

## Road Race Policy

Submitted By: RunRaleigh Races      Race Director: Paula O'Neal

The following is an outline of my concerns and objections to various points in the proposal as well as some additional concerns voiced by numerous local race directors.

### 1. General Policies # 1

**b. ii Reservation of Dates** - stated that based on 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> serve basis however annual event with acceptable performance score receives priority

**QUESTION- If a new event submits an application 8 months prior and the annual event submits application 5 months prior – how will that be monitored?**

### **b.iii Performance Score –**

- 1) what is the scoring system and why is that document not included in the proposal
- 2) Will the Race Director be notified within a certain period of time after the race and if so, can that be specified in this document

### **b.v Fees**

Application fee imposed in 2013 and now an additional “permit” fee is being proposed. I strongly object to this additional cost of a “permit” fee

- Why is there an extra “permit” fee?
- Why is the fee so excessive for distances over a 5K?
- How is any more work involved in the application process for a permit which had previously been a letter from the City Council stating approval? An 8K which is only 2 more miles and takes only 32 more minutes is being charged \$150 more. A race such as Race For Cure that holds three 5Ks at three separate times on the same morning for a total street closure time of 4 hrs would only be required to pay a permit fee of \$100 yet a half marathon would only close the road for 3 or 3.5 hrs and an 8 K only for approximately 80 minutes and the proposed fee is \$250. There are also some 8Ks and 10Ks that use less distance on a city street than a 5K.

**I contend that the application fee is sufficient for an event to be required to pay and respectfully request no additional fees should be imposed.**

## 2. Limitations on Events Within the City # 5

### a.i Overall Limitation on annual events – capped at 100

Right now based on the City Website's calendar of races for 2014, of the 104 weekend days available, **only 65 days have races scheduled. 39 weekend days do not have any races which accounts for 37% of weekend days in the year NOT having a race scheduled**

### a.iii Limitation of number of events on any given weekend

**Policy states no more than 4 on any given weekend however the Events Unit fails to abide by this policy. For example, Oct 25-26 has 5 events scheduled which fall under the road race policy.**

### a.v Grandfathering of existing events

- 15 races on the list in the 4 high impacted areas identified
- Lottery system now being proposed is no more feasible than the 1<sup>st</sup> proposal of race director's working it out among themselves
- **Proposed Resolutions:**
  - 1) do not allow any more races in these high impact areas even if a date is available
  - 2) work with the races on the list to resolve the conflicts without the races having to be displaced. Many are venue specific or have already been displaced due to the Rock & Rock Raleigh being given priority.
  - 3) Take proactive measures when the opportunity presents itself with a course change e.g. Ironman and Pink Shamrock. The Ironman double loop can easily be re-directed off Hillsborough Street for a much more viable route for the runners as well as not blocking in residents or businesses on Hillsborough Street
- **Each conflicting race should be reviewed to attempt to resolve the issue instead of simply stating one has to move.** Race Directors are trying to resolve the problem but the Police Department Event Unit is making it difficult. For example, both the nog 8K and Pink Shamrock have proposed route changes that would resolve the conflict however the new routes are not being approved despite no conflicts. The Pink Shamrock is scheduled for Sept 27<sup>th</sup> and has submitted over 9 revisions for a course.
- Also, some of these conflicts are extremely minor for example the Day of the Dead and City of Oaks Marathon. The overlap is one block of Wilmington Street from Hargett to Morgan and there are not any businesses open on Sunday, the day of the Marathon. The Marathon also clears Wilmington Street before church starts.

- There is no conflict for the North Raleigh two races. The Run Like a Mother and Mother of all Races are ½ mile apart, go in separate directions, do not use the same streets, and the Mother of all Races is 90% on the Greenway. The Mother of all Races does not block in a single residence or business.

### **Additional Concerns from Race Directors**

**This is an opportunity to address several issues and concerns from race directors regarding the police department's management of the traffic plans and requirements being imposed without any basis.**

1. **Age of volunteers** – prior to 2013, the required age of volunteers was 18 yrs old. Preferably 21 yrs old but this was not mandated. However now the Police Department's Event Office is requiring all volunteers in non-critical course positions to be 21 yrs old. This excludes young adult church groups, fraternities & sororities who volunteer, as well as members of the military who happen to be between 18-21 yrs old.

**Request that the required age for volunteers be 18 yrs old and this be included in the road race policy for the city**

2. **Adding officers and police cars without justification- extra costs to races**  
Most recent example occurred with RunRaleigh Half which is now the RunRaleigh Rock'N Rebellion 13.1 and scheduled for Oct 5, 2014. For 3 years, the same portion of Clark-Peace has been closed with barricades without complaint or detour issues. This year, 2 extra officers with 2 police cars have been added for an extra cost of \$330. I have an email objection pending with the Chief and Deputy Chief but have not received a response. There has not been any changes to the road pattern and the request to check with the Race Police Supervisor (who had supervised the race 3 times) was ignored.

**This happens on a routine basis and race directors have little recourse. Appeals through the chain of command within the Special Operations Division and Police Department have proven to be futile.**

**How can this be addressed?**

### **3. Changing race courses without cause**

This has become a major issue with the Police Department's event unit where annual local races are being made to change their courses even when there has not been any complaints or significant problems. Three examples of this are the SPCA Walk, the Pink Shamrock 5K, and the Magnificent Mile. Both races (SPCA and Pink Shamrock) submitted over 8 revisions of a route and the Pink Shamrock is still pending despite the race being scheduled for Sept 27<sup>th</sup>

A 3<sup>rd</sup> example of this is the Magnificent Mile which has been held for 8 years in Raleigh and is part of the USATF Endurance Championship Series as well as the Second Empire Grand Prix Series. The race was started by Raleigh resident, Sarah Witt who was an avid runner until 2004 at which time she was effected by Primary Lateral Sclerosis which has left her wheel-chair bound and partially paralyzed. Since 2006, the Magnificent Mile has raised over \$450,000 for upper motor neuron disorders. **In 2014, the Police Department's Event Unit advised Ms. Witt that she had to move her race because it was allegedly too disruptive. There has not been any significant complaints regarding this race.**

The Magnificent Mile uses Hillsborough Street from West Street to the State Capital, loops the State Capital and finishes back near Harrington Street. Elite runners from all over the country participate in this race. After numerous months of discussions as well as different routes proposed by the Mag Mile staff, Ms. Witt was advised that she could have her race at that location for 2014. This race is on a Sunday afternoon and lasts less than one hour. Despite Dawson, McDowell, Salisbury, and Wilmington Streets being closed for that very short period of time, there are very viable detours. The Mag Mile is far less disruptive than the 70.3 Ironman and the Rock & Roll which also closes Hillsborough Street on a Sunday for a much longer period of time as well as many of the north-south thoroughfares.

**This problem has escalated throughout 2013 and has become a major issue for many race directors in 2014.**