

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 2, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO PERMIT AN EXCEPTION TO THE MAJOR EVENTS POLICY TO ALLOW A MODIFICATION TO THE "RUN VS. ROW" RACE ROUTE IN OLD TOWN

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**ISSUE:** Request to permit an exception to the Major Events Policy to allow a modification to the "Run vs. Row" race route in Old Town due to the closing of Jones Point Drive.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council approve an exception to the Major Events Policy to allow a modification to the "Run vs. Row" race route in Old Town, which is scheduled for March 30, 2002, to accommodate for the closing of Jones Point Drive as a result of construction on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

The race organizers have been told to seek letters of support from the Old Town Civic Association, Founders Park Community Association, Harborside Civic Association, Ford's Landing Civic Association, and Yates Garden Citizens' Association.

**BACKGROUND:** In 1985, in response to concerns that were raised by residents and businesses about the number of events held in Old Town, City Council adopted a set of guidelines governing the scheduling of major events in Old Town. Parades and races were exempt from these guidelines. In 1994, City Council asked staff to review these guidelines and recommend changes to reduce the number of events in Old Town to lessen the impact on traffic and parking and to schedule more events throughout the City. As a result, City Council adopted guidelines which included races and parades as major events and defined an event as having 500 or more people.

The "Run vs. Row" race was one of the five races permitted to continue in Old Town because the river is needed for the rowers while the runners use the street. Currently, the "Run vs. Row" race is one of three races remaining in Old Town<sup>1</sup> (the other two races are no longer sponsored).

**DISCUSSION:** The Alexandria Crew Boosters Club, Incorporated (ACBC) is the sponsor for the "Run vs. Row" event, and this race provides funds for equipment purchases associated with the Alexandria City Public Schools' rowing program. The ACBC has requested an exception to the

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<sup>1</sup>The three races remaining in Old Town are "Run vs. Row," the George Washington Parkway Classic, and the D.C. Roadrunners.

Major Events Policy to allow minor changes in the “Run vs. Row” race route because Jones Point Drive, which was previously part of the race route, has been closed as a result of construction on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

This race, which attracts approximately 800 to 1,200 runners and 100 rowers, begins at 8:00 a.m. at Union and Pendleton Streets, and continues on Union Street to Franklin Street, turns right on Franklin Street, and turns left on Lee Street to Jones Point Drive. At that point, because of the closing of Jones Point Drive, the runners will turn around at Lee Street and Jones Point Drive, come back up Lee Street, turn right on Franklin Street, turn right on Union Street, turn left onto the bike path and left onto the walkway behind the Ford’s Landing Townhouses, continue to Pommander Park (Windmill Hill Park), exit the park and turn right onto Union Street to Pendleton Street at Oronoco Bay Park, and run on the 1000 and 1100 blocks of North Fairfax Street and back to the park to make up the mileage lost as a result of the closing of Jones Point Drive.

The rowers are in the river traveling south to Jones Point, and return to the boat house at the foot of Madison Street. The race concludes about 9:15 a.m.

After the event, staff will evaluate the impact of this change in the route. Police, as in the past, will secure the route until the last runner completes the race. Race volunteers will assist along the route, and additional volunteers will be stationed at the Pommander Park dog exercise area to minimize the risk of conflict between dogs and runners.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None as a result to the minor change in the route.

**STAFF:** Sandra Whitmore, Director  
Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
Janet Barnett, Deputy Director  
Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities