

Neighborhood Task Force on the 100th Bay to Breakers Position on the Party Aspects of B2B

Introduction:

It's clear from surveys, meetings and eyewitness accounts that the Bay to Breakers "party" is where the vast majority of the disrespect and destruction associated with Bay to Breakers occurs. The party begins before, during and continues long after the race has finished. It's also clear that managing this party is difficult to do. The major source of bad behavior during this party is the chronic binge drinking that fuels the degrading, disrespect and destruction of our neighborhoods.

Facts:

There are several indisputable facts concerning Bay to Breakers. These include:

- No Race = No Binge Drinking Party
- The vast majority of party participants don't register to run the race, which means they consume resources yet don't contribute.
- Stakeholders that monetarily benefit from the race include: AEG (the organizer and promoter), the sponsors, the City of San Francisco and local merchants
- Neighborhoods shoulder most of the binge drinking party burden

Position

The race attracts the binge drinking party and therefore the people that benefit from the race should shoulder the burden, financial costs and responsibility for it. A plan for race day that does not adequately address resources and assign responsibility for managing, controlling and disbursing the binge drinking party is not an adequate plan and will not be endorsed by this group. AEG has informed the City and this group that there will be a no alcohol policy and an increase in police and security resources. This group supports these policies as a good first step to controlling the binge drinking party.

Suggestions on Party Management, Binge Drinking Controlling and Disbursing

Preventive

- Reach out to local merchants along the race course asking for cooperation in managing alcohol sales, as is now done with several events in San Francisco such as the Haight Street Fair
- Inform regional distributors of how race day alcohol promotions effect our neighborhoods
- Educate neighbors who have house parties on the effects irresponsible parties have on our neighborhoods
- Create a media campaign focusing on the history of the event as a race

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- Train neighborhood volunteers to observe and report trouble spots to a central police command
- Sensitize law officers to the need to strictly enforce the laws against “lifestyle crimes,” including public urination and disorderly conduct
- Get support from the highest levels of the SFPD and the Sheriff’s Department for enforcing these “lifestyle” laws
- Add additional facilities at strategic places including Port-o-Johns, volunteers, security, barricades and law enforcement

During the Race

- Open each segment of the course to vehicular traffic as soon as practical after the runners have passed that segment
- Continuously pick up trash and recycling
- Maintain a major strategic police and security presence
- Enforcement existing open container laws
- Keep a strong neighborhood volunteer presence for welcoming, monitoring and reporting

After the Race

- Continue strategic police and security presence at hot spots including: the base of Hayes Street, Alamo Square, along Divisadero, in and along the Panhandle, along Haight Street and at the entrance to Golden Gate Park
- Maintain SFPD central command and control until the evening
- Clean along the course with volunteer teams and DPW
- Keep facilities (porta-potties, trash & recycling bins) until the crowds dissipate
- Provide alternative activities to just lounging in the park and neighborhoods

Neighborhood Task Force Mission:

The mission of the Neighborhood Task Force on the 100th Bay to Breakers is to protect our neighbors from unsafe conditions and disorderly behavior, to bring all race stakeholders together, to champion positive and creative solutions, to ensure that responsible parties are held accountable, and to strive to make the 100th Bay to Breakers “Fun for Everyone.”

Represented Neighborhoods:

North Panhandle Neighborhood Association (NOPNA), Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association (HVNA), Divisadero Merchants Association (DMA), Alamo Square Neighborhood Association (ASNA), Lower Haight Merchants and Neighborhood Association (LoHaMNA), Haight Asbury Improvement Association (HAIA), Buena Vista

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Neighborhood Association (BVNA), Inner Sunset Park Neighbors (ISPN) and Cole Valley Improvement Association (CVIA)

Contact:

If you want to get involved with making the 100th Bay to Breakers “Fun for Everyone,” send an email to b2b@nopna.org. You can also join our Facebook page by searching for “Bay to Breakers - Fun for Everyone.”