

To: City of Roeland Park
From: Joseph Williams

Subj: Proposal for Ukraine War Sculpture

Over the past three weeks we have seen an unprecedented attack on the people of Ukraine and the democracy in which they represent and the freedom they are fighting for. Being a Marine and Iraq war veteran I have seen the horrific damages and the toll war takes on a country and its people. The Ukraine war is a turning point for the world. We are seeing this war in real time through news channels, social media, and other media outlets; because of this access we have seen a common image through the streets of Ukraine and one that I am very familiar with, the anti-vehicle barrier dubbed Hedgehog.

Hedgehogs have long been used in war and in more modern times such as WWII, we have seen these obstacles used for defensive purposes in order to stop or hinder mechanized war machines. Recently multiple media outlets have covered stories in regards to these simply made yet extremely effective metal barriers (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GT33Mwi9DKk>) that are now littering the streets of Ukrainian Cities.

Being an artist and a veteran I feel like it's my duty to help bring awareness not only to the war, but the freedoms and democracy we often take for granted. The sculpture I am proposing is what I call a "KC Hedgehog". This sculpture will be dawned in the blue and yellow colors of Ukraine, and signifies not only our support of the Ukraine people, but also, the freedom and democracy they are fighting and dying to protect. Hedgehogs physically are meant to stop war machines; in the context of the KC hedgehog sculpture the three legs upon which it stands symbolizes **our support of the Ukrainian people in the face of genocide, the defense of a free and democratic state, and a stop to the Russian war machine.**

I respectfully request the help of the City of Roeland park to place this sculpture on city property. I am not looking for any financial assistance (unless others are to be made and placed in other locations) but I am specifically looking for space (6'x6' area) to place this sculpture. I also respectfully request assistance from the city public works to help place the sculpture in accordance to city standards on public art either with a concrete anchor or pad that the sculpture may stand upon (also lighting if requested).

In the end, my hope is that this war ends quickly. Once this war has ended my idea is to repurpose the sculpture into another work of art as a remnant of war and a symbol of peace. Thank you for your time and space, Semper Fi.

Very Respectfully,

Joseph C. Williams (U.S.M.C)

Reference Photos from Ukraine



These images are prototype in nature with the final piece being yellow on bottom and blue on top with no script.

Image Number 1: Roe Blvd facing south



Image 2: Facing south further down median

