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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108-4619



PAPPAS REHABILITATION HOSPITAL
FOR CHILDREN

3 RANDOLPH STREET
CANTON, MA 02021

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June 28, 2016

William T. Friel
Canton Town Administrator
Upper Memorial Hall
801 Washington Street
Canton, Ma. 02021

Dear Mr. Friel,

My apologies for the delay in responding to your May 31, 2016 letter regarding the Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children's interest in partnering with the town to provide a launching site for motorized crafts. This facility values its close working relationship with Canton, and deeply appreciates the assistance and services provided to us throughout the years. Against that backdrop, it is with difficulty that I must inform you of my objection to developing access points through our campus for vehicles, trailers and motor boats.

My objections are twofold. The first is the security concerns attendant with encouraging unregulated access to our campus. We of course, maintain an open campus, as evidenced by the many visitors who walk our grounds, use our track, and take advantage of our water aerobics program. Similarly, we provide afternoon, evening, and weekend programming to individuals with disabilities from the community-at-large. And of course for many years, have been happy to assist Canton Youth Soccer and Basketball with the use of our playing fields and indoor basketball courts. The desired access point would require us to leave our back gate (that which is closest to Route 138) open during evening and weekend hours to vehicular traffic. We currently lock that gate, at 6:00 p.m. on weekdays. On Friday evenings that gate is locked and remains so through the entire weekend, forcing vehicular traffic through the main gate which is manned by our Campus Police. Recently, we have been obliged to require off- hour visitors to check in with Security, as a response to the unfortunate need to practice more heightened awareness. I am very uncomfortable with a second point of entry during off peak hours. And of course, it would be disingenuous to suggest the public could have access, but deny it on weekends and early evenings.

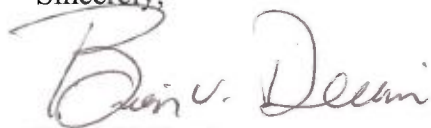
My second objection is therapeutic. We pride ourselves on finding ways for so many of these children to overcome physical and psychological obstacles that otherwise would prevent them from enjoying some of life's simplest pleasures: those that you and I take for granted. The therapeutic medium of water is one such avenue that provides both joy and exercise as well as offers a sense of belonging and accomplishment. Equally, if not more important in some instances, water allows us the opportunity to provide rhythmic movement and sensory integration to patients whose tightness and lack of tone amplifies the physical pain they constantly endure. In the hands of a skilled therapist we can achieve greater flexibility, and improved muscle tone, thus reducing overall discomfort. Given the reluctance and often palpable fear some of our children have about entering the pool, we have learned that boating with its safety straps, attentive staff, and predominately dry environment is the key to chipping away at that protective shell that for far too long, has not served these children well. For those patients with a sensory processing disorder; being caught in the wake of an inconsiderate boater can quickly undo our best therapeutic efforts, and condemn them to a life of unnecessary pain and lost opportunity. I fully appreciate that the abutters operate motor boats of variable sizes, but it is our experience that each of them is very respectful of our mission and population. A monetary fine is no compensation for what any of our children stand to lose, at the hand of a thoughtless boater. Accordingly, I cannot help in any initiative that could possibly enable this terrible prospect to befall upon even one child.

I hope you can appreciate my objection, and know it comes from a place in my heart that is consumed with the health and welfare of the children it is my honor to serve. Know that I continue to appreciate the many benefits and favors the town has bestowed on us over the years. I look forward to providing future assistance wherever possible, including at our waterfront. Should the town need access and or storage for canoes, kayaks, crew, row boats and the like, do not hesitate to contact me.

All the best to you; and good luck in your next adventure.

You will sorely be missed around these parts.

Sincerely,



Brian V. Devin
Chief Executive Officer

Cc Representative William C. Galvin
Representative Walter F. Timilty
Jude O'Hara, Chairwoman, Board of Trustees