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**To Whom It May Concern,**

I am writing in support of the Veterans Rowing and Kayaking Association.

As the Director of Rowing Programs at Riverfront Recapture, a 32-year old private non-profit based in Hartford CT, I had the opportunity to become involved with VRK when Paul reached out to us regarding hosting rowing and kayaking for veterans last year.

Adding the VRK program was aligned with Riverfront's mission, recapturing the river for community use, and complemented our other rowing programs. In 2005, we formed the state's first Adaptive rowing program in partnership with a local rehabilitation hospital and it's still going strong. In 2014 we provided approximately \$80,000 in free rowing programming and transportation to students attending inner-city schools; had over 640 entries at our annual regatta (one of the largest single day regattas in the country); and attracted more than 600 people to row with us (including thirty-four adaptive rowers and volunteers).

Although our staff is stretched thin and our budget is tight (Riverfront passed a deficit budget in 2015 after posting a deficit in 2014), we agreed to host VRK at close to our labor cost, forgo our Adaptive equipment rental, and store their kayaks year-round for free because the pilot program went so well. Both I and my Adaptive coaches (rehab therapists at Mt Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital) were impressed with the participants' enthusiasm (and what they gained from the program) and VRK's staff's knowledge.

VRK runs a valuable and popular program. Increased funding would allow for additional supporting staff and the purchase of needed Adaptive equipment to safely accommodate growing interest and expand veterans' programs. In short, more resources allow us to provide more opportunity.

Please let me know if you have any other questions

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Wendry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "B" and "W".

Brian Wendry  
Director of Rowing Programs