



**TOWN OF HOLLAND**  
**Police Department**  
27 Sturbridge Road Holland, MA 01521  
Bryan C. Haughey  
*Chief of Police*

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To: Board of Selectmen  
cc: Stop Abuse Today, Inc- Executive Committee  
From: Bryan C. Haughey- Chief of Police  
Date: April 5, 2023  
Subj: Request to Hold 5K Walk and Run on October 14, 2023

Greetings,

The month of October is national domestic violence awareness month and national bullying prevention month. As a result, the Holland Police Department has entered into a partnership with Stop Abuse Today, Inc in the hopes of co-hosting a 5K walk & run to raise awareness about domestic abuse and bullying. We would like to schedule this event to take place in Holland on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from approximately 9 AM - 1 PM.

Stop Abuse Today, Inc is a local nonprofit whose purpose is to support abuse victims by providing education, awareness, outreach, and support concerning domestic abuse, elder abuse, and bullying among our youth. The organization has been in effect since November 2017 when it succeeded the Tri-Town Domestic Violence Task Force. The Task Force had been in operation from 2001 - 2017 and proudly served the citizens of Brimfield, Holland, and Wales for more than 15 years. On November 3, 2017, the Task Force became the charter member of Stop Abuse Today, Inc.<sup>1</sup>

The Police Department has collaborated with Stop Abuse Today, Inc to host a road race in Holland on 3 previous occasions, in 2017, 2018, and 2019. We plan on utilizing the same route that we used for past events and the course would only encompass public ways and the Holland Elementary School parking lot (as the starting and finishing point). This route in Holland has been the venue for several other annual road races for many years, including races hosted by the Elementary School, Team Hoyt, and most recently, the Military Working Dog 5K Walk & Run in August of 2021.

As you should be aware, in accordance with town by-laws, specifically c. 9 § 9.2.5.2, the Chief of Police is authorized to temporarily close any (way) for lawful assemblage, demonstration, procession, or in the event of extraordinary circumstances. Although the Chief has the authority to (close a way), in the past, permission to (host an event on a public way) has been facilitated through the Board of Selectmen. As I understand the process, the Board will generally authorize the event, authorize with provisions, or take no standing, [meaning the event can take place but the Board does not officially endorse or disallow]. To my knowledge, the Board has never denied an event like this from taking place and has usually required the organizer to consult with, and work with, Holland public safety and public works department heads as a condition of approval.

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<sup>1</sup> [stopabusetoday.org](http://stopabusetoday.org) - History and Formation

27 Sturbridge Rd - Holland Massachusetts 01521

*Station: (413) 245-0117*

*Dispatch: (413) 245-7222*

*Fax: (413) 245-4482*

*Email: [police@hollandma.org](mailto:police@hollandma.org)*

I have already consulted with the Highway Superintendent and the Fire Chief, and neither have any concerns with the event taking place.

I have attached a special operations plan outline to this letter. This is the same format that has been utilized by this office for other events and is generally submitted to the Police Department and the Board by the host. As you will see, our expectation is that the impact on the community will be extremely minimal, and will only cause a closure of the school parking lot and the Town Hall parking spaces. This is an important safety measure as vehicles leaving those parking spots may actually back up into the race route. Neither parking closure will impact the community as both buildings are closed on Saturdays anyway. There may also be a minimal delay for traffic at the beginning of the race as the participants enter onto the roadway.


We do not anticipate a need for road closures, detours, or police details, however, as has been the case with past events held in town, a presence from our local police at the event and along the route will be appreciated. I anticipate this can be accomplished with pre-scheduled on-duty patrol personnel and do not expect it will cause an additional monetary cost for the town. I also plan to be on hand that day on my own personal time to provide police assistance if needed.

I would like to disclose to the Board that I am part of a 6 person Executive Committee for Stop Abuse Today, Inc.<sup>2</sup> All members of the Committee have equal voting rights on matters related to the operation of the organization and we are charged with overseeing all programs and services offered. This includes establishing guidelines on behalf of the group when entering into collaborative arrangements with other organizations and supervising and controlling the property and affairs of the group. The organization operates under a strict finance policy to efficiently and responsibly manage funds and its primary objective is to have safeguards in place to remain accountable to donors, clients, partners, funders, employees, volunteers, and the communities we serve.

The group also works under specific guidelines that provide members with a framework that addresses both real and apparent conflicts of interest and no member receives compensation - including direct or indirect remuneration - or gifts or favors. I would like to make it perfectly clear that I am not compensated by the group in any way and I use personal time to participate in activities and functions with the group. This event is not a fund-raiser for Stop Abuse Today, Inc, but any donations that may be made prior to, or during the event, will be considered as donations for Stop Abuse Today, Inc, not the Police Department.

I would like to thank you for your consideration in this matter and respectfully request a timely response from your Board concerning authorization to host this event on October 14, 2023.

Respectfully,



Bryan C. Haughey  
Chief of Police

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<sup>2</sup> [stopabusetoday.org](http://stopabusetoday.org) - Executive Committee

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## **Stop Abuse Today, Inc 5K Walk & Run Special OPS Plan for October 14, 2023:**

In coordinating this event, consideration must be given to several factors that may impact the community. For this reason, all events will be required to have a standardized special operations plan [OPS]. This may require extensive communication with the Police Department and your organization as well as other departments in the town to determine the needs and concerns of all.

To begin this process we must know the exact size and location of the planned occurrence and consider the following:

- Access and egress.
- Parking.
- Road closures and detours.
- Travel impacts, [to include potential delays and routes of access to residences, businesses, services, and schools].
- Noise impacts, [to include the potential for disturbing peace and tranquility].
- Consultation with other agencies, [for example, Highway, Fire, and EMS].
- Strategic placement of detail officers [if required].
- Communications.

1. The date, starting time and ending time of the event.

*Saturday, October 14, 2023, 9 AM – 1 PM*

2. The starting and ending time of the race itself.

*9 AM runners begin, approximately 1 minute after, walkers begin*

3. The race route.

*Start @ HES- 28 Sturbridge Rd off-street parking lot, right onto Sturbridge Rd, left onto Alexander Rd, left onto E. Brimfield Rd, left onto Sturbridge Rd, finish @ HES- 28 Sturbridge Rd off-street parking lot*

4. The estimated number of attendees expected. This should include race participants, volunteers, and spectators.

*20-50*

5. If the event will include the service or consumption of alcohol, marijuana, or any other legal or illicit drug or narcotic.

*No*

6. If the event will include recorded or live music, the use of an amplification system, a light show of any description, or any other dynamic audio or visual show, whether live or recorded.

*May have low- playing music and may have a microphone and speaker system for announcements*

7. If the event will include other activities, such as but not limited to, games, rides, or demonstrations.

*Possibly public safety displays & guest speakers*

8. If the event will include vendors, including those selling or distributing both perishable and non-perishable items.

*Possibly sponsor & non-profit organization tents or tables with business items-SAT tent & table*

Please note that nothing contained in this document shall nullify or override the rules, regulations, filing requirements, approval requirements, or orders of conditions promulgated by any federal, state, or local authority, to include those within the purview of the Town of Holland Board of Health, Zoning Enforcement Officials, or Conservation Officials. For example, some vendors, and the distribution of perishable items may require certificates and specific approval from the Select Board, the Board of

Health, or Zoning Enforcement. If any other approval is required we will refer you to the appropriate body to seek that approval.

The OPS plan will require:

1. A parking and facilities plan. [To designate parking areas for those attending the event, and to designate bathroom facilities]. To ensure that first responders are unobstructed, vehicles will NOT be allowed to park in a roadway, even if that roadway is closed.

*Parking @ Holland Congregational Church – Porto-Potty rental and delivered to the school lot*

2. If any road is closed as part of the event, a detour plan will be required in order to determine how traffic will get around the event.

This will include the following:

- Placement of MUTCD-approved signage for detours and road closure as well as barricades.
- Notification to those who may be directly impacted by the occurrence, [for example, the event coordinators may be required to notify all residences and businesses situated within a planned road closure].
- Notification to the public, first responders, and transit organizations, [such as but not limited to, school bus companies].

3. If a detour is required, a first responder access plan will also be required. [How police, fire, and ambulance will enter if needed]. This may be as simple as pausing the event to allow responders through but we must have access to ALL areas, residences, and buildings within the road closure in case a response is needed. To ensure that first responders are unobstructed, no structures, other than those utilized as a part of the detour plan, e.g. barricades, will be allowed to be placed in the roadway.

*No detours and no road closures planned with the exception of a temporary pause in traffic as the participants exit the school lot. Anticipation of less than 5 minutes total*