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**Ventura Police Department to Participate in Annual Law Enforcement Special Olympics Torch Run**

**Date/Time/Location:** June 7, 2018, 8:00 am on the steps of Ventura City Hall. Concludes 9:30 am.

**Participants:** Ventura Police Department, Patrol Task Force Unit, City of Ventura Employees, Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Agents, Mile 26 Sports Ventura Running Club and Special Olympics Athletes

**Narrative:**

On Thursday, June 7, 2018, at 8:00 am, the Ventura Police Department (VPD) will participate in the annual Southern California Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) benefiting [Ventura County Special Olympics](#). This will be the twenty-ninth year the Ventura Police Department has supported this effort.

At 8:00 am, Ventura Police Officers and Civilian Personnel, City of Ventura Employees, Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Agents, Mile 26 Sports Ventura Running Club and Special Olympics Athletes, will meet at the steps of Ventura City Hall and carry the Special Olympics' Torch, also known as the Flame of Hope, through the streets of Ventura. Community members are encouraged to come out and cheer on the participants as the Flame of Hope makes its way through Ventura.

The Special Olympics Southern California LETR is comprised of nine different "legs" ranging from San Luis Obispo to the California-Mexico border. Legs are run in conjunction with various members of law enforcement agencies from throughout the region and Special Olympic Athletes. All legs will ultimately meet at the California State University at Long Beach (CSULB) as the Flame of Hope enters the stadium and the cauldron is lit to mark the opening ceremonies beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 9th. The games will take place on June 9 and 10 at CSULB.

The LETR is an international fundraising and public awareness campaign for the Special Olympics and is comprised of the Torch Run, Tip-A-Cop, and other fundraising events. For over twenty-five years, Ventura County law enforcement agencies have been raising tens of thousands of dollars annually to benefit Special Olympics of Ventura County. The money helps Ventura County Special Olympics to offer free, year-round, sports training and competition to over 700 individuals with intellectual disabilities ages eight years and up, who participate in seventeen sports at forty-five training sites throughout Ventura County.

**Approximate Timeline of Ventura Flame of Hope Route:**

- 8:05 am: The Flame of Hope will begin its journey from Ventura City Hall and travel south on California Street
- 8:30 am: Then the Flame will travel east onto Thompson Boulevard to the Five Points Intersection
- 8:40 am: From the Five Points Intersection the Flame will continue East on East Main Street to Telephone Road
- 9:00 am: South on Portola to Ralston Street where it will pass by the Ventura Police Department
- 9:10 am: East on Ralston Street to Johnson Drive
- 9:30 am: South on Johnson Drive and over the 101 Freeway Footbridge where the Flame will be handed off to members of the Oxnard Police Department on Ventura Road

\*Best photo locations: Ventura City Hall at beginning of run, Target at 4200 E. Main Street (One Special Olympian works at Target and Target employees come out with banners and signs to cheer on the team as they pass by the business) and the hand off to Oxnard PD on Ventura Road.