

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have spent a lot of time drafting the attached letter to the current Lake County Sheriff, Mark Curran. I have also worked with Lina at the *Active Transportation Alliance* to review this letter so that we can work in the most efficient & productive manner possible. Please read the attached letter. The statistics are accurate & have been reviewed by ATA. The purpose of this letter is to try to have a productive dialogue with the Lake County Sheriff's office. We are all aware of our own Scott Skaletsky the most recent victim of a car as a weapon. Most are all aware of the crackdown on cyclists this past fall. This was the result of a vocal *minority* of motorists who wish to continue to speed, disregard traffic signals & put all of our lives & livelihoods in peril. Our outdoor cycling season will start again in only about 6 weeks so the time to act is now.

So what do we need from you?

#1-We need you to take ACTION.

How?

#1-Draft your own letter & email to Sheriff Curran. Please take as much info from my letter as you can or want. His email address is on the letter.

#2-*Call or email* Sheriff Curran directly to express your concern about what is written in the attached letter. His phone # is also on the letter.

Why?

#1-Because we all value our lives, have careers & children who depend on our well being. We have to act in #'s. The Active Transportation Alliance will help us & have an active dialogue already in process.

#2-There is no one else who will speak for us. If we don't do this, who will? How can we get upset when we don't take any action ourselves. Swearing & yelling at motorists is not effective.

****What else can we do?****

#1-The bicycling community is well connected. Please forward this email to those who manage lists of cyclists. I will email to get it on the Judson Group & will discuss with the RAM executives. Please forward to Plaza etc & any other organized group or individuals who could help. As the *Active Transportation*

Alliance represents runners & walkers, those people can also call, write, email. This email can be forwarded to neighbors, wives etc. Let's get this out there.

What about Sheriff Mark Curran?

#1-Sheriff Curran is **up for reelection in 2010.** Our voices need to be heard & will have an effect. Just think what a few motorists calling can do. What about hundreds of cyclists!!

I appreciate your taking your time to read this email. While I am happy to hear from any of you on your opinions, the person who needs to hear from us is Sheriff Mark Curran.

Sincerely,
Mark Landau

January 18, 2010

Sheriff Mark Curran Jr
25 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085
847-377-4000
mcurran@lakecountyil.gov

Dear Sherriff Curran:

I am writing to you as I am concerned about the safety of fellow runners, walkers and cyclists in Lake County, your county of jurisdiction. I am a frequent runner and cyclist in Lake County and have been alarmed by the flagrant disregard for the law with respect to speeding, stop sign violations and blatant disregard for state statute 703(d) by motorists requiring vehicles to give not less than 3 feet when passing a bicycle and to maintain a safe distance until safely past the overtaken bicycle.

While there are many areas, which are unsafe, I would like you to pay particular attention to the areas of Everett and Riverwoods roads, St.Mary's road, Route 137 and Waukegan roads. It is commonplace to see vehicles running stop signs along these roadways, driving unsafe distances in proximity to pedestrians and cyclists and particularly speeding along these roadways. Of particular concern is that in the four to five days per week that we are on these roads we rarely if ever see a vehicle being pulled over for any type of violation.

I realize that it would be productive and helpful to the Sheriff's department if cyclists, runners and walkers could take down license plate numbers or call your office when we see this reckless type of behavior. Unfortunately when riding, running and walking we usually do not have direct access to cell phones or pen and paper and frequently it is difficult to read a license plate when we are moving slowly and they are going 50 plus miles per hour.

In reviewing statistics of Lake County it is rather alarming the number of vehicle related deaths. Since 2006 when you took office, there have been 276 auto related deaths. There are only 3 other counties in the state, which exceed this death rate. Lake County also has one of the highest alcohol related incidences of death in the state. Of the 396 cycling related accidents or deaths to occur in Lake County since 2006 according to the *Fatality Analysis Reporting System*, only 68 of the 396 were related to cyclists failure to obey signs, control devices or improper crossing of an intersection. 83% of the accidents were as a

result of vehicles operating at unsafe speeds, violation of traffic signals or disregard for the safe distance statute.

You should be aware Sherriff Curran that cyclists, runners and walkers caused a total of zero deaths in that same time period. A **car** is a **deadly** weapon, not a bicycle. It is time to protect the bicyclists, runners and walkers who utilize the Lake County roadways. It is time to crack down on the blatant and dangerous violators of speed limits on Everett, St.Mary's Rd, Route 137 and Waukegan Roads before more people become statistics. I look forward to hearing from you with regard to this issue and also would make myself available if you would like to discuss this further.

Best Regards,

Mark Landau
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