

## Press release: VPD to Participate in Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run Benefiting Special Olympics

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

**Ventura Police Department Contact:** Officer Bernadette Compean: 805-339-4453

**Special Olympics Contact:** Special Olympics Regional Director, Peggi Preston: 805-650-7717

**Location:** City of Ventura

**Date of Release:** June 2, 2014

**Date/Time To Occur:** June 5, 2014

- Participants will gather at 8:00 a.m. on the steps of Ventura City Hall. Torch Run Begins at approximately 8:05 a.m., and will conclude at approximately 9:30 a.m.



**Participants:** Ventura Police Department Employees, SWAT Team, Patrol Task Force Unit, City of Ventura Employees, agents from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and Special Olympics Athletes

### **Narrative:**

On Thursday, June 5, 2014, at 8:00 a.m., employees from the Ventura Police Department (VPD) will once again participate in the annual Southern California Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) benefiting Ventura County Special Olympics. This will be the twenty-fifth year the VPD has participated in the annual LETR.

At 8:00 a.m., members of the VPD (both sworn and civilian), SWAT team, Patrol Task Force Unit, City of Ventura employees, agents from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control 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. We encourage members of the public to come out and cheer on the participants as the Flame of Hope makes its way through Ventura. (Please note, route information is shown at the end of this release).

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 University of Southern California (USC) 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 7th. The games will take place on June 7 and 8 at USC.

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.

For additional information on the LETR, or the Special Olympics organization, please refer to the contact information at the top of this release, or visit the Special Olympics of Southern California website at [www.sosc.org](http://www.sosc.org).

### **Flame of Hope Route Information:**

- For the Ventura leg, the Flame of Hope will begin its journey from Ventura City Hall and travel south on California Street (approximately 8:05 a.m.)
- Then the Flame will travel east onto Thompson Boulevard to the Five Points Intersection (approximately 8:30 a.m.)
- From the Five Points Intersection the Flame will continue East on Main Street to Telephone Road (approximately 8:40 a.m.)
- South on Portola to Ralston Street where it will pass by the Ventura Police Department (approximately 9:00 a.m.)
- Then continue east on Ralston Street to Johnson Drive, (approximately 9:10 a.m.)
- 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 (approximately 9:30 a.m.)