

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **VIRGINIA LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN TO PASS THROUGH SUFFOLK**

SUFFOLK, VA (May 30, 2014) The Law Enforcement Torch Run benefiting Special Olympics Virginia will pass through the City of Suffolk on Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> as runners make their way to Richmond to Special Olympics Summer Games being held on June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The Suffolk run will commence at the Suffolk/Chesapeake line on Route 17 (Bridge Road) at 11:10 a.m.

Beginning May 31<sup>st</sup> at seven points across the Commonwealth, officers will carry the Special Olympics Flame of Hope more than 1,000 miles across Virginia. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Metro Richmond officers will run the last leg from the Capital to the University of Richmond Robins Center, where they'll join more than 1,500 Summer Games Athletes and officially open the Summer Games.

In addition to lighting the Flame, there will be a celebration for the fundraising efforts of more than 2,000 officers involved in the Torch Run, sponsored by SunTrust Foundation and Enterprise and supported by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, the Virginia Sheriff's Association, the Virginia Department of Corrections, the Virginia Association of Regional Jails, and the Virginia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

Since June 2013, a total of more than \$1.1 million dollars has been raised for Special Olympics, pushing the overall fundraising total to more than \$16 million since the Torch Run's inception in Virginia in 1986.

For more information about the Suffolk Torch Run route, please visit [www.torchrunva.com](http://www.torchrunva.com) and click on the Routes button. In addition, everyone is invited to cheer on the officers as they make their way on Route 17.

For more information, please contact Debbie Apperson at 757-672-6012 or [dapperson@specialolympicsva.org](mailto:dapperson@specialolympicsva.org), or Rob Ross, Captain with the Suffolk Police Department at 757-514-7888. For more information on Special Olympics Virginia and Summer Games, visit [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org) or [www.volunteer2cheer.com](http://www.volunteer2cheer.com).



(Chief Thomas E. Bennett carrying the Flame of Hope with Torch runners in previous year.)

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