

730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

Dear Board of Selectmen,

Our names are Lauren Bain and Otis Adams, and we are sophomores at Arlington High School. We are lifelong Arlington residents and graduates of Dallin Elementary School and Ottoson Middle School. We are seeking approval from the Board of Selectmen and the Arlington Police Department to issue a permit for us to initiate Arlington's inaugural Pan-Mass Challenge Kids Ride. The ride would take place entirely on an Arlington section of the Minuteman Bikeway in the spring of 2019. We would also need a permit from the Recreation Department to use Town recreational facilities to stage the ride. One potential route, subject to approval by the Town, would be on the Minuteman Trail, roughly between Hurd Field and the Uncle Sam statue and turnaround in Arlington Center. We propose to stage the ride early on a Sunday morning in late spring of 2019.

The Kids Rides are part of the Pan-Mass Challenge, which has raised tens of millions of dollars to support the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Jimmy Fund for cancer research. Many cities and towns across Massachusetts have hosted Kids Rides, though Arlington has not yet held one. We have both participated in the Pan Mass Challenge Kids Rides in Chelmsford and together we have raised over \$15,000 for the Jimmy Fund.

Our passion for this ride, you may be wondering, comes from our personal experiences with cancer. I (Lauren) lost my father to brain cancer when I was only 7 years old. Our family was helped by many friends and neighbors in Arlington as well as The Children's Room, an Arlington-based organization that helps families with children and teenagers deal with loss. There, we were surprised to find how many other families in this area had dealt with the same experience. We also learned about the Pan Mass Challenge Kids Ride. My father was an avid bicyclist, usually biking about 50 miles every Sunday, so we thought it was only fitting to celebrate his life through something that marked his life a great deal. Through that we spread the word to many families in the Dallin Community, as well as other school districts. I (Otis) have also had personal experience with cancer. My grandmother, who I was always very close to, battled breast cancer several times throughout her life. Her passing motivated me to take further action. My family is very active in the biking community, and because of my history with this ride I felt this would be the perfect way to give back to such a supportive town.

In 2013, we formed a small team, called Team Dallin, in order to participate in and raise money for the Chelmsford Kids PMC. At first, we only had about 5 group members. We raised over \$2,000 that year. In 2014, we called upon the Dallin Community again, and rode with over 20 members. In total, the team raised over \$10,000. When we attended the Ottoson, we realized that other students needed just as much support as we did at Dallin. That's how we decided to create a Team Arlington, and raised more money for the PMC Kids Ride. Now, as Arlington High School students, we would like to organize a ride here in Arlington.

So, why Arlington? Our community has witnessed many cancer-related deaths in these past years, such as Katherine Malatesta, an athlete and beloved student who attended Arlington High School, and Katherine Wall, a devoted and popular after-school teacher at Dallin Elementary School. Arlington is in need of an event that raises funds to fight cancer, honors the people we lost, and reminds people that they have a strong support system among their fellow community members who will always be ready to lend a hand. Arlington needs a Pan Mass Challenge Kids Ride, and we are more than ready to start it.

The Minuteman Trail route we will propose would run roughly between Hurd Field and Arlington Center. In total, one full loop would be four miles (for younger children) and two loops would total about 8 miles. As in the Chelmsford PMC Kids Ride, we would plan to split the riders into two groups, those biking only four miles, and those biking the full eight miles. At the start of the race, we would give the four-mile (one loop) riders a head start, in order to avoid other riders. At the halfway point of each of the rides, water stations will be provided, staffed by volunteers.

We have been in contact with Ms. Marie Krepelka and Officer Corey Rateau, and both have been very helpful and informative. We know the Police Department wants to keep us all safe, so we will take the following steps to keep the ride safe. We would limit the number of participating riders to 50 (not including several adult Ride Safety Marshals). Police details would be stationed at various points due to the intersections that occur throughout the Minuteman Bikeway. In addition to the Ride Safety Marshals, other volunteers would stand at intersections to make sure that kids stay on the trail. All of these factors would decrease safety concerns, but we also understand that police details and the potential use of Hurd Field would cost money on our end. We plan to raise this money through tag sales and support from the Pan Mass Challenge organization. We hope to stage the ride and have some family activities (face painting, water balloon toss), etc.) before and after the ride, and we would also need approval from the Recreation Department to use Town recreational facilities to stage these. We have communicated with Jon Marshall, Director of the Recreation Department about the proposed PMC Kids Ride. He has been very helpful and has committed to helping us find appropriate sites.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this letter. At the invitation of Ms. Krepelka, we will come to an upcoming Board of Selectmen Meeting discuss this proposal further. We look forward to working with you to support this great community event for a great cause.

Sincerely,



Lauren Bain and Otis Adams