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**Contact:** Ashley Lines, Marketing Director, Charm City Run  
**Phone:** O: (410) 561-3570  
**Email:** Ashley@charmcityrun.com

## **CHARM CITY RUN HONORED AS 2016 RUNNING STORE OF THE YEAR BY COMPETITOR MAGAZINE**

**Bel Air, Md.** – Charm City Run is proud to be named 2016 Running Store of the Year as a part of The Running Event in Orlando, Fla. on Dec. 1.

“I was in disbelief when they called our name,” says Josh Levinson, owner of Charm City Run, “just to be considered among that group of finalists was an honor.” He adds, “In that moment you do not think about 15 years ago when you are hoping to see one customer walk through the door that day. That reflection came later.”

*Competitor Magazine* and *Running Insight Magazine* determine the 50 Best Running Stores each year by evaluating runner nominations, conducting secret shopping and assessing community involvement. Charm City Run has been listed in the top 50 since 2011, but this is the first time the store cracked the final four.

A video capturing the essence of Charm City Run played at the conference and highlighted the store’s efforts to donate one percent back to local nonprofits and help individual walkers and runners accomplish their goals. “The local Baltimore community helped build us, so this award is their triumph as well, maybe even more so than ours,” shares Levinson.

During his acceptance speech, Levinson thanked the other running store accounts in the room; his wife, Kara for having the idea to bring run specialty to Baltimore; his mentor, Paul, from RunTex; and the Charm City Run team. “We’ve been able to attract and retain people who have got us to this point and also are really good people.”

Looking forward, Charm City Run hopes this honor will bring new opportunities that will help it continue to aid local runners and walkers. “This is reinforcement for the Baltimore community and for us that you can still do well and do good,” says Levinson.

**About Charm City Run** [www.charmcityrun.com](http://www.charmcityrun.com)

Charm City Run is a running and walking specialty company, that consists of five retail locations in Annapolis, Baltimore, Bel Air, Columbia and Timonium. Charm City Run Events manages, directs and times more than 90 sports endurance events each year. VITA, which launched in the summer of 2015 in Belvedere Square, is an all-women’s lifestyle store.

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