



March - 2017

Dear Law Enforcement Colleague:

I am writing to you as the President of the Missouri Police Chiefs Association. It is my pleasure to invite you to participate in the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Law Enforcement Torch Run ® for Special Olympics Missouri – a project near and dear to most of our hearts already. As you are probably aware, the LETR is a year-round effort to raise both funds and awareness for Special Olympics. While the MPCA founded the Torch Run in 1986, today this project encompasses every branch of law enforcement. In 2017, Special Olympics Missouri's LETR ranks #6 in the world! If you've been a part of it – you should celebrate; if you're new to Torch Run you can be sure you are part of a winning and proud tradition of success!

We are the single largest contributing group to SOMO. However, we still can do more because not every law enforcement officer and agency is involved yet. Just think where we would rank if each agency brought in a new agency in 2017? Special Olympics Missouri depends on us to fund much of its program. There are currently more than 15,000 people with intellectual disabilities being served by Special Olympics Missouri. Even so, there are still over 100,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities in Missouri yet to know the joy of participation. The funds we raise are crucial.

The regions of the LETR are structured to be in line with the MPCA regions. The listing and map is included with this letter.

The LETR Committee, Chaired by Jim Moran, retired from St. Louis Metro Police and now Chief of Saint Louis University DPS, has established several ways agencies can be a part of the LETR family:

- **Each one reach one.** We ask that you contact your neighboring law enforcement agencies and invite them to join in supporting Special Olympics. Last year we welcomed 2 brand new agencies. That brings our total involvement to 158 agencies – there is plenty of room for growth. Since we are celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, our goal is to recruit 30 new or lost agencies to our torch club. So please consider reaching out to a neighboring agency and asking them to help support the SOMO athletes.
- **Sell Torch Run T-shirts.** Merchandise sales are an easy way to build synergy within your agency. It is important for all of us in law enforcement to pull together in this cooperative project. T-shirt and hat orders are all done online now. You can place your order by going to [www.somo.org/trforms](http://www.somo.org/trforms). Short sleeve shirts (small – xx-large) sell for \$15 each, while 3XL – 6XL-shirts sell for \$20 each. Long sleeve shirts (small – 2XL) sell for \$20 each, and must be pre-paid before the order will be placed, in order to control our excess inventory a little better. Weekly orders are placed on Thursdays, with orders being delivered within 10 days. Place your order today to get started.

