



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

MAR 18 2010

Kelvin J. Robinson
Chairman
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
P.O. Box 75115
Washington, D.C. 20013

Dear Commissioner Robinson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 5th Annual Sun Trust Marathon, scheduled to be held in the District of Columbia on March 20, 2010. This is a large scale event that impacts all corners of the city. The Special Operations Division of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is responsible for the planning and execution of the police details for this event. I have spoken with command officials, and made them aware of your concerns.

The approval process for a special event of this nature includes a presentation to the Mayor's Special Events Task Group, of which MPD is a member. Based on the presentation by the organizer, MPD must evaluate the plan to see if there are public safety concerns or any illegal activity. The routes provided for an event are given by the organizers, and not the MPD. Once those concerns are satisfied, MPD can offer their support for an event. Many months of planning are required for an event like this. Criticism and recommendations from previous years are taken into consideration when planning for the event. For that reason, it would be very difficult to vary the route from year to year. While this may move "the excitement and the burden" of the event to other neighborhoods, it also introduces the event to an area that has not handled one in the past and may experience completely different issues than what has been planned for based on experience.

Handling large numbers of pedestrians in an event such as this becomes very dangerous, with the introduction of vehicles. For that reason, we prohibit the movement of vehicles in the area of the marathon route. Our planning officers are attempting to identify a limited number of intersections where we may be able to get vehicles across the route, but that would only be in the event of a safe gap in runners. As such, we will not be able to guarantee the availability of such, and continue to stress to residents and visitors that they will experience traffic detours in the area.

Thank you for your letter and we look forward to a safe event.

Sincerely,

Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police