

Statement from Mayor Gregg Nelson—May 31, 2020

As we enter the second curfew this evening, I wanted to update you on the security status of the City of North Oaks. Thank you for honoring the curfew and for enrolling in our emergency notice system. This is the primary method of communication with our residents.

Regarding resident safety, the City Administrator and City Council are in close and regular contact with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department, the provider of law enforcement support for the City of North Oaks. The Deputy Mayor, Rick Kingston and I confer regularly, to ensure that we remain fully aware of the situation as it develops. The City Council has implemented a communication system for Council members to be updated and to permit them to share information with our City Administrator, ensuring that all Council Members are briefed with the most current information.

We are aware of one specific social media-based comment that threatened the city. We alerted the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department of this and have also alerted them to other concerns that have been raised. The Ramsey County Sheriff's Department is on high alert. All available officers are on duty. We have also been in touch with and have welcomed comments from North Oaks Homeowners' Association leadership as well. We will work in coordination with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department and North Oaks Homeowners' Association to keep North Oaks safe.

Some have expressed an interest in securing our entrances. The Sheriff's office has not recommended this. The Sheriff recommended keeping a low profile. Calling attention to our city by closing our entrances is not consistent with that advice. Based upon current facts, we will not close entrances to the city. If circumstances change, we are prepared to act accordingly.

Lastly, we understand the desire to communicate with fellow residents through social media in these trying times. Please remember that this is not the method of reporting events that justify a law enforcement response. In those circumstances, please report by calling 911 immediately.

Thanks for taking care of yourselves, your families, and each other, and thanks for following the curfew. Keep in touch with your neighbors. If you see something, say something by calling 911.

—Gregg Nelson, Mayor