

PRESS RELEASE

Press Contact: Jacob Green, Assistant City Manager
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[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

City of Ontario
Economic Development Agency

THE CITY OF ONTARIO WELCOMES THE FLAME OF HOPE AS IT IS CARRIED BY AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ON ITS WAY TO THE LOS ANGELES COLISEUM FOR THE OPENING CEREMONIES OF THE 2015 SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES

The Flame of Hope serves as a beacon of inspiration to thousands during the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg in California

On July 22, 2015, the *Flame of Hope*, the official torch for the Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015, will be carried through the City of Ontario. A ceremony honoring the Special Olympics World Games will be held at Ontario Town Square beginning at 10:10 AM. Speaking at the ceremony will be Ontario Mayor Paul S. Leon, Ontario Chief of Police Brad Kaylor, Officer Albert Negron from North Carolina and Special Olympic athlete and Final Leg runner Jazmine Slama from Utah.

Please join the City of Ontario in welcoming the Law Enforcement officers who serve as the Guardians of the *Flame of Hope* and the Special Olympic athletes as they participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg. The Torch Run is a running event in which officers and athletes run the *Flame of Hope* to the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics competition, traveling throughout the country and Southern California, ending at the Opening Ceremony at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Law Enforcement officers and Special Olympic athletes are selected by their respective Special Olympics programs to be one of the 126 Final Leg Team members based on their dedication and commitment to the Special Olympics movement.

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Throughout the journey of the Final Leg, Law Enforcement officers from around the world will be spreading the message of acceptance and inclusion for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Community members are encouraged to join the celebration to express support for these athletes. In attendance at the ceremony in Ontario will be Special Olympics World Games Delegations, which include athletes and coaches from Iceland, Iraq, Seychelles, and Cote d'Ivoire as part of the Special Olympics World Games Host Town program.

Before the World Games begin on July 25, 2015, more than 7,000 athletes from 177 countries will be welcomed to communities throughout Southern California. The Delegations will spend July 21-24, 2015 in and around Ontario as they become acclimated to the time zone, enjoy activities that the Greater Ontario Convention & Visitors Bureau has to offer and prepare to compete at the World Games. As a Host Town, the City of Ontario will welcome the Special Olympics athletes and coaches and provide them food, housing and entertainment.

"The City of Ontario is very proud to be a host city to such an amazing event, and having the Flame of Hope come through Ontario and Ontario Town Square is even more exciting," said Ontario Mayor Paul S. Leon.

"We look forward to welcoming our delegates, introducing them to our region, and to have the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg with their presence is going to be a very special ceremony. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring our community together as ambassadors of our region and of course to wish the athletes luck in the World Games Los Angeles 2015." said Michael Krouse, President & CEO of the Greater Ontario Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The *Flame of Hope* will complete its journey on July 25 when the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg team carries the torch into the Opening Ceremony of the 2015 World Games on July 25, and it ignites the cauldron at the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, site of the 1932 and 1984 Olympics Opening Ceremony.

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