

# VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



**BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**DATE OF MEETING: November 26, 2024**

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**To:** Village President and Board of Trustees

**Through:** Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

**From:** Joshua Burman, Director of Public Works

**Topic:** Bid Award - 183<sup>rd</sup> Street Viaduct Railing Replacement

## **PURPOSE**

Staff recommends awarding K Brothers Fence of Mokena, IL the bid for the demolition, removal, and replacement/installation of 810 feet of metal fencing located along the 183<sup>rd</sup> Street viaduct for a total cost of \$52,791. The scope of work consists of replacing the existing rusted and failing railing with a new 42-inch, black powder coated, industrial-grade aluminum fence along the pedestrian walkways on the north and south sides of 183<sup>rd</sup> Street.

## **PROCESS**

In August, Public Works advertised the project for bid to replace the existing railing along 183<sup>rd</sup> Street with the same railing style and material (steel). The results of that bid were presented to the Board at the September 10, 2024 meeting with the recommendation to reject the bid due to the fact that the bid greatly exceeded the budgeted amount.

Staff evaluated other railing solutions for the project (concrete, rope and stanchions, etc.) and learned that neighboring communities were using aluminum railings for pedestrian safety. Public Works reached out to the communities to get the contact information for their installation vendors. Public Works advertised the project with new specifications and opened two (2) bids on November 12, 2024. One (1) additional vendor submitted a bid which was not opened because it was received after the deadline for the bid opening.

### *Aluminum vs Steel*

Though steel is technically stronger, aluminum is more malleable and elastic than steel, which means it is less likely to be pushed to its limits. Especially in cold temperatures, steel can be brittle. In the application of an elevated sidewalk/pedestrian railing, no metal - be it steel, iron, or even chromium: the hardest metal on earth, would be able to stop the gross tonnage of a motor vehicle. The sidewalk railings along 183<sup>rd</sup> Street are installed to prevent pedestrians from entering the roadway (183<sup>rd</sup> Street). With this application in mind, aluminum would be the perfect metal for the fencing. Aluminum railings are typically offered in a beautiful, powder-coated finish. This innovative product protects the railing and will not blister, peel, rust, or crack.

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Plus, it requires virtually no maintenance whatsoever. We won't need to repaint the railing, reapply the powder coating, or provide any staining or sealing treatments. Staff will need to lightly power wash the aluminum railing from time to time, to remove loose dirt and debris. Aluminum railing systems generally don't require any maintenance to retain their beauty and they will remain strong and reliable.

Steel, on the other hand, will rust if you don't take care of it properly. Because it is made of iron, if it is exposed to both oxygen and water, a chemical reaction (corrosion) will occur, forming rust. In addition, even when you paint steel railings, they will likely need to be stripped and repainted periodically to prevent rust.

### *Staff Recommendation*

Along with staff's recommendation to award the bid to the lowest bidder, staff also requests approval to purchase ten (10) additional replacement/inventory panels to have readily available in case the fence, or portion of the fence, is damaged requiring immediate replacement.

### *Bid Results*

- K Brothers Fence of Mokena, IL - \$50,391 installed, \$240 per additional panel
- BWF Construction of Chicago, IL - \$63,112 installed, \$450 per additional panel
- BCBM, LLC of Chicago, IL – Not Accepted – Submitted after deadline.

## OUTCOME

This fence installation project will provide a safe and durable buffer for pedestrians that travel east/west along the 183<sup>rd</sup> Street viaduct walkways. The use of aluminum railings is more economical than steel which results in significant cost savings for fence replacement or repairs in the future.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** Remaining 2020 Bond Funds
- **Budgeted Amount:** \$175,000
- **Cost:** \$52,791

## LEGAL REVIEW

Not Required

## RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Award the 183<sup>rd</sup> Street Viaduct Railing Replacement to K Brothers Fence of Mokena, IL, the lowest responsible bidder, for the demolition, removal, and replacement/installation of 810 feet of fencing located along the 183<sup>rd</sup> Street viaduct in the amount of \$50,391; and, approve the

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purchase of ten (10) additional inventory replacement panels at \$240 per panel, for a total cost of \$52,791.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

- Bid Tabulation Sheet
- K Brothers Fence Proposal