

Bobbie Walthall

From: Diane Gercke <eaglesrestnaturalhome@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 12:09 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Cc: Sally Zogry
Subject: Tour of Lawrence Downtown Criterium

Dear Lawrence City Commissioners,

I am emailing you regarding the "Tour of Lawrence Downtown Criterium" bike race proposed for Sunday, July 1st. As a business owner in downtown Lawrence I am opposed to the this event.

Two years ago when this event took place, it closed down the entire town. We had quite a few cyclists riding on the sidewalks. The general attitude of the cyclists was one of little or no regard towards anyone else who was downtown. I became aware of this because one cyclist was warming up on the sidewalk in front of my store when she hit a crack in the sidewalk, lost control and went through our plate glass window. Fortunately she was not killed!

"Unmistakably Lawrence", the organization sponsoring the event did take care of boarding up my window as well as the costs of replacement. However, the expensive showroom chair that the cyclist and all of the glass landed on became my responsibility. I understand that that particular person went on to win the race with her team and made a large purse of \$10,000 or \$20,000. I was left with a bill for \$1300 for replacing the chair that was in my window as well as a bad taste in my mouth.

My opposition to continuing this event downtown is not because I believe another cyclist is going to go through my window again. It is really more about my concern about the speed of the event and the general "cowboy culture" it brings with it. There are so many people who like to come downtown on weekends and they should be safe. Speaking with event planners and associated people with the event I heard one person tell me that "crashes will happen." AGAIN, I am concerned for the potential of a cyclist running in to someone's child or someone's elderly person. The consequences for a cyclist hitting a person downtown could be catastrophic, as they are going quite fast.

Finally, it is my belief that this event does nothing for my business downtown. Events like this simply disrupt and drive business away. My customers do not come downtown when these events are going on. They avoid it. Parking is difficult and getting around through the town becomes blocked and confusing.

If you have any questions or about this email or my experience please feel free to email me or call me.

Thank you for your time!

Diane Gercke

Bobbie Walthall

From: Jesse Miguel <jessekadekawamiguel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 11:55 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Tour of Lawrence - support

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a cyclist, a member of Local Cycling in Shawnee, KS in support of the Tour of Lawrence. This event, which started out as part of the Collegiate bike races and now part of the Kansas Cycling Series, has been a race that I have participated in several times, and the downtown crit has been always been memorable, showing the downtown Lawrence area, and bringing it all ranges of cyclists, from the beginner racers up to the pro-level, as well as the children and youth being able to race along their age group. I am also writing as a member of the Bicycle Advisory Committee for the City of Shawnee, which has been designated as a bicycle friendly community and have been supportive of several cyclocross races.

I have always had some cheering crowds at the Downtown Crit, having almost a fair type atmosphere, and enjoy all the area restaurants and coffee shops when racing there. Summers are typically quieter in a college town, and Lawrence is no exception, and having a bike race will bring in more fans to Lawrence from several states. In fact Lawrence has a strong bike community, with a cyclist from Lawrence named Ashton Lambie who started his grass track velodrome experience in Lawrence and went on to represent Team USA in the world championships.

Please keep the Tour of Lawrence as a highlight race in the state of Kansas, and show that Kansas is supportive of cycling (otherwise Lawrence will be upstaged by Emporia for their Dirty Kanza that has cyclists from worldwide coming over).

Jesse Kadekawa Miguel - Shawnee, KS

Member – Local Cycling.com

Member – Bicycle Advisory Committee – City of Shawnee, KS

Bobbie Walthall

From: Deborah Werts <deb@waxmancandles.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 10:54 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Tour of Lawrence event sales impact

To our City Commissioners,

While Bob and I are not against the TOL event in downtown we do feel strongly that it should be limited in duration so that retail, restaurant and bar sales can occur normally to the greatest degree possible. A noon ending would be ideal.

Downtown Lawrence Inc. requested historical sales data from merchant members and we were frankly shocked with our Waxman findings.

For years 2014, 2015 and 2016 our retail sales for the day of the TOL event averaged 60% less when compared to the same day of the week for the two weeks both prior to and following the event.

Summer sales are slow enough for candle sales so this kind of slump is not a welcome one.

Appreciate your consideration of this information and we do realize this is a tricky matter for you all to deal with.

Thanks,
Deb Werts
Co-owner Waxman Candles

Bobbie Walthall

From: Amy C <aamycottrell@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 10:32 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Cc: Cindy Bracker Sturm
Subject: Tour of Lawrence Race in DTL

Dear Bobbie,

I am a cyclist writing to you today in support of Cindy Bracker and the Tour of Lawrence Bicycle Race being held in downtown Lawrence, Kansas. I've seen several comments, both pro and con to the idea of street closures during the race. Sometimes, it's easier to come from a place of "NO" rather than being open to exploring other ancillary benefits that bringing a highly publicized, well attended by regional racers event to the city of Lawrence.

For example, I recently drove with several of our racing team members to Sand Springs, OK (a 5 hour drive) to race two criteriums on Sunday, in downtown Sand Springs. We stayed overnight Saturday, and our lodging costs exceeded \$200. We had dinner downtown and our bill was \$125. There was a street festival that evening in the area and the streets were filled with families enjoying music.

On Sunday morning, we grabbed breakfast to go at a local bakery/cafe (\$20) and then headed out to the race course in downtown. The streets were closed for this event. Local businesses on the streets were open and patrons (racers and spectators) were enjoying the coffee shops, restaurants, etc while the racing was in progress.

After the race, our team stayed IN DOWNTOWN Sand Springs and ate at Napoli Italian Restaurant. They had tables set up outside and servers were happy to see us. We purposely ate downtown to support the local businesses. Our bill for our meal was over \$175. We were surrounded by other cyclists and spectators enjoying the downtown Sand Springs.

Rather than look for ways a bike race and subsequent closure of the streets could potentially negatively impact the area, please, look for ways to make this the great event it should be and bring, year after year, even more racers to your lovely downtown. For example, I saw families with children enjoying a huge bounce house, a beer garden, local restaurants setting up food trucks to make it easy for spectators to enjoy local cuisine, and photographers and media capturing it all.

There are many benefits to be had by hosting a high caliber race such as Tour of Lawrence. Many may not be immediate, however, please think of the positive media exposure, the local boost to your economy (hotels, restaurants, gas stations, etc) that will directly benefit that weekend. The media exposure and publicity that will follow will keep downtown Lawrence in the news in a positive light.

As you know, and the businesses know, growth happens over time. Please, make 2018 Tour of Lawrence the start of a great, world class bicycle race in Lawrence, KS. Cindy Bracker has put together a solid plan. I 100% support it. Downtown Lawrence Business owners, please get behind this.. we'll get behind you.

Sincerely,

Amy Cottrell
Business Development Manager

Bobbie Walthall

From: Connor Remboldt <leagueofconnor@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 8:27 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Tour of Lawrence Street Closures

To whom it may concern,

The revival of the Tour of Lawrence downtown criterium will be a successful move on the part of the city. The event is run during times when most businesses are closed, and also allows parking lots on either side of Massachusetts Street to be open as well. This will bring residents and viewers into downtown earlier and become a part of the event, while spending time in the accompanying downtown Lawrence businesses.

Cycling is growing in our region, and with even more national and international level events like the Gravelleur's Raid/Gravel Grinder National Championship and the Dirty Kanza 200 in Emporia, I'm sure the Tour of Lawrence will become a well represented event and location.

I even remember watching the races downtown before I was interested in cycling. I was able to see the surging power of the racers and all the cheering crowds. I had no idea how much fun it would be.

With the help of the city I think the Tour of Lawrence can and will be a holistic community event that will turn into a weekend summer celebration.

Thank you for you consideration.

Connor Remboldt
leagueofconnor@gmail.com
785-840-4458

Bobbie Walthall

From: zenzerolaw <zenzerolaw@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 11:07 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Downtown closing for a bicycle race

Dear City of Lawrence Commisioners:

We would like you to know that we are against the closing of Downtown Lawrence streets for the bicycle race that is being considered.

- 1) Closing causes our sales to go down & there is loss of revenue on a normally busy weekend because our customers cannot park on Mass, Vermont & New Hampshire Streets.
The event does not attract enough spectators nor does it bring in many participants & supporters to the venue to counter the loss of customers via due to the lack of parking spaces.
- 2) Loss of revenue = loss of sales tax revenue for the City & the State as well.
- 3) Closing the streets creates obstacles for children & elderly guests/customers to cross streets.
- 4) There are chances of damages to buildings or glass windows by bicycles crashing into it. There is a chance a customer could be sitting by the window or in the patio & could get hurt. The City & the Organizer could be sued for damages & injury (In the past, a downtown business window was smashed but the neither the organiser or the cyclist team paid for the damages/repairs).

We suggest the bicycle event be hosted at the Rock Chalk Park. It's a sports complex & designed for sports events. There aren't any businesses located there so the economic impact will be none. There are lots of roads around the complex to support a bike race. This will be a win win situation.

We depend on a busy weekend business to offset slower summer months. Hope you will take that into consideration & understand that for a viable downtown to prosper, you need successful businesses. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Subarna Bhattachan
La Parrilla, Zen Zero & Genovese Restaurants

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Bobbie Walthall

From: David Sturm <kilndoc@me.com>
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 4:43 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Tour of Lawrence Downtown Criterium Street Closure Permit

David Sturm

2611 Prairie Elm Dr
Lawrence, KS 66047
kilndoc@me.com

June 4, 2018

City Commission
Lawrence, Kansas
RE: Request for Massachusetts Street Closure on July 1, 2018

Commissioners,

I am writing this letter in support of the street closure for the Downtown Criterium cycling event on July 1, 2018. The reasons to approve the street closure are many, and I outline them below.

First, and perhaps most simply put, this event is part of our Lawrence history and traditions. Since 2009, the City has approved the street closures that were necessary to put on this exciting bicycle race. To quote the Lawrence Sports Commission (from the Lawrence Journal World article March 1, 2017), the event is to “return next year [2018] with the new format [2 criterium and a circuit race]”. The Lawrence Sports Commission also reported that the the “organizing group wanted to offer what they considered the best that Lawrence has to offer when it comes to venues”. Clearly, the City’s intent and support has always been BOTH to have the race return in 2018 AND ALSO that the Downtown Criterium course would continue to be part of the event.

Second, is the undeniable positive financial impact on the downtown businesses on race day. Between summer vacations of year-long residents, and the lack of KU students, July is typically a depressed month for retail sales in Lawrence. The easiest way to observe this is by looking at the amount of sales tax collected in the month of July. The Kansas Department of Revenue reports July as one of the slower months for sales tax collections in Douglas County; accounting for only 8% of the yearly sales tax revenue. These numbers are trending upwards year-over-year, but the growth rate slowed by half in 2017 (the year that the race was NOT held). It is clear the 8 years of street closures for Tour of Lawrence has had no long-term significant negative impact on the downtown businesses. In fact, the Downtown Criterium race actually brings hundreds of competitors, and hundreds more of their families and local spectators to the downtown area. While attending this all-day event, they absolutely spend money in the downtown shops and restaurants and serve to *increase* sales in the downtown district. Due to the multi-day nature of the tour, many of these people stay in our local hotels and motels as well; furthering the positive economic impact for the city.

Lastly, it is painfully clear that the majority of the opposition to the street closure is unfounded. There are arguments that cite financial impacts from a different street closure that happened during a Saturday (large retail sales day), when the KU students were present (larger number of potential customers). They cite security due to rampage shootings that have not ever occurred in Lawrence. They claim that their front-doors will be closed, which is not (nor never has) happened. One claims that the requested closure will be for the entire weekend (which is not the case). One even brings up the storefront window breakage from 2017, and claims that the race was at fault and did not fix the window. I was present at that event, and was 15 feet from the window when it happened. That breakage was caused by a person who was not in the race at the time. Bill Anderson, a local cyclist, race official, and business owner, was onsite immediately. He worked with the store manager and building owner (who were onsite) to get the situation resolved. They had the window boarded up within hours, and Bill stood guard at the open window until the building and business were secured. Bill then worked to cleanup the broken glass both inside and outside the store. Kennedy glass was onsite later to replace the window The damages were paid by the race. Clearly, most of the opposition to the race is not founded in any fact, and amounts to either misinformation or nothing more than shouting ‘the sky is falling’.

The confusion is completely unnecessary as well. The race organizers presented their proposal and stood for questions at a meeting of Downtown Lawrence, Inc. (DLI). After that meeting, race organizers made themselves available for further questions from ANY of the downtown businesses. They received a list of concerns from DLI, and proposed a compromise solution that addressed all of DLI’s concerns, which included shortening the day by 4 hours to end at 3:45 yet still allowing for the race to continue. DLI flatly rejected that compromise. And yet after all of the open discussion, transparency, and honest attempt to work together on the part of the race organizers, there are businesses that are claiming there has been no communication from the race organizers at all.

Given these facts, DLI has clearly failed to act appropriately in this matter. Despite the race organizer’s good-faith and tireless efforts, DLI’s membership still has no real idea what the permit is actually asking for, nor have they been adequately kept in the loop by DLI (who was acting on their behalf) during the discussions with the Tour of Lawrence. That alone calls into question the legitimacy of any argument that DLI may offer in this matter. It seems that DLI is more interested in forwarding a policy of ‘NO DOWNTOWN STREET CLOSURES’, rather than upholding and fostering a partnership with the city, community, businesses and residents of Lawrence, Kansas.

In conclusion, the actual facts in this matter and the appropriate course of action are clear. The City’s stated intent has always been to have the race continue downtown, so the question is really *not* whether the city should approve the street closure permit, *but rather* whether those who object to the race have provided a sufficient, substantive, and objective argument against the continuation of this historical and vibrant event. DLI, and the objection correspondence, has simply failed to do so. Therefore, the city should continue to move forward with its intent to allow the race to continue downtown, and approve the street closure permit.

Thank you.

David Sturm



To Whom It May Concern -

We have 3 bicycle racers in our household. Each year we have either gone to or participated in the Tour of Lawrence. It was disheartening to see the race was cancelled last year. We always enjoyed the downtown venue for the race. The last two times we went, we ate lunch at Quinton's in downtown and also purchased ice cream from another shop. Downtown Lawrence provides a great place to enjoy a race and to visit the shops and restaurants. Having the race downtown is a lot more inviting than having a race held somewhere else that doesn't have all the character.

Sincerely,

Danny Hooks

Bobbie Walthall

From: Kevin Fitzgerald <fitzkq@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 1:42 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Tour of Lawrence - Downtown street closures.

To Whom It May Concern -

As a regular participant in the Tour of Lawrence since its inception I was saddened to see it not held last year. Every year that the race was held I attended the Saturday and Sunday events, spending all day in the Lawrence area and purchasing my meals there. That means on the Sunday, when the race was typically held downtown, I spent money at two different downtown restaurants. Furthermore I have also spent money at the Love Garden record shop. I am not a resident of Lawrence or it's surrounding environment and, as great a city as it is, I don't have a lot of reason to visit, over the last several years it's the enthusiastic support of the people of Lawrence on race day that has drawn me to the city.

Lawrence provides a unique racing experience with the campus and the downtown races. If you look around at other races in the region there are some great examples of what can be achieved with some races going on to receive national recognition, I feel that Lawrence was on the cusp of that type of recognition before the race was cancelled last year and this year represents an opportunity to regain that footing but the downtown race is crucial to that success. I certainly understand the reluctance of many local businesses and empathise with their plight, I want to make sure that I don't consider this an "us vs them" scenario. I only offer up my own experience which is that the race, especially the downtown race, is what will induce me to come to downtown Lawrence. Even if the race only goes ahead with the Haskell race I am likely to frequent only businesses proximate or on 23rd Street.

Respectfully,
Kevin Fitzgerald

Bobbie Walthall

From: Richard Wolf <wolfrj@me.com>
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 1:29 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Closure of Mass Street for Bicycle Race

Dear sirs,

I'm not sure how the downtown shops on Commercial Street in Emporia, KS like the Dirty Kanza closing Commercial Street for 24 hours or so. But, the Emporia Convention and Visitors Bureau could probably offer some feedback. If you have trouble finding their contact information, you could check with the organizers of the Dirty Kanza, as the Bureau is a main sponsor of the event. I don't know about the other 2,500 cyclists or probably 1,000 more visitors. But, I parted with several hundred dollars during my visit to Emporia, KS.

<https://dirtykanza.com/>

So, approve or disapprove of the street closure for the race. It doesn't make any difference to me. If you approve the permit, I'll be there to race and spend my money at local shops. If you don't, I'll spend my weekend cycling; just not in Lawrence, KS.

Best of luck on your decision.

Richard Wolf
wolfrj@me.com
269.806.2134

Bobbie Walthall

From: Eccentricity Boutique <eccentricity.lawrence@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 11:58 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Tour of Lawrence Bike Race

Good Morning,

I am writing in regards to the upcoming appeal from the Tour of Lawrence bike race regarding the requested street closures. I am a current downtown business owner of Eccentricity located at 716 Mass St. and reside on the Downtown Lawrence Inc. board of directors. While I am 100% pro tourism and think the Tour of Lawrence bike race is a great event, I think the actual impact this event will have on downtown will not be positive if you close 7th through 10th street. As we were told at a board meeting by the race director, this event will only have about 150 participants. Which based on the eXplore Lawrence economic impact projection, would not financially be worth the closure of downtown Mass St. for an entire day. Most business's are already closed on the 4th of July and I think moving the race to have a permanent home on the 4th would be a great way for the race to stay downtown, or possibly have the entire event done by noon so the roads can open back up.

I hope you understand that we do love downtown events, but in the case of this race we have not found it to beneficial in the past for both Retail or Restaurants.

Sincerely,

Morgan Fellers

--

Eccentricity
716 Massachusetts St.
Lawrence, KS 66044
785.830.9100

Bobbie Walthall

From: Cindy Bracker <claygirl76@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 11:05 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Regular Agenda Item No. 3

*****this letter was sent individually to each commissioner last week*****

To whom it may concern,

You have likely received and reviewed the packet of information that the Tour of Lawrence race committee put together in preparation for the meeting. I wanted to write to you personally, as a life-long Lawrence resident and local business owner, a devoted volunteer and a passionate racer. I truly would love to speak to you in person at the city commission meeting on Tuesday night, but I will be in Minneapolis at a board meeting for the national ceramics organization. (I am finishing the last of my 9 years of service to this group.)

Today is the first day of June; It was three years ago this month that I lost a great friend and mentor, Glenda Taylor. A world-class athlete, Glenda always raced in the Tour of Lawrence. In 2015, after she died, I signed up to volunteer for the tour's downtown criterium. In fact, my whole family volunteered. It was an emotional day but after the race was over, I found comfort in reflecting on her exceptional life while we shopped and ate downtown, something Glenda had always done as well (usually Mexican food). By 2016, I had become a cyclist and a racer myself on the same team Glenda had been on. I competed in the Tour of Lawrence that year. My husband became an official for USA Cycling, and was one of the officials at the race. Much to my delight, my children chose to give up their entire weekend, dedicating their time to volunteering all day Saturday AND Sunday. They have been incredibly supportive of the race coming back this year and are recruiting their friends to come in and volunteer as well. I think this is an incredible opportunity to model healthy behavior and community spirit and to instill creative thinking, problem solving & leadership skills for all ages. I could list countless benefits to the community, its residents, businesses, and to the city itself. And while every one of those facts would be legitimate, the reason I am so fervent about resurrecting the Tour of Lawrence is the personal connection I have to this race and to the town that I grew up in.

I have a vision and a plan for this race far beyond this year. I foresee this becoming a wonderful festival focused around the Fourth of July with fireworks and family fun. For the race community, the timing of this race in the annual calendar is ideal. There are no major races in the 6 state region that occur on the same weekend, and this race would fit nicely into the framework and calendar of the Midwest Flyover Series, a regional race series drawing top racers who compete for an overall victory across multiple races. I attended two of these races last year, one in nearby Kansas City, the other in the small town of Clear Lake, IA, which was also part of a huge barbecue festival. Entire families came with their racer and the synergy between the race community and the town was palpable. I have seen other cities that are able to create incredible destination events as well. Fayetteville, Arkansas and Tulsa, Oklahoma offer two more examples of beneficial partnerships between racers and communities in which everyone benefits. I went to Fayetteville for a three-event race last year. I had never been there before and may not have ever gone had it not been for the race I attended. I visited Fayetteville three times last year and have plans for more trips this year and in the future, including a full family vacation there. I want Lawrence to be one of those places that racers come to, fall in love with and return to regularly.

As you may have inferred from earlier comment about my 9 years of service to the ceramics organization that I serve, I have tenacity, longevity, stamina and true grit. Over the last few months of trying to bring back this race, I have encountered a seemingly endless slate of challenges. I have persevered, will continue to do so, and bring my vision for this race to fruition. I really want to do so in partnership with this great city that I love. Lawrence is the city that emerged from the flames stronger than it was before. The Phoenix and The Flame outside of City Hall are the iconic images that influenced me and shaped me. Please, approve this street closure permit and help me unleash the beauty and splendor of the Tour of Lawrence, stronger than it was before.

Sincerely,
Cindy Bracker



Cindy Bracker
www.claygirl.info

Things your IT Person wants you to know:

7. Like an elevator button, we won't come to you faster if you keep pushing ours.

E-mailing us several times about the same issue is not only unnecessary, it's highly annoying as well. We record issues in a database so that we don't lose track of them (remember how we ask that you create a ticket? That's why.) We will typically respond as soon as we have a useful update to make. If your problem is urgent, please do let us know (but see number five).



Bobbie Walthall

From: Andrew Madl <madlandrew@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 7:52 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Tour of Lawrence Street Closure

Good Morning,

I am currently a downtown building owner and reside on the Downtown Lawrence Inc. board. While I am 100% pro tourism and support all of our community members who work very hard to put these events on, I think the actual impact this event will have on downtown will not be positive if you close 7th through 10th street. As we were told at a board meeting by the race director, this event will only have about 150 participants. Which based on the eXplore Lawrence economic impact projection, would not financially be worth the closure of downtown Mass St. for all day. I would be very excited if they could only close a block or two, or possibly have the entire event done by noon so the roads can open back up. Also if participation numbers were significantly higher I think this is a completely different conversation.

With that said I think closing down Mass St. for 150 person event would be tough on a majority of our business owners.

Sincerely,

Andrew Madl
Downtown Building Owner
17 E 8th St
Lawrence, KS

Bobbie Walthall

From: KC Soda Co. Owner <owner@kcsoda.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 2, 2018 7:39 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Cc: Sally Zogry
Subject: Closing Mass for Tour of Lawrence (and other events)

My name is Lucas Thompson and I own Mass Street Soda which is temporarily located at 935 Mass while our permanent space at 1103 Mass is being renovated.

Anytime Mass Street is closed down to traffic, our daily sales are normally cut in half and from our DLI meetings I believe this is true for many other retailers as well. When downtown is closed to traffic, customers have to park farther away which means they have to carry any merchandise they purchase one to two blocks further. While that may not seem like very much further, it is noticeable when you are carrying 16 to 32 pounds of soda if you purchase a 12 or 24 pack at our store. While we do see some of the event attendees in our stores, they tend to make small purchases that they do not have to carry around during the event and it does not make up for lost sales from lack of parking and lack of ability to drive through downtown.

Locally-owned downtown retail stores has taken a hit this year with the closing of Mass Street for the Final Four and a longer than normal winter (with especially bad luck on with poor weather on weekends all winter). Stores that have been here for years have closed shop this year and no new retail stores are opening in the vacant storefronts.

My preference would be to have the event finish before noon on Sunday or to have the event on campus or just off Mass to keep Mass Street open to traffic and parking all day. Other popular events downtown have been able to utilize closing streets or blocks that do not contain retail stores or restaurants so it is a win-win for the event and for merchants downtown.

I have seen some negative comments about retailers downtown not being accommodating to event organizers. I am not against any event downtown as long as they work with DLI and in order to find the best way to make the event a success for its participants, the restaurants, and the retailers downtown. I am unable to attend the Wednesday meeting due to a previously scheduled soda tasting event in Kansas City but I am available for comment anytime by email or phone.

Thank you,

Lucas Thompson
Owner
Mass Street Soda

LETTER OF CONCERN FROM DOWNTOWN LAWRENCE BUSINESSES

Dear Staff,

Please be advised that we all are truly thankful for the support that the city gives us in pursuit of our endeavors. We appreciate the Christmas lighting, the spring and summer flowers, festivals like the Busker Fest and all the other varied programs and services. All that being acknowledged we do have one very crucial concern and that is the closing of Massachusetts Street for select special events for more than a couple hours at a time.

During the last final-four game when Massachusetts Street was closed from 6am through the end of the day this caused many of us to lose a substantial portion of our Saturday business. We would have preferred to have had the street open at least through 4 or 5 pm. thereby allowing our customers availability to parking and easier access to our shops.

We understand the enormous pressure that the police department is under to provide adequate and safe security for all of us in the mists of the rampage shootings that have recently occurred in the United States and we support your efforts.

Our real point is this: Please do not close off Massachusetts Street unless absolutely necessary. Park like activities should take place in our wonderful parks. If one looks up and down the street one notices several vacancies. Closing off the street will only exacerbate the closing of more stores. If the street is full of vacancies it certainly will lose its magical charm.

Best Wishes,

Member stores of Downtown Lawrence.

Ken Campbell (WINDFIELD HOUSE)
Fainton WILSON
Larry Bellings - Lawrence Antique Mall
R. Eric Cummings
Nick Duffey - The Toy Store
Leslie Albert - Stitch On
Paul DeGeorge - Wonder Fair
Spectator's/Holds.
Jim Bateman - YARN BARN
Cinda Larsson - PRAIRIE PATCHES
Linda Lestel - The Glo Shop
Joe Flannery/Weaver's

Aliza Bidinger

Subject: RE: Tour of Lawrence Street Closure

From: Steve Mercurio <steve@envyspot.com>

Sent: Friday, June 1, 2018 11:24 AM

To: City Hall email <CityHallemail@lawrenceks.org>

Subject: Tour of Lawrence Street Closure

Street closure request for the Tour of Lawrence Downtown Criterium bicycle race proposed for Sunday, July, 1, 2018.

Please, Please don't shut down our streets for the event. This is a busy day for us, and our weekend business is most important to us. Taking up parking and closing access to our front door is not fair to the business and staff that depend on customers and sales. I appreciate your consideration.

Steve Mercurio
Saffees
911 Mass. Street
Lawrence KS 66044

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Aliza Bidinger

Subject: RE: Opposed to Mass Street closure for Tour of Lawrence

From: SdM Info <Info@sdimarco.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 11:51 AM

To: Bobbie Walthall

Subject: Opposed to Mass Street closure for Tour of Lawrence

To whom it may concern,

We would like to express our opposition to any more street closures in downtown Lawrence. The loss of income because of the street closures starts to add up as more and more closures take place - and it comes to the point when no matter what the person requesting the closure says, their benefit does not offset our losses.

Please find alternate places such as Haskell University campus or University of Kansas main campus. Closing either one or both for a weekend in the middle of the summer won't affect anyone. Closing Massachusetts St on a weekend in the middle of the summer makes it very hard for us - small business owners - to make any financial gains for that entire week.

The City Commission should be looking for ways to attract business downtown, not put undue burdens on them by closing the Mass St every time anyone wishes to do so.

Thanks,

Carlos Castillo
Salon Di Marco & Day Spa
(785) 843-0044
info@sdimarco.com

Aliza Bidinger

Subject: RE: Tour of Lawrence Street Closure Appeal

From: JLynn Bridal <info@jlynn.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 9:59 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Tour of Lawrence Street Closure Appeal

Hi,

My soul interest is supporting the downtown establishments. I don't think most downtown events effect my business as much as others since we are typically prescheduled & 'by appointment' so we can alert our customers in advance about street closures etc. But I'm not the only business downtown and I know things like this halts 'walk in' traffic and that's what a lot of our retail stores depend on. I don't see the benefit of the event for downtown honestly. I'm sure Sunflower benefits, but if thats the only business can you really justify closing off access to so many other businesses? Also, once I heard about the race a couple years ago where the cyclist ran their bike into a storefront and wouldn't pay for the damage and neither would the race, I really can't get behind it.

My business is located in the 700 block...just fyi.

Thanks,
Jena

--

J.Lynn Bridal

785.840.4664

info@jlynnbridal.com

www.jlynnbridal.com

Aliza Bidinger

To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: RE: Bike race and street closures

From: Winfield House <winfieldhouse@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 10:39 AM

To: Bobbie Walthall

Subject: Bike race and street closures

Bobbie,

Thank you for taking time to read my letter of request to always keep Massachusetts street open during business hours. I know you receive many requests to close the streets downtown for many reasons but you must know how closing Massachusetts street Negativity affects most businesses downtown. To lose that much vital parking and to cut off the main artery of traffic flow deters customers, especially destination shoppers, from visiting downtown. Some of those customers we may loose for good because they don't want to deal with the hassles that are created when the street is closed. The sustained health of our downtown is of course vital to me, my employees and my family. It is also important to the rest of the city. Too many vacancies can quickly start to resemble the Blythe that plagues most other downtown's in the nation. The city's rejection of the proposal to close the streets downtown for the bike race was greatly appreciated by the downtown businesses community. We hope your stance doesn't change with any further requests to close the street during business hours.

Sincerely,
Ken Campbell
Owner/ operater Winfieldhouse

--



WINFIELD HOUSE
HOME FURNISHINGS

Winfield House Home Furnishings
647 Massachusetts St.
Lawrence, KS 66044
785-842-6000

Aliza Bidinger

Subject: RE: Attn Lawrence City Commission

-----Original Message-----

From: Edith Palmberg <edithpberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 9:45 PM
To: City Hall email <CityHallemail@lawrenceks.org>
Subject: Attn Lawrence City Commission

I recently read in the Journal World that the Bicycle race at the end of June may be cancelled because of complaints by downtown merchants. I am not a biker but i feel strongly that the race should be allowed to continue annually. It gives recognition and a distinctive flavor to the city. People come to Lawrence from many areas because of this event. I feel the benefit much outweigh any inconvenience to merchants or patrons and brings interest and attention to downtown Lawrence. I will be greatly disappointed if this event is not allowed to continue.

Sincerely,

Edith Palmberg

A resident of Lawrence since the late 1960's and a supporter of continuing Lawrence's uniqueness

Sent from my iPhone

Aliza Bidinger

To: Diane Stoddard
Subject: RE: Criterium

From: Jim Bateman <JBateman@yarnbarn-ks.com>

Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 1:34 PM

To: Bobbie Walthall

Cc: Sally Zogry

Subject: Criterium

Dear Bobbie,

We oppose closing Massachusetts Street for any portion of the Tour of Lawrence bicycle event. The event keeps away all local customers who know of the event because there is no street parking and no access to the parking garage behind us. Further, we and several others in our block are destination stores for out-of-town customers; we get unhappy emails and telephone calls from them when they make it near the downtown and see bicycles, closed streets, and what appears to be no pedestrian access.

Our sales for the race day are never sufficient to cover the costs of opening the door. We have no objection to the event being in Lawrence if it generates a net income for the city, but having it downtown strongly suggests robbing Peter to pay Paul, giving up sales tax to collect bed tax. Lawrence should try to keep the event, but not by penalizing retail businesses.

Jim Bateman
Yarn Barn of Kansas, Inc.
930 Massachusetts St.
Lawrence, KS 66044

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by **Mimecast Ltd**, an innovator in Software as a Service (SaaS) for business. Providing a **safer** and **more useful** place for your human generated data. Specializing in; Security, archiving and compliance. To find out more [Click Here](#).