

Columbia Heights Police Department to help service Super Bowl

Jack Hammett 18 hrs ago 0

The Columbia Heights Police Department will supply Minneapolis with two officers from Jan. 26 to Feb. 5 for the Super Bowl and related events.

During its Oct. 23 meeting, Columbia Heights City Council approved the agreement with the City of Minneapolis.

The Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee will provide up to \$5 million to cover expenses related to hosting the Super Bowl in the Twin Cities, with about \$3.1 million reimbursing security and police, according to Minneapolis City Council. According to the Oct. 10 meeting materials, the committee will reimburse cities a flat rate of \$55 per hour and \$82 per hour overtime. Cities will be responsible for paying officers.

The council agreed to “authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Minneapolis to clarify the roles and responsibilities for police service between the Metro Transit Police Department and the Minneapolis Police Department during Super Bowl LII and the events during the 12-day operational period surrounding the Super Bowl,” according to council materials.

The host committee is raising the funds, the document states, and no state, federal or NFL funds will be included. The committee will also cover officers’ overtime hours. Minneapolis Police Department will require extra law enforcement during the events, as it will be unable to provide optimal security without help from neighboring law enforcement agencies, according to Minneapolis City Council.

Columbia Heights Interim Police Chief Lenny Austin said the Super Bowl is a larger event than it was in 1992, the last time it was held in Minneapolis.

“What this agreement will do is allow us to work with Minneapolis Police Department to allow two officers to work in the city,” he said. “At this point, our plan is to send two officers down to Minneapolis for the 10-day period. I’m guessing there will be other Super Bowl-related activities in Anoka County, so we’ll be sending other officers into other parts of the county to assist with some of the Super Bowl activities.”

In an outline of its goals for Super Bowl 52, Minneapolis City Council stated that Minneapolis Police Department “will be the lead agency coordinating police services for all official Super Bowl events, including the ones in Bloomington, St. Paul and Eden Prairie.” There will be 16 events in all. The council said it will recruit officers in “good standing from around the state” and must provide information such as rank, agency, badge, cell phone number and emergency contact information 90 days before the event.

Tags

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