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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 15, 2018

SAN FERNANDO POLICE ANNOUNCE **"TORCH RUN" TO BENEFIT SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

San Fernando, CA – On Wednesday, June 6, 2018, the San Fernando Police Department will participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics of Southern California Summer Games. The team of Police Officers and City personnel will run sideby-side with Special Olympic Athletes and Los Angeles School Police to accept the "Flame of Hope" Torch from the Los Angeles Police Department Mission Division Team.

The torch will be carried throughout the City of San Fernando along a 1.8 mile route starting at approximately 9:20 am.

The Flame of Hope symbolizes courage and celebration of diversity that represents the spirit of the Special Olympics and will be used to light the cauldron at the Special Olympics Southern California Summer Games at Cal State University of Long Beach.

The San Fernando Police Department Team will be led by Field Training Officer/Canine Officer Walter Dominguez. "We are so excited to again be a part of this run. Over the past three years when the torch has been run through our city, we have seen hundreds of people line the streets and this has inspired us to continue to be a part of ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT this great cause," said Dominguez.

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Chief Anthony Vairo said, "We are truly honored to be a part of carrying this torch again. Our personnel are always so excited about showing our support for the champions of Special Olympics who do not know the words 'I can't' and who overcome challenges everyday as persons with intellectual disabilities." Chief Vairo went on to say, "We embrace diversity in our community and the diversity of these outstanding athletes."

The public is encouraged to come out and support the San Fernando Police Department Team along the route on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, starting at 9:20 am. Below, you will find the point-by-point route and map:



Chief Vairo said he hopes the City's residents, students, and members of the business community will line the streets to support the officers and our department personnel as they run in support of the Special Olympics. Chief Vairo also added that the best viewing location is in the San Fernando Mall.

For more information on the run or to donate to the running team, you may visit the Special Olympics Santa Clarita & Tri-Valley website at <u>www.sosc.org/finalleg/scvtv</u>.

The Special Olympics Santa Clarita & Tri-Valley team has over 650 athletes who are training in six sports in the Spring/Summer season and four in the Fall/ Winter. If you are interested in volunteering to be a coach, or know someone who would like to be an athlete, please contact the **Special Olympics Santa Clarita & Tri-Valley** office at 661.489.0540 or email <u>kvilla@sosc.org</u>.

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