

CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 27, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling; Commissioner Charles Yost; Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons; James and Shannon Whipple, J&S Endurance, LLC

STAFF: Police Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Mike Yeosock, Assistant Director TMP

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 2:37 PM. A quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chief Kulhawik stated that the purpose of this meeting is to come to some kind of an agreement regarding the SoNo Half Marathon and the 5K Race. At the regular Traffic Authority meeting, the organizer was asked to come up with a course that would have less impact on traffic and the public. James and Shannon Whipple redesigned the course and presented the course changes to the traffic authority commissioners for the SoNo Marathon and the 5K Race.

Originally it was set for Saturday, October 19, 2019, however, they revisited the date and thought that by having it on Sunday, October 20, there would be less impact to residents and businesses. The revised route will not go past the police station and only 2 churches. In addition to the change of the day, the race will start at 8:30 AM, earlier than previous races, which should also minimize a lot of complaints.

The course use to go down Wall Street, West Avenue and East Avenue because the organizers felt that it showed off the City, but it also caused problems, so it was felt that it was better to bypass these areas completely.

The course goes as follows, the runners will start at Veterans Park, exit the park going out of the East entrance, from their they will go down Seaview Avenue, go over the Stroffolino bridge and go down Washington Street, go right down to Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and take a left on to Martin Luther King, the runners will be hanging to the right side of the road, they will go all the way down Martin Luther King up Wilson, when they get to the top of Wilson they will make a small loop in Rowayton. The dog park is on one side, when they make the right on McKinley they are still on the side of the dog park, they will be making the first right on to Roton Ave, which the right side of that road is a pond and the school, so there should be no traffic issues for a Sunday run. Residents will not be stopped getting out of there streets they can still use the left side of the road. The runners will make a left on to Highland, go down Highland on the right side of the road which is the side of Brian McMahan, all the way down to Flax Hill stay to the right make the first right on to Michael Street then left on to Soundview follow that all the way back down to south Norwalk down Flax Hill make a right on to Washington street, back down Seaview, still staying on the right side of the road. Mr. Whipple is proposing to have a cone in the center of the lane, so runners that are leaving Seaview in the morning will stay left of the cones and as they are coming back they will stay right of the cones.

The other side of Seaview can remain open, it should not interfere with the residents living on Seaview, we are not going to be taking up that full street, they will be making a left on to East Ave which is of course a one way street, stay to the right side of the road, bare right onto Gregory Blvd. from there they will be going up to Pine Hill. The runners will go to Old Saugatuck to Pine Hill down Pine Hill to Marvin go back along the Golf Course, go into shady beach like they have in the past, also go into Calf Pasture Beach which they never used, back down beach road and the only section that the police will have to hold up traffic is down at the monument as they are crossing over to Fitch Street.

Mr. Whipple feels this is a good course and that he will get out notices to make sure the residents are notified about the additional section.

Now going into the discussion about the 5k course, which might have to change at some point because of the Walk Bridge Project, this one starts about 5 to 10 mins. After the Sono Half, so they both take place very quickly, when the half runners start off first, when they leave Seaview is when they start the 5k runners. This course will exit out of Veterans park the same way from the east entrance down Seaview straight down Washington street make a right on North Main street then a right on Ann street and a left on North Water Street go into oyster shell out of oyster shell back down North Water all the way to Seaview and Washington street make a left over the bridge and back into veterans park. This course should not tie up south Norwalk traffic. The runners are very contained with the change in this course, Ms. Whipple stated that they even have them going in reverse in Oyster Shell just so when they come back they are on the path not in the road.

Mayor Rilling thanked everyone for working together, the date was changed from the October 19th to October 20th. Mayor Rilling asked the commissioners if everything looks fine for them and they both concurred. Mayor Rilling asked the commissioners to approve the course and date change. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons moved to accept the course and date change that is set for October 20th at 8:30 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Archer