



01 February 2012

Each year the Law Enforcement Torch Run takes place the week leading up to the State Summer Games which is held, usually the first or second week in May. We would like to have the opportunity to bring awareness of Special Olympics to your community through your department's involvement. This will assist in your community police efforts and build stronger relations within your community.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics began in Mississippi in 1996. Through the involvement of various departments, the program has seen steady growth each year bringing awareness to Special Olympics throughout the state. This also allows your department to build new and stronger relations with other department in the state.

The Torch Run makes its way throughout the State of Mississippi, beginning in South Haven and ending at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi. Currently the Torch is carried through 21 communities by over 100 agencies throughout the state. The Torch arrives at 1200 on the Friday prior to the Summer Games on Keesler Air Force Base. Immediately following the arrival of the Torch at Keesler lunch is provided to all participants. That night will be the main event of the Torch Run, which is the lighting of caldron and start of the 2012 Mississippi Summer Games. During the entrance of the Torch at the lighting ceremony it will be followed y patrol cars from around the state which all are encouraged to attend.

Not only does Law Enforcement have the distinct privilege of being the "Keepers of the Flame" for Special Olympics but we are also the largest fundraiser for the program. During fiscal year 2011 Law Enforcement around the world raised 42 million dollars for the athletes of Special Olympics. One aspect of this program which is unique from other fundraisers is the fact that 100% of the money raised goes to support the athletes by paying for events, buying equipment, or paying for meals. One of the many ways that your community can get involved in the support of Special Olympics is by your department purchasing or selling our annual Torch Run T-shirt.

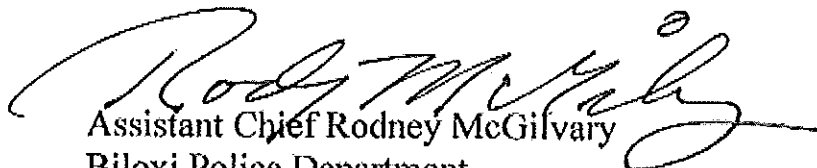
We are having our annual kickoff meeting in Madison, MS at the Madison Public Complex, located at 1239 Highway 51 Madison , MS 39110, on 28 February 2012 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p. m. We respectfully request your presence, or a designee from your department, at this meeting. If your department is presently a participant, let me say thank you for what you have done in the past and if you are not

involved with Special Olympics let me humbly request you join us and help us carry the flame of hope.

As Law Enforcement the task of being the "Keepers of the Flame" rests on our shoulders. It is our duty to ensure the flame of hope continues on and funds are raised to allow every special athlete in our state to experience the same opportunity. I challenge you to get involved not only for your agency but for your community.

I look forward to meeting with you, or your agencies designee, on 28 February 2012. Whether you currently carry the Torch now or not, I encourage you to send someone to this kickoff to see what Law Enforcement has been tasked with around the world in 1981. This is not only our duty, but also an honor, one which we as brothers and sisters who walk the thin blue line everyday should embrace fully as a family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney McGilvary". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "M".

Assistant Chief Rodney McGilvary
Biloxi Police Department
Mississippi Law Enforcement Torch Run Director