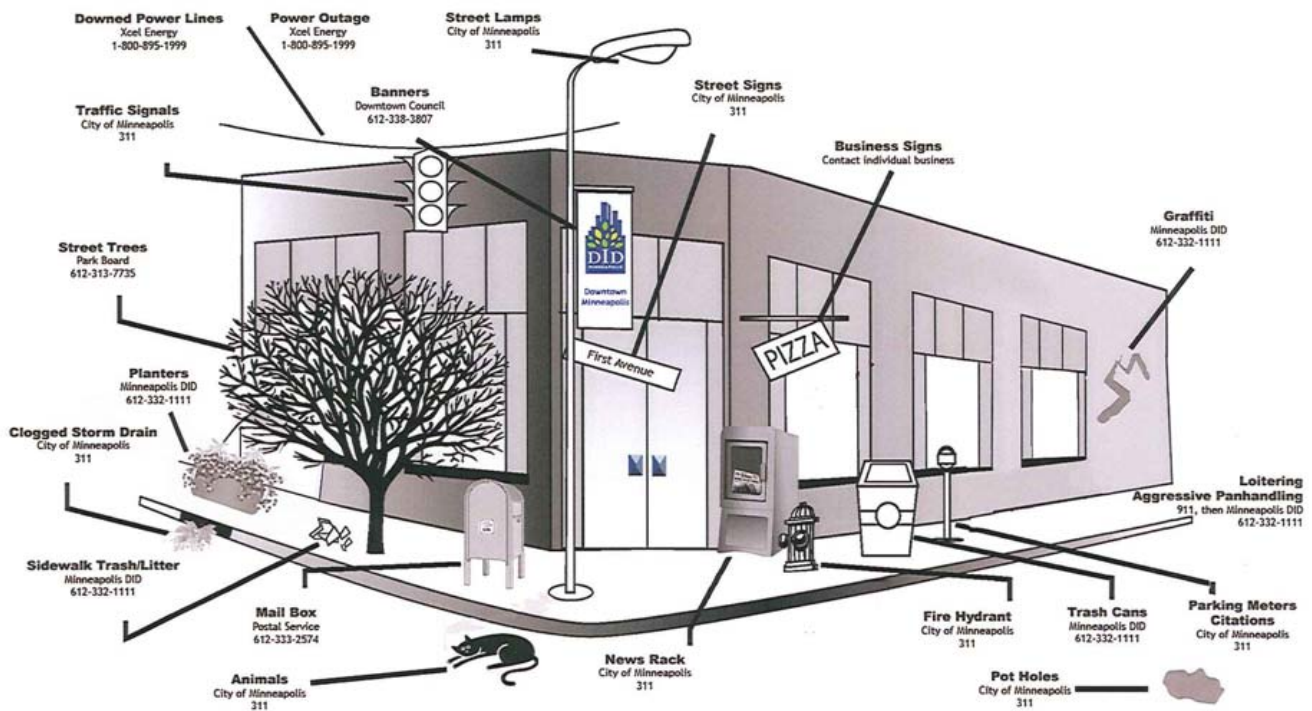
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Who To Call

Questions, or a recurring issue? Call the MDID at 612-332-1111.

Ambassadors will be happy to coordinate directly with all responsible parties.
Working together to make Downtown Minneapolis Cleaner, Greener and Safer.



Above is a diagram from the Minneapolis DID website <http://www.minneapolisdid.com> showing the kinds of calls and issues that can be handled and dispatched by DID Ambassadors. Calls presented here that DID can handle directly include:

- Graffiti
- Loitering, Aggressive Panhandling (call DID after dialing 911)
- Trash Cans
- Sidewalk Trash/Litter
- Planters



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This map above was taken from DID website on 2/10/2011 and is dated 2009. Loring Park Neighborhood (south of red dotted line, above) enjoys limited coverage by the Downtown Improvement District. The six different zones determine the quantity of cleaning passes made in a given time period, and the number of Safety Ambassadors deployed. There are two zones that extend into the neighborhood past 12th Street:

Southwest Central Business District / Academic

Southeast Central Business District / Convention Center

The following from DID Launch Packet
Safety Ambassadors

“WILL:

- Provide directions and information about downtown
- Address nuisance crimes like loitering & intimidating behavior
- Curb aggressive panhandling
- Quickly contact the police using their radios
- Cover a lot of ground on their Segways and bikes

• Monitor, document, and report criminal and suspicious activity

• Provide first aid
BUT THEY WON'T:

- Issue tickets
- Arrest people
- Be armed
- Use physical force
- Handcuff anyone
- Give breathalizers...



Minneapolis Police Department 2011 Neighborhood Policing Plan *Loring Park*



Precinct Contacts:

Crime Prevention Specialist [Renee Allen](#) 612-673-5163

First Precinct 612-673-5701

Lieutenants:

Days: Lt. Dean Christiansen

Mids: Lt. Henry Halvorson

Nights: Lt. Derrick Barnes

Precinct Commander: Insp. Kristine Arneson

Part 1 Crime Statistics for Loring Park:

	TOTAL	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assaults	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Thefts	Arson
2010	411		9	31	28	58	267	17	1
2009	400		13	32	26	66	236	27	
<i>Change</i>	11	0	-4	-1	2	-8	31	-10	1
<i>Percent</i>	+3%	n/a	-31%	-3%	+8%	-12%	+13%	-37%	Div/0

Selected Part 2/Livability Crime Statistics for Loring Park:

	TOTAL	Liquor	Drugs	Weapons	Prostitution	Disorderly	Curfew	Parties
2010	431	247	77	7	1	88	6	1
2009	371	211	60	4	10	81	2	0
<i>Change</i>	60	36	17	3	-9	7	4	1

Disorderly offenses include disorderly conduct, public urination, and aggressive solicitation (panhandling). Parties include Social Host violations. Part 2 crimes are more an indication of enforcement efforts by the MPD than actual incidents. For example, drugs and weapons may be confiscated during traffic stops from individuals who do not live in the neighborhood, and unless neighbors call 911 to address parties that disturb the block, they will not be noted in these statistics.

Neighborhood Concerns:

Concerns have been expressed in numerous meetings throughout the year in the Loring Park Neighborhood. Meetings included but not limited to Monthly CLPC Livability meetings (Citizens for a Loring Park Community), Monthly Loring LaSalle Property Owners Group, Master Plan Design Workshops, Monthly Business Safety Meetings, Monthly CourtWatch Meetings and during individual resident and business contacts.

Area concerns continue to encompass livability crimes in Loring Park Community and the overall perception of safety. These concerns are mainly issues of Noise, Panhandling, Loitering, Public Intoxication, Cleanliness (littering), Street Level Narcotics, Prostitution and Homelessness. Residents and business owners have expressed a need for continued police presence especially during the evening and overnight hours.

Policing Strategy:

Feedback at Loring Park Community meetings continue to affirm existing policing strategies while building a stronger communication networks between its community members and MPD by using the established citywide goals to reduce crime and improve the relationships. These include:

- Continued opportunities for community input through written impact statements, active involvement in CourtWatch, and continued participation in the CLPC sponsored Livability Committee meetings, Loring LaSalle Property Owners Meeting and other community sponsored meetings or gatherings as schedules allow.
- Monitor crime patterns/displacement and its relationship to initiatives downtown.
- Maintain officer visibility in the neighborhood with T3s, bikes, mounted, beat and directed patrol along with proactive use of emerging camera technology as deemed appropriate.
- Continued communication and training with community members to improve the perception of safety through regular attendance at community meetings, the use of Gov Delivery informational alerts, and proactive initiatives to address concerns of crime or emerging trends.

Neighborhood Engagement:

Policing is a “team sport” and residents need to be part of that team. Loring Park Residents have committed to the following:

- Citizens for a Loring Park Community supports the First Precinct's strategies by recruiting additional community member involvement and the distribution of crime prevention or police alerts to Loring neighbors and stakeholders.
- Loring community members will continue participation in Courtwatch, by distributing chronic offender information and soliciting for written Impact Statements.
- The Livability Committee strives to engage community residents, business owners and members of the entire criminal justice system in an effort to proactively collaborate and address issues as they arise.
- CLPC will work to increase communication and community action through its scheduled meetings and by increasing Gov Delivery subscriptions, communication networks and Block Club recruitment.
- Continue active recruitment for Action Alert subscribers with rental property owners along with increased involvement in established RPO meetings.

2011 Performance Measures

We will use the following criteria to measure our success in policing the Loring Park Neighborhood:

- Increase active block clubs from 4 to 9 out of approximately 16 organizable blocks.
- Maintain level of geographic restriction requests on chronic offenders
- Continue active recruitment for Action Alert subscribers with rental property owners along with increased involvement in established rental property owner meetings.
- Increase participation in GovDelivery--Crime Prevention Specialist's crime pattern alerts and email notifications.

LORING PARK 2010 NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN RESULTS

- Increase participation in the Virtual Block Club by merging with GovDelivery and continue to recruit for Action Alerts. **The VBC membership rose by over 25%.**
- Increase geographic restriction requests on chronic offenders and maintain volume of Community Impact Statements and participation in Court Watch. **Geographic restrictions were obtained on most chronic offenders when requested in court and primarily when citizens submitted impact statements.**
- Decrease Part 1 Crimes by 5%. **Part 1 Crimes rose by 3%.**

[End of 2011 Neighborhood Plan; Results for 2010 Plan](#)