

# THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

CITY COUNCIL

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNCILMEMBER  
SYLVIA BALLIN

DATE: May 12, 2016

COUNCILMEMBER  
JAIME SOTO

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

San Fernando, CA – The San Fernando Police Department will participate for the first time this year in having a team of officers run in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics of Southern California Summer Games on Wednesday, June 8, 2016. At approximately 9:20 am, officers and personnel of the San Fernando Police Department, side by side with Special Olympic athletes, will accept the "Flame of Hope" Torch from the Los Angeles Police Department Mission Station officers and carry it throughout the City of San Fernando.

The run will begin on the street at Mott Street and Chatsworth Drive (at O'Melveny Elementary School) and finish at 700 San Fernando Road in front of Rydell Auto Dealership. The runners will proceed from the school on Mott Street to Brand Boulevard, north to the City's Civic Center, first passing the San Fernando Middle School, then the Court House on Third Street and then into the Civic Center, pass City Hall and the Police Station, and then proceed to the San Fernando Mall entering from San Fernando Mission Boulevard, and then end at 700 San Fernando Road at about 10 am, running a total 1.8 miles, passing the Torch to LAPD's Foothill Station officers.

The Flame of Hope symbolizes courage and celebration of diversity that represents the spirit of the Special Olympics. This Flame of Hope will be used to light the cauldron at the Special Olympics Southern California Summer Games this summer at Cal State University of Long beach to be held on June 11, 2016 and June 12, 2016.

ADMINISTRATION  
DEPARTMENT

117 MACNEIL STREET  
SAN FERNANDO  
CALIFORNIA  
91340

The San Fernando Police team will be led by K9 Officer Walter Dominguez, who said, "We are so excited to be a part of this run for the first time. Last year when the World

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Games torch came to our city, we saw hundreds of people line the streets and this inspired us to become more involved and be a part of this great cause."

Chief Anthony Vairo said, "We are truly honored to be a part of carrying this torch for the first time. I look forward to putting on my running shoes to run with my fellow officers to show 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 City's police officers and personnel on June 8, 2016. Chief Vairo said he hopes the city's residents and business community will again come out this year to line the streets to support the officers as they run in support of the Special Olympics.

For more information on the run or to donate to the running team, you can go to the website for the Special Olympics at [www.sosc.org/finalleg/scvtv](http://www.sosc.org/finalleg/scvtv).

Tri-Valley 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 call **Special Olympics Tri-Valley** office at 661.489.0540 or email [lmayo@sosc.org](mailto:lmayo@sosc.org).

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