

**From:** [Eva Solomon](#)  
**To:** [Williams, Debra](#)  
**Cc:** [ANGELA CARRON](#); [Reese Shasteen](#)  
**Subject:** Ann Arbor Marathon  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 21, 2024 2:43:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [Impact Statement.pdf](#)  
[Ann Arbor Marathon Support Letter\\_GOTR.pdf](#)  
[Letter of support from Ann Arbor Sports Commission.pdf](#)  
[RRCA Ann Arbor Letter.pdf](#)  
[Communication with Churches- Ann Arbor Marathon.pdf](#)  
[Sweetwaters statement of support for marathon.pdf](#)

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Dear Debra,

Thank you for working with us to develop the best marathon course for the participants and the community.

I understand that some people weren't happy with the closure of Liberty last year. We will start the race one hour earlier to open it by 1 pm. Liberty will already be closed up to 4th so it's only a few blocks beyond that.

Without being able to use Gallup Park, we have limited options to create a 26.2 mile course. We have created a course around Gallup Park, using Geddes. The runners and walkers can use the sidewalk most of the way, but there is no sidewalk from Earhart to Huron Pkwy. We want soft closure of one lane (monitored by a flagger or officer) and are in communication with the VA Hospital to ensure they are on board.

Just about every city the size of Ann Arbor hosts a marathon in the city limits. Marathons promote health and fitness, foster community spirit, and provide significant economic benefits.

This year, The Probility Ann Arbor Marathon has been chosen as the Road Runner Club of America's State Championship race. This will bring more tourism and excitement to the event.

### **Health and Wellness**

The Probility Ann Arbor Marathon offers a full marathon, half, 10K, 5K, and relay. Additionally, there is a half-marathon walk making it accessible to people of all ages and fitness levels and it inspires many to take up running, leading to a healthier, more active community.

### **Economic Impact**

This event has an economic impact on our city. It may not be like a U of M football game, but on a bye weekend, it brings tourism when there otherwise would have been a lull. In addition to the fees the race pays to local agencies and businesses, the influx of participants, spectators, and

tourists benefit local businesses, including hotels, restaurants, and retail stores.

### **Community Engagement**

The marathon brings our community together in a unique and positive way. It has become an annual tradition that fosters a sense of pride and unity among residents. The event provides opportunities for local organizations to raise money by volunteering or running.

### **Showcasing Tree Town**

The course is unique and it brings participants back year after year. While many urban marathons run through the city, we have the benefit of running through downtown, campus, parks, and along the river. Few race courses can boast such an interesting and diverse course. When I became involved with this race, the tagline was *Run the City*. We changed it to *Run Tree Town* which says it all.

### **Communication Plan**

In order to prepare the community for the disruption, we will send informational postcards to all of the affected Zip Codes one month before race day. Allegra Printing will take care of this. Six weeks before race day, we will go door to door to all of the downtown businesses to share race day details and offer publicity for the businesses. One week before race day, we will put signs along the route with the race date and will alert the media to help spread the word.

I have attached letters from businesses and charities supporting all of the above.

Thank you for sharing with City Council and for the opportunity to attend the September 3 meeting.

Please let me know if there is any other documentation we can send in support of the race.

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Be fit, be well, and keep smiling,

**Eva Solomon**

she/her

**CEO, Founder, Epic Races, LLC**

**USAT Level II Race Director**

**RRCA Certified Race Director**

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