

I am writing in support of Ann Arbor Marathon, not as an employee of Epic Races, but rather as a veteran marathoner. I only joined the Epic Staff as the volunteer coordinator last fall after getting to know Eva and staff from participating in their races. When she asked me, it was an instant yes. To have the opportunity to be behind the scenes of an event that is so near and dear to my heart was my chance to live out the old adage, "if you love what you do, you'll never have to work a day in your life."

I am overjoyed to be able to say, I haven't missed an Ann Arbor Marathon event since it started in 2012. With that being said, I have seen the different starts and finishes of the race over the years and I truly believe that the 2023 course is the best yet. The vibe as you run along Liberty Street heading out on the course and return to head back to the finish with Liberty Street as the home stretch is unmatched by any other races in and around town.

As a resident of Canton, Michigan most of my life and more recently Milan, Michigan in the last 3 years, I was previously intimidated by the busy city streets and the University Campus. It was my first Ann Arbor Marathon in 2012, that showed me all Ann Arbor has to offer. The diverse course showcases the exceptional restaurants, retail and other businesses, then gives you a preview of the University of Michigan campus, and if that isn't exciting enough, you get to experience the rolling hills of Geddes, the beautiful river trail on the B2B AND the Nichols Arboretum.

I've run 137 marathons in my lifetime and I would LOVE to see the city of Ann Arbor embrace this marathon like I see other cities do. Glass City Marathon in Toledo, Louisiana Marathon, Columbus Marathon, Madison Marathon to name a few. It makes the vibe that much more positive when the community is involved. Businesses welcoming the runners to visit their restaurants and shops, offering discounts and cheering for participants as they go by. It truly is a beautiful thing. Ann Arbor Marathon has that potential. Allowing the marathon to have a consistent course is key to building these positive relationships. What's even better is the fact that you don't have to be a runner to be a part of the weekend. There are so many opportunities to volunteer and support the event.

Thanks to the Ann Arbor Marathon I have returned to the city hundreds of times since I first ran the marathon in 2012. Before then I had only been there for a football game and a basketball game.. I have since organized running groups to meet for regular Sunday runs along the B2B, through the Arboretum and downtown and back, mimicking parts of the Ann Arbor Marathon route and going to Angelo's(, Avalon, Afternoon Delight or Fleetwood Diner for breakfast after. I have been to the local running shop on Liberty and Ashley to get my running shoes. I now have several favorite restaurants in and around town including Conor O'Neill's where I have had the pleasure of getting to know the owner, Caroline.

My list could go on and on of the outstanding discoveries I have made in the city since I've started exploring it more and I am often encouraging friends to check out some of my favorite places. I am grateful for the Ann Arbor Marathon, for promoting health and wellness, for fostering community engagement, for the economic boost on race weekend and for showcasing

the city in a way that made me want to come back for more. I know it can do the same for the thousands of others that are about to experience the marathon for the first time each year.



We inspire girls to be
joyful, healthy & confident!

Ann Arbor City Council
301 E Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

Dear Esteemed Council Members,

I am writing this letter in support of Epic Races and the Ann Arbor Marathon.

Girls on the Run is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams. We improve the well-being of girls through a suite of research-based, intentionally designed curriculum with compelling evidence of impact. Our program culminates with participants positively impacting the world around them through a community impact project and completing a celebratory, non-competitive 5K event. It is through these two essential components that girls are first able to apply the life skills learned in the program and gain critical confidence through accomplishment, as well as demonstrate their enhanced physical activity skills.

Locally our council was founded in 2001 to serve five counties here in southeastern Michigan - Washtenaw, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston and Monroe. Over the last 23 years we've served more than 26,000 girls and provided need-based scholarships to over 8,000 families. Last school year alone, we awarded over \$134,000 in financial assistance to 851 families, and 244 pairs of athletic shoes, leggings, sports bras and socks to children in need.

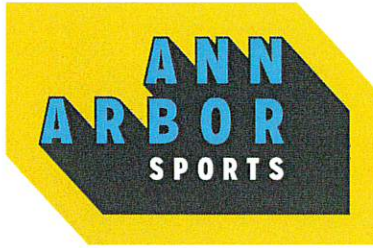
This wide reach, and strong commitment to equity and accessibility, would not be possible without valuable community partners like Epic Races and the Ann Arbor Marathon. In addition to being a positive event for our community, that showcases incredible role models for our children, the Marathon raises thousands of dollars for area non-profits. Our organization has been a beneficiary of the Marathon since its inception and the funds raised are critical to our mission and vision.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and community I'd like to thank you for taking the time to consider our request for support. If you have any questions about our organization, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Danielle Plunkett

Danielle Plunkett, Executive Director



August 21, 2024

Dear City of Ann Arbor,

On behalf of the Ann Arbor Sports Commission, I am delighted to express our support for the Ann Arbor Marathon. As a distinguished quality of life event, this marathon not only highlights the vibrancy of our community but also contributes to the local economy.

The Ann Arbor Marathon has become a cornerstone of our city's annual events, drawing participants from across the region and beyond. This influx of visitors not only showcases Ann Arbor's welcoming atmosphere but also bolsters local businesses, from hotels and restaurants to retail shops. The marathon's impact extends well beyond the race itself, fostering a sense of community pride and promoting a healthy, active lifestyle.

The event's ability to attract a diverse range of participants reflects the quality and appeal of the marathon experience. From the well-organized race logistics to the enthusiastic support from local volunteers, the marathon exemplifies the high standards we strive to uphold in Ann Arbor. The positive feedback from participants show the value of the marathon as a premier event that enhances our community's quality of life.

We are proud to support Epic Races in hosting the Ann Arbor Marathon and are eager to see the continued success of this event.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meaghan Hughes".

Meaghan Hughes
Director, Ann Arbor Sports Commission



ROAD RUNNERS CLUB OF AMERICA

100 W. Jefferson St. Ste 202
Falls Church, VA 22046
703.525.3890

August 21, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Program Manager for the Road Runners Club of America (RRCA), I am writing in support of the Ann Arbor Marathon. The RRCA is the oldest and largest association of running clubs and events in the United States, and the Ann Arbor Marathon has been a longtime member. Doing so reflects the organizers' desire to put on not only a high-quality event, and one that benefits not only local runners, but also the greater community.

One of the RRCA's key programs is our Championship Event Series, designed to spotlight and support community-based running events. RRCA Championships are chosen through a highly competitive bidding process. The Ann Arbor Marathon has been picked for this designation multiples times, and we are very excited to have it on the list again for 2024. Several factors have gone into the race's continued selection:

- The Ann Arbor Marathon is a high-quality, well-organized, well-planned event that is accessible to runners of all ages and abilities.
- It is a unifying force, bringing together so many kinds of people from the area, not only to run, but also to volunteer, cheer on course, or take in the excitement of the event.
- The course is a wonderful goes promotion for the city of Ann Arbor showcasing a wide variety of neighborhoods, parks, and the University of Michigan campus.

In summary, as an organization devoted to bettering communities through running, we feel the Ann Arbor Marathon embodies this mission. Given its status as not only a high-quality event but also its benefits to Ann Arbor on the whole, we feel strongly it receive the necessary resources and support to continue

Sincerely,

Andy Smith

Program Manager

We Run the Nation!
www.RRCA.org

**Communication with St. Mary's Church in 2023.
Rainey communicated with the other churches on our behalf.**



Eva Solomon <eva@epicraces.com>

Oct 31, 2023,
10:22 PM

to Rainey

Re
ply

Hi Rainey,

I hope all is well and you have had a nice Halloween!

As we are making plans for next year, I wanted to check in and see if you have any additional feedback regarding the marathon course this past year. We may make some course alterations, but I want to be sure to keep roads open for folks to get to services so any information you can share is appreciated.

Thanks so much!



Rainey Lamey <rlamey@umich.edu>

Nov 3, 2023,
9:46 AM

to Constance, Cathy, Eva

Re
ply

Dear Eva,

Thank you for reaching back out. I've cc'd Constance Heskia, our office manager, and Cathy Welch, our business manager.

Good luck with your planning for next year's Ann Arbor Marathon, 10K, and 5K!

My memory is that at one point, several years ago, there were golf carts running from the UM Thompson Street structure, as the old Borders Parking Lot was either unavailable or filled up quickly. I vaguely remember organizers arranging parking passes for those who wished -- announcing about one month before. But, perhaps, all your hard work has reduced the need for such measures.

This year, I had a fairly uneventful trip into downtown the morning of the race, based on the maps you sent and suggested.

Our staff, Cathy, and Constance, can confirm any details or needs or lessons learned from race day. Many of our seniors come to the 8:30, 10AM, and Noon Sunday masses; so those are the key time frames on a race day.

Thank you so much for reaching out.

Rainey



Cathy Welch <cwelch@smspnewman.org>

Nov 6, 2023,
2:13 PM

to Rainey, Eva, Constance

Re
ply

Eva –

Thank you for reaching out! I checked with Constance and neither she nor I heard anything positive or negative about traffic flow for this event so we have no suggestions for next year.

Cathy

Cathy Welch
Business Manager

St Mary Student Parish
331 Thompson Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Office: (734) 663-0557 x224
Fax: (734) 663-2756

cwelch@smspnewman.org
Web: <http://stmarystudentparish.org>



Eva Solomon <eva@epicraces.com>

Nov 6, 2023,
2:37 PM

to Cathy, Rainey, Eva, Constance

Re
ply

Thank you very much! Sounds like no news is good news!
We will try to keep everything the same for next year and I will be in touch as we approach the 2024 date.



Rainey Lamey <rlamey@umich.edu>

Nov 6, 2023,
2:40 PM

to Eva, Cathy, Constance

Re
ply

Thanks from the townie/parishioner angle, Eva. :-) And good luck! Rainey

Sweetwaters statement of support for marathon

Alicia Dunlap <aliciad@sweetwaterscafe.com>

Tue, Aug 20, 2024 at 7:00 PM

To: eva@epicraces.com, angela@epicraces.com

Cc: Haley Carstensen <haleyc@sweetwaterscafe.com>, Amit Klass <amitk@sweetwaterscafe.com>, Lisa Bee <lisab@sweetwaterscafe.com>

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of Sweetwaters Coffee and Tea at 123 W. Washington St in support of renewing the permit for the Ann Arbor Marathon. It was a fun event that brought substantial business and expanded our guest base.

Our sales on the day of the race last year were between 25-60% higher than the same day sales of neighboring weeks. That is significant growth that we would not have without the race beginning and ending near our location. We hope the event continues annually and that the route remains the same.

Sincerely,

Alicia Dunlap
District Manager

Love Your Day™ Every Day.

T: (734) 548-8088 | AliciaD@Sweetwaterscafe.com

Sincerely,

Alicia Dunlap
District Manager

Love Your Day™ Every Day.

T: (734) 548-8088 | AliciaD@Sweetwaterscafe.com



Reese Shasteen <reese.epicraces@gmail.com>

Race

1 message

Eddie Brooks <newyoubrooks@yahoo.com>

Wed, Aug 21, 2024 at 3:37 PM

To: Reese Shasteen <reese.shasteen@gmail.com>, reese.epicraces@gmail.com

To whom is my concern

Participating in the Ann Arbor Marathon has been a transformative experience for 3N1. It was more than just a race; it was a powerful moment that helped us build a stronger, more connected community. With our vibrant orange shirts proudly on display, the event provided us with a platform to share our story, significantly boosting our visibility and brand awareness. This newfound notoriety attracted new members and gave our locally owned gym the recognition it deserved. The race was a celebration of our shared journey, uniting our members, their families, and friends in a way that deeply enriched our community.

3N1 Fitness Revolution owner

Eddie Brooks

810-210-5877