



Newport News Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **Immediate**

DATE: **June 6, 2007**

Sheriff Carries the Flame of Hope

Sheriff Gabe Morgan and several deputies will participate in the Virginia Law Enforcement Torch Run Thursday, June 7th to benefit the Special Olympics.

The torch will make its way from the Hampton/Newport News city line on Mercury Boulevard up Jefferson Avenue to the new Newport News Police Headquarters. That is where Hampton Police Chief Chuck Jordan will officially hand the torch to Newport News Police Chief James Fox and Newport News Sheriff Gabe Morgan.

The estimated time for the handoff is 3:50 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. Media representatives, please allow yourself some wiggle room on the front and back of that estimated time if you are interested in capturing the official handoff.

At the end of the day, there will be a picnic for all the participants at Deer Park at 5:30 P.M. Deer Park is located near J. Clyde and Jefferson.

The Virginia Law Enforcement Torch Run is an annual statewide event. The torch crosses more than 1,900 miles before it arrives in Richmond for the Virginia State Summer Games, which start June 8.

According to the Special Olympics' web site, the Torch Run is its largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle, raising nearly \$800,000 annually in Virginia. The run involves officers, deputies, and athletes carrying the "Flame of Hope" to the Opening Ceremonies of Special Olympics competitions. The special athletes demonstrate heart and skill. By doing so, they teach lessons of acceptance and inclusion into their communities.

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For more information, contact Lt. Kathleen Carey at 757-926-8747.