

# Memo

To: Maura Thomson, DDA Executive Director  
Amber Miller, DDA Capital Projects and Planning Manager

From: Michael Kennedy, Fire Chief  
Andre Anderson, Police Chief  
Derek Delacourt, Community Services Area Administrator

Date: February 18, 2025

Re: Barricade Needs for Special Events

---

The tragedy of this past New Year's terror attack in New Orleans has sadly demonstrated the need for better protection of our streets and sidewalks in order to provide the safest possible environment for our special events. The number of participants in various City events can range from 50 to upwards of 10,000, and several times that number for Art Fair.

Fire, Police and Community Services have been in collaboration with the Downtown Development Authority on barricade options that align with the goal of better protecting our community. The DDA has a Development Plan that provides a long-term solution to the safety and deployment of barricades that are a vast improvement over our current stock. The City owns Portable Vehicle Barriers (PVBs) that are housed and deployed by the University of Michigan for certain events. Our experience has shown vulnerability with the current PVBs, thus the need to replace as quickly as possible. The Meridian PVBs has a different design and have been successfully used by a significant number of communities.

Because of the immediate need, we are seeking a short-term fix by purchasing a small number of the Meridian PVBs, perhaps 10-15, and the trailer that would transport them. For this short-term, the University has agreed to deploy our current PVBs to those events that will be occurring in the next few months. It is our desire to not burden our non-profit organizations with the additional and unexpected expense of paying for mandated PVBs (their budgets for this year were likely in place before they even applied for their event permits). We are seeking your funding of this purchase as a bridge to the long-term solution.