

April 13, 2004

Mr. Andrew L. Jackson, Jr.
Chairman
Mayor's Special Events Task Group
Emergency Management Agency
2000 14th Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Jackson:

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on April 7 and a quorum (4) was present at all times. One of our agenda items was discussion of the Lawyers Have Heart foot race along Canal Road proposed for June 12, 2004.

It is the commission's understanding that the Special Operations Division of the Metropolitan Police Department notified Lawyers Have Heart two weeks ago that it would need to find a new race route as a result of homeland security issues. While the community understands the dilemma that the runners face, the history of the group has discouraged members from granting a situation where the community is impacted by their event again. The group's analysis that the Canal Road route is the "only" option for this race is a fact that some members of the commission find difficult to understand.

The commission, which includes the neighborhoods of Foxhall Village and Palisades, has a long history with this particular foot race and its organizers. Failures by Lawyers Have Heart to fulfill their commitments in the past to the communities of Foxhall and Palisades led to a very unpleasant experience for residents. As a result, on May 23, 2001, Peter LaPorte, then chair of the Mayor's Special Events Task Group, wrote a letter to Foxhall Village stating that he would not approve any future requests for races that severely impact the lives of residents of the Georgetown, Burleith, Foxhall Village or Palisades communities. In that spirit, and after hearing the presentation by Lawyers Have Heart, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D voted 3-2 to oppose the race.

Immediately after last week's vote by the commission, members of the Lawyers Have Heart group shouted, (yes, "shouted"), "Let the record show that democracy was silenced." One commissioner ultimately exclaimed, "Gentlemen, you are practically in contempt." From the lobby, the group's anger at the vote continued with noise that made it impossible for people in the auditorium to hear the next presenter. And, these are people who want to be guests in our community.

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The commission was first notified by Lauren Frank of the race two days before the meeting when she asked to be placed on our agenda and make a presentation regarding the race. The same pattern of past poor planning appears to exist when an April 7 approval date is sought for a June 12 race. The fact that a new course must be found by the group is disappointing, but the Metropolitan Police Department's Special Operations Division and the Special Events Task Group should not expect communities to openly welcome a group that has failed to fulfill its commitments in the past and recently exhibited disrespectful, highly disruptive behavior before the commission.

Sincerely,

Alma H. Gates
Chair

cc Lauren Frank
Robert Andrew

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Subj: **American Heart Association's Proposed 10K Course**
Date: 4/6/2004 3:41:40 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: lauren.frank@heart.org
To: AHG71139@aol.com

Sent from the Internet (Details)

Dear Mrs. Gates,

I know that Karyn Good has been in touch with you as well as Bob Andrew regarding the proposed Lawyers Have Heart 10K course. I am aware that historically there have been issues with this event but I wanted to personally assure you that the event staff as well as the American Heart Association staff are committed to working with you to address your concerns.

I wanted to contact you before the ANC3D meeting tomorrow evening just to provide you with some background information. I was able to get your email address from Kathy Patterson's office.

Up until two weeks ago, I and the Lawyers Have Heart organizing committee believed that the DC metropolitan police would issue a permit for the 10K course that had been used since 2002 - the runners started at the Washington Harbour, 31st and K Streets, and proceeded east through DC until 6th and E Streets and turned around and come back the same way.

Two weeks ago, the DC police informed us that we would not be able to use that 10K course again. The DC police provided to us a new proposed route: The proposed route starts at the Washington Harbour at 31st and K Streets. The runners proceed east on K Street and make an immediate left (hairpin turn) onto Whitehurst Freeway. At the end of Whitehurst Freeway, the runners take a left onto M Street (remain on the south side of M Street), run out Canal Road until east of Reservoir Road (Reservoir Road would stay open and accessible), turn around, and then head back the same way.

This proposed 10K course would involve closing Canal Road for about 1 1/2

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(7:30 - 9:00) hours. THE COURSE does not go through the neighborhood (e.g., MacArthur Boulevard, Arizona, or Reservoir Road); it does not block access to churches (since the race is on a Saturday); it does not block access to Sibley Hospital.

Please let me reiterate that we are committed to working with you and with your community and neighbors to address your concerns about the new proposed route. We hope that by not running through the neighborhood (e.g., the runners do not go on MacArthur, Foxhall, Arizona, or Reservoir Road), we alleviate some of the major concerns that existed in the past.

I look forward to meeting you tomorrow evening.

Sincerely,

Lauren Frank
American Heart Association
703-914-3710