



## Memorandum

Date: May 16, 2022

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Chief Josh Antoine

Re: Civil Unrest Fencing Options

Mayor and City Council Members,

The Anoka County Joint Law Enforcement Council has been working on a fencing project in regards to civil unrest since the fall of 2021. In the March 2022 Council workshop, we discussed this topic along with fencing options in the event that the City of Spring Lake Park ever experiences civil unrest within its borders.

Since the Council workshop in March I have researched several options which including renting fencing and barriers, purchasing fencing and barriers or joining a Fencing Consortium:

**Option 1:** Rent j-barriers and fencing from Warning Lites/ Hansen Brothers Fencing. I have a quote from Warning Lites for one year the j-barriers and fencing would cost \$28,620 for one set. Two sets would be \$57,240. I have spoken to Warning Lites and Hansen brothers fencing and they have said they have subcontractors they work with as well so the fencing and j-barriers are generally available. These j-barrier/fencing would take time to set up and it is not guaranteed that it would be available.

**Option 2:** We purchase j-barriers and fencing on our own. I have a quote for j-barriers from Wieser Concrete. We would be looking at \$43,300 for the barriers alone. When speaking with

Hansen Brothers Fencing they said that the fencing is generally very expensive to purchase on your own. Their cost for just the fencing panel without the fencing is about \$450 a panel. Other issues with this would be storage space and our Public Works department would be responsible for setting it up themselves. The j-barriers have a life span of about 50 years. For two sets we would be looking at about \$86,600 for j-barriers and if you go off of Hansen Brothers for the fencing we are looking at 90,000 just for the fencing panels.

**Option 3:** Join the fencing consortium that we discussed in the council workshop. This consortium would be made up of cities and agencies from the seven-county metro area. The consortium would have a governing board that would make decision for the consortium. This consortium would go out and contract with a company to have anti-scale fencing on hand in the metro area for quick deployment. There would be an annual fee to join this consortium which would hold approximately 4,100 linear feet of fencing in the metro area for use by the consortium. The next closest anti-scale fencing would be in Chicago, IL. The estimated cost of Spring Lake Park's annual fee would be \$4,447 for the use of approximately 1,100 linear feet. This would give the City of Spring Lake Park access to the fencing in the event of civil unrest. If we had to use the fencing there would be a rental fee for the fencing per month of approximately \$20 a linear foot. We would look to use the fencing for only as long as needed to lower the rental costs. As part of this consortium we would have one public works employee that would be trained to set it up. I have confirmed with Public Works Director Randal that they would make someone available. The fencing that would be stored in the metro is called ARX anti-scale fencing and is extremely expensive if we want to purchase this on our own. It is approximately \$600 a linear foot. The goal of anti-scale fencing is to de-escalate by providing physical separation between law enforcement and protesters, reduce the need for crowd control measures to be used, create space for protesting and reduce resource demands committed to one location.

After researching all the options, it is my recommendation that the City Council approve joining the Fencing Consortium as our primary fencing option in the event of civil unrest.

If you have any questions I can take those now?

Chief Josh Antoine