



February 1, 2022

Guardians of the Flame,

I pray that everyone is off to a healthy and great start in 2022! It is truly my honor and pleasure to take on the task and responsibilities of the North Carolina Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics North Carolina (NC LETR) State Director position. There has been a tremendous amount of work completed throughout the pandemic and we thank Lieutenant Bill Davis of the NC State University Police for his commitment and dedication the past two years as NC LETR State Director.

During his leadership NC LETR was able to increase and foster relationships with numerous Law Enforcement agencies that have made a significant impact with the Torch Run and the nearly 40,000 athletes here in North Carolina. The bar has been set high as agencies throughout North Carolina raised \$1.3 million in 2021.

We look forward to continuing this fundraising success in 2022, in addition our goal is to increase the overall number of agencies that participate in LETR which would grow the “Flame of Hope” and bring awareness for individuals with intellectual disabilities. We cannot accomplish this goal without your support, networking or recruiting of new agencies. Please reach out and encourage those agencies in your surrounding communities who may not already participate. In 2021, only 70 law enforcement agencies raised the \$1.3 million for SONC. Can you imagine if we retained those 70 agencies and recruited 25 more for our efforts?!

The 2022 Special Olympics USA Summer Games will be held in Orlando, Florida, June 5 – 12. Captain Michael Patterson of Holly Springs Police Department has been selected to represent North Carolina in the LETR Final Leg. He is a true “Guardian of the Flame” and will represent and promote the messages of inclusion and acceptance throughout this journey.

This year, the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games Final Leg team members will run the Flame of Hope through North Carolina with a ceremony stop in Charlotte. On May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am the torch and team members will run through Charlotte before it makes it way to Florida. All NC Law Enforcement officers are welcome and encouraged to participate. Every officer who participates will receive a commemorative Special Olympics USA Games Final Leg T-shirt. Please hold the date to attend as more information will be forthcoming.

Our NC Final Leg will take place in Raleigh on Friday, June 3. For the first time since 2019, the opening ceremony for the SONC Summer Games will be held on June 3. Last year brought



record numbers in participants and agencies who participated in the relays across the state and during the Final Leg run in Raleigh even though Summer Games could not be held due to the pandemic. We look forward to increasing these numbers!

We are currently working on finalizing the dates for our state level events such as the Plane Pull at RDU International Airport, Truck Convoy in Charlotte, WOD for Inclusion held statewide in July and Over the Edge in Raleigh on October 1. We are extremely thankful for everything you do in your communities and for Special Olympics North Carolina athletes.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Leslie Moyar at [lmoyar@sonc.net](mailto:lmoyar@sonc.net) or me at [Ryan.Jackson@cmpd.org](mailto:Ryan.Jackson@cmpd.org).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Jackson".

Captain Ryan Jackson

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

NC LETR State Director