



March 9, 2023

Guardians of the Flame,

I pray that everyone is healthy and motivated to make 2023 our best year yet! It has been my honor and pleasure to lead the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics North Carolina (NC LETR) as the State Director last year and take the challenge on again in 2023. We were able to make great strides in 2022 and look forward to continued success and more improvements in 2023.

In February, we hosted a great conference at Harrah's Casino and Resort in Cherokee. We missed those that could not attend and hope you are able to attend the conference in February 2024. During the conference, we celebrated many 2022 achievements, experienced Cherokee heritage and were, as always, truly inspired by our Special Olympics North Carolina athletes. Our conference brought numerous sponsors, a successful Polar Plunge and a record number of auction items, which raised approximately \$43,000. In addition, SONC President/CEO Keith Fishburne announced that NC's Publix Campaign raised over \$242,000. This was definitely a fantastic way to start the year!

Throughout 2022, I challenged all agencies to increase our awareness by bringing on additional agencies and increase fundraising efforts. I was thrilled to share that we exceeded both of these goals in 2022 by having over 100 participating agencies and raising over \$1.5 million. This could not have been accomplished without each of you and your communities, but we still have room to improve and grow. There are over 400 law enforcement agencies in North Carolina, yet we have just a fraction that participate. Invite your neighboring agency to get involved and let's raise \$1.7 million this year.

Last year, we had a record number of officers and agencies who participated in the Torch Run relays across the state and for the Final Leg. Please mark your calendars for Friday, June 2, for the 2023 Final Leg and SONC Summer Games Opening Ceremony, which will take place in Raleigh. We look forward to seeing your agency represented and increase last year's number of participants!



Some other important dates for your calendar are state-level events, such as the Plane Pull at RDU International Airport (TBA), Truck Convoy in Charlotte (November 18), WOD for Inclusion held statewide (May through July) and Over the Edge in Raleigh (September 30). 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 or me at Ryan.Jackson@cmpd.org.

Respectfully,

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

Major Ryan Jackson
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department
Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics North Carolina, State Director