

Justification for Electrified Security Fencing City of Santa Clara

AMAROK, LLC respectfully requests reconsideration and removal of “electrified fences” as a prohibited material in the proposed Zoning Code Update section 18.34.060 – Materials and Maintenance (inserted below). To summarily ban this effective perimeter security solution citywide would be a disservice for certain local businesses that have been targeted with ongoing criminal trespass, property crime, and/or threats to employees.

18.34.060 – Materials and Maintenance

- A. **Graffiti Resistance.** Graffiti-resistant aesthetic surface treatment shall be required for all fences and walls adjacent to a public right-of-way, or as determined through the Site Plan and Design Review (Chapter 18.120) process.
- B. **Fences and wall in Industrial and Office Zones.**
 - 1. **Storage Area allowable fence and wall material.** Within the Industrial-Heavy category, storage area screening may include masonry or concrete, metal, or chain-link fencing with wood or vinyl slats.
 - 2. **Security fences and walls.** Within all industrial and office zones except Industrial-Heavy, all fencing, or walls shall be wrought iron, concrete, masonry, or other similar materials not to exceed a height of eight feet from the highest finished grade. Chain-link fencing may be used in areas not visible from public rights-of-way.
- C. **Maintenance.** Fences, walls, and screens shall be continuously maintained in an orderly and good condition and shall always be kept free of graffiti.
- D. **Prohibited Fence, Wall, and Screen Materials.** The following materials and fence types are prohibited:
 - 1. Barbed Wire
 - 2. Razor Wire
 - 3. Electrified fences
 - 4. Use of grease
 - 5. Broken glass or other sharp materials

AMAROK is a perimeter security provider serving over 6000 small businesses to Fortune 50 companies nationwide. There are more than 600 electrified security fence installations across California, including dozens of businesses throughout the Greater Bay Area (San Jose, Gilroy, Oakland, San Francisco, etc.) being secured by this technology. Our system is designed to secure businesses' property and assets in Industrial, Commercial and Manufacturing zones by providing monitored intrusion protection around the perimeter of the property.

This perimeter security technology consists of a short-pulsed, monitored perimeter alarm system fence which conforms with international (IEC 60335-2-76), national (ANSI/ASTM), and State of CA (Civil Code Section 835) installation and safety standards. The technology has been safety tested and certified by Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTL) SGS and TUV. The integral component of this alarm system is a low voltage, battery-powered security fence placed approximately 4"-8" inside of a property's existing perimeter fence/barrier. The system is comprised of thin, widely spaced wires (6-8 inches apart) which run horizontally to the height of 10'. The security system is entirely within the property and behind an existing perimeter fence – it does not serve as a perimeter boundary or barrier.

As with most monitored alarm systems, an audible alarm sounds when the fence line is breached by a trespasser. In the event of an alarm, a signal will be sent to our monitoring station, who in turn, contacts the business to let them know they had an alarm event. After verifying, the alarm can be silenced by the business or set to automatically shut off after a determined amount of time. Our system does not directly connect to emergency services, but a response may be requested if an alarm event is verified.

HISTORY:

There is an existing permitted security fence located at 530 Aldo Avenue. The security fence was approved to be installed at 10' inside of the existing chain link fence with slats. The site is zoned Light Industrial. The permit was issued January 17th, 2023.

SAFETY BENEFITS:

The security system is not detrimental to the health, safety, morals or welfare of persons residing or working in the area. It is installed completely inside the existing perimeter fence and therefore not exposed to the public. To come in contact with the AMAROK security system, a criminal would have to be intentionally trespassing by, first, disregarding the warning signs and then breaking through or scaling the existing perimeter barrier.

The proposed security system enhances the health, safety, and welfare of persons by improving workplace safety and discouraging criminals from targeting the subject property and committing other crimes of opportunity in the neighborhood.

The utilization of the proposed security system will not be detrimental to the public welfare, nor injurious to property or improvements in the neighborhood. Instead, the safety and general welfare of the neighborhood is enhanced through crime prevention. The result is that the City can redirect law enforcement time and resources toward crimes other than trespass and property crime.

The security system is the most reliable, economical, and effective perimeter security application available. The installation of the system will secure the property, increase the security of the surrounding properties and the immediate area by deterring the criminal element from targeting the area.

SUSTAINABLE SECURITY TECHNOLOGY:

This security technology supports environmental sustainability. It is not powered by mains/grid power and is not compromised by power failures.

The system is solely powered by a 12-volt DC battery that is perpetually recharged by solar energy/panels.

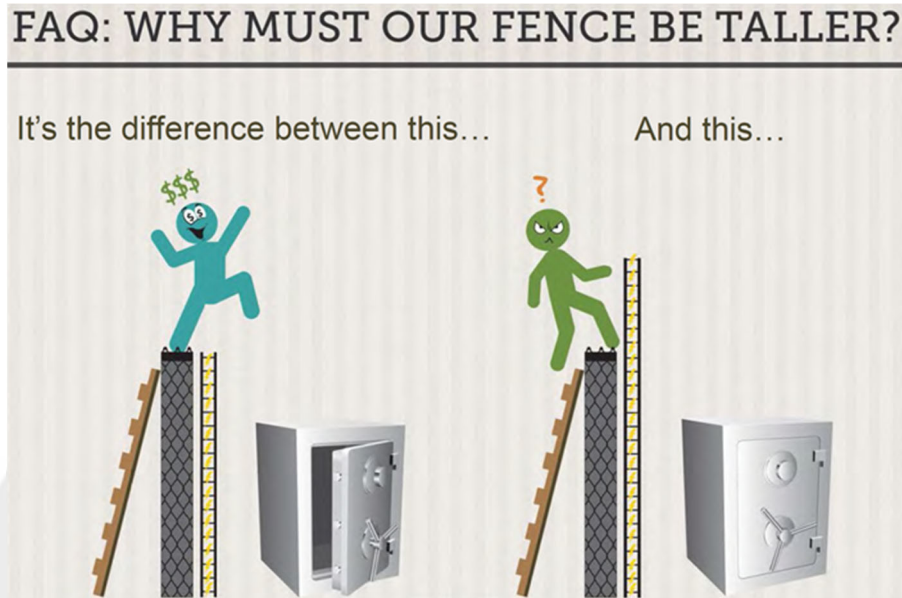
VISUAL AESTHETICS:

The security system is visually transparent, allowing the site to maintain viewshed into the property while also securing the property from would-be criminals.



Currently, City regulations do not permit a fence of 10' height within designated setbacks. This height is required for the efficacy of the proposed electrified security fence, which is located inside of the existing perimeter barrier by 4"-8" (not affixed to the perimeter fence / wall). The additional height above the perimeter barrier prevents the perpetrators from simply scaling both the perimeter fence (or wall) and

electrified security fence. This design configuration is essential and a significant deterrent for the criminal trespasser.



PUBLIC SAFETY:

Safety and security are essential to quality of life in a community.

As stated in the General Plan section 5.9.3, crime and disorder in neighborhoods, parks, and business districts cause citizen frustration, uneasiness, and fear.

The electrified, perimeter security fence provides an affordable and effective means to secure businesses' assets and their workplaces/employees. In turn, this allows them to invest financial resources in further growth, resulting in continued employment and an increased tax base for the community. With the growing threat of extensive theft and loss history, businesses have been urgently requesting this security technology to prevent ongoing property crime and remain a viable business for the community.

The security system does not adversely affect the health, safety, peace, morals, comfort or general welfare of persons residing or working in the vicinity of the property and will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare of injurious to property or improvements in the City. Instead, the system contributes to public safety and helps deter crime at a secured property and the surrounding neighborhood.

ALARM REGULATIONS:

As with most monitored alarm systems, a sound is emitted if the security fence is tampered with or breached by a criminal trespasser. A signal is sent to our 24-hour monitoring station, who then communicates with the business contact to advise them they had an alarm event. Once the business contact has verified a trespassing attempt or breach has taken place, our monitoring staff will then contact local PD to be dispatched to the site. The audible alarm can be silenced remotely by business contact, or it can be set to shut off automatically after a predetermined amount of time. The system itself does not directly connect to emergency services, thereby preventing false alarms sent to local first responders.

For these reasons, many jurisdictions permit us an alarm system via an alarm permit through the police department, which complies with Chapter 8.05 SCCC Alarm Systems.

COLLABORATION TO CODIFY AND PERMIT ELECTRIFIED SECURITY FENCING

In summary, we respectfully request that the City of Santa Clara work with AMAROK to codify the allowance of electrified security fencing for commercial businesses residing in appropriate zones. Included with this request are a model ordinance and a copy of the City of Gilroy's municipal code for electrified security fences.

Local businesses in Santa Clara have been requesting this security solution and, as such, we look forward to the City's openness to helping local businesses address their property crime issues.

Thank you for your time and reconsideration. We look forward to your response and an opportunity to have further discussion on this matter. Much appreciated!



Keith Kaneko
Director, Government Relations
AMAROK, LLC
Mobile: (916) 532-6012
kkaneko@amarok.com
www.AMAROK.com



Hannah Robinson
Compliance Manager
AMAROK, LLC
Cell: 803-920-9628
hrobinson@amarok.com
www.AMAROK.com