

June 23, 2008

City of Racine Attn.: Honorable Mayor Gary E. Becker Racine City Hall 730 Washington Avenue Racine, WI 53403

The Racine City Common Council Racine City Hall 730 Washington Avenue Racine, WI 53403

Re: The Ophelia Project "Single Steps ... World of Difference" 5K Run/Walk to be held on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Honorable Mayor Gary E. Becker, and Members of the City or Racine Common Council:

On behalf of the Ophelia Project of Southeastern Wisconsin, I am writing this to request formal approval of an event we would like to hold on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The event will be a 5 kilometer run and walk which will be staged at the North Beach in Racine. The event will require the non-exclusive use of portions of the North Beach Park, including parking lots, a portion of the grassy area near the Oasis, the adjoining bike-trails, the beach and a parking lane of Michigan Blvd. between the north end of the Zoo and William Street and a short portion of Michigan Blvd. between the dead end south of Melvin Avenue and a point approximately 50 yards south of Melvin Avenue.

Accompanying this request you should receive a map detailing the courses for the run and the walk as well as an indication of the likely position for a tent we would need to set-up to handle the day of event registration.

We intend to have two different courses for the event. There would be one course for runners, and a different one for walkers.

The runners would start and finish on the beach by the water. Their start would be on the beach right at the edge of the water at a point approximately even with the Oasis. At the start, the runners would go south on the beach to just before the pier, then turn west to meet up with the bike-trail and then proceed north on the bike-trail. The runners would stay on the bike-trail until it meets up with the sidewalk just south of the Zoo then stay on the sidewalk to the southeast corner of the Zoo where they would enter the Zoo grounds and proceed through the Zoo. They would exit the Zoo at its northeast corner and continue along the east side of Michigan Blvd. in the parking lane (and possibly on the grass) until they turn around at a point about 50 yards south

of the intersection of Michigan Blvd and Melvin Avenue. After turning around, the runners would return on the same route using the parking lane on the east side of Michigan Blvd. between William Street and the Zoo. At that point, instead of continuing back through the Zoo, they would follow the bike-trail down behind the Zoo and continue on the bike-trail retracing the same route as they took at the start in order to finish back on the beach along the water's edge to the point where they started. The only contact with City streets would be the parking lane of Michigan Blvd. for the two short blocks between Augusta and William and again for about 100 yards of Michigan Blvd. south of Melvin (this is a dead end and only affects a couple of homes).

As for the walkers, they would start in the parking lot alongside the bike-trail just south of the Racine Yacht Club. As they exit the parking lot, they would enter the bike-trail and continue north to a point near the Oasis where they would cross the drive between the parking lots and take the serpentine sidewalk up from the Oasis to the sidewalk on the east side of Michigan Blvd. and proceed north to the Zoo. They would also enter the Zoo at the southeast corner and walk a loop in the zoo before returning back on the sidewalk along the same path that they took on their way to the Zoo, and finish at the same place where they started.

After finishing their respective walk and run the participants would congregate at the Oasis for typical post-event refreshments – water (possibly other non-alcoholic beverages), and fruit, cookies, etc. and an awards ceremony.

We have also been in contact with Mr. Paul Curtin with regard to our plans, and he is enthusiastic about our event.

The run and walk would both start at 6:00 p.m. We would expect that the runners would complete their course in less than an hour after their start, and that the walkers would complete their course in about an hour and fifteen minutes of their start.

As for the time period that runners would be north of the Zoo (and in contact with Michigan Blvd.), we estimate that runners would begin exiting the Zoo at approximately 6:10, and that the last of them would re-enter the Zoo at approximately 6:30. That is, the total amount of time that the event would be in contact with Michigan Blvd. would be about twenty minutes.

As I understand it, there has already been some contact by someone representing the Ophelia Project with both the Mayor's Office and the City Park and Recreation Department. I have also spoken briefly recently with Tom Molbeck about this. He confirmed that there is something tentatively calendared with the City for a use of the North Beach area on this date by this organization.

With the possible exception of a need to post temporary "No Parking" signs (for which we will take responsibility) for the parking lane on the east side of Michigan Blvd. between Augusta and William Streets on the day of the event, we would anticipate that this event would be requesting non-exclusive use of any City property involved.

We would also expect that we would not require assignment of any City of Racine police personnel to assist with traffic (since there will be very limited contact with City streets, and it will not be necessary to change any traffic patterns, or direct traffic at any intersections.

As indicated above, this event is being put on by the Ophelia Project of Southeastern Wisconsin with the cooperation and assistance of the Racine Area Running Club. The Racine Area Running Club (RARC) is a non-profit corporation whose members have considerable experience in assisting with putting on this type of event. RARC has previously assisted with a number of events in the area (including the long-running Jingle Bell Run for the Arthritis Foundation) and the complete organization and successful accomplishment of other local running events including: the Racine Zoo Run (2000, and 2001), and the Roma 5K Run (2002,

2003 and 2004). To our knowledge, the City of Racine has never experienced any problems with any of the events that we have organized in the past.

The Ophelia Project of Southeast Wisconsin is part of a nationally known non-profit organization that is dedicated to helping youth form healthy peer relationships and creating safe social climates for all. Its programs and trainings help schools and communities address peer aggression in childhood social settings.

The event is being organized to raise awareness of, and for the benefit of, the Ophelia Project and its work. We believe that the work and goals of the Ophelia Project deserve the support of our community, and will ultimately enhance the quality of life throughout the Racine area. In the event that the City of Racine would be able to consider the reduction,, or waiver of any fees or costs that may be related to this event, we would also request that such consideration be granted.

On behalf of the Ophelia Project and the Racine Area Running Club, I thank you in advance of your consideration of these requests.

If there is anything further that you would require from the organizers of this event, please feel free to contact me.

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CC: City of Racine Department of Public Works, Attn.: Mr. Richard M. Jones

City of Racine Parks and Recreation Department, Attn.: Mr. Donnie Snow

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