



Special Thanks to:

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 LETR TN State Council Member

Presented at LETR Conference  
 September 22, 2017

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PURPOSE for TODAY

1. How the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) supports 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing, and
2. How having your staff involved benefits your agency and community, and
3. Then, how to communicate to decision makers why supporting LETR is a benefit to their agencies, and
4. How to communicate to line officers, supervisors and civilians the individual value of LETR.

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Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics (LETR) is a volunteer movement that was established by members of the law enforcement community to support Special Olympics. The mission is to increase awareness and provide resources for the Special Olympics movement.

*A strong partnership*

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PILLAR I: Building Trust & Legitimacy

- Cornerstone of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing is Procedural Justice.
  1. Treating people with dignity and respect.
  2. Giving individuals 'voice' during encounters.
  3. Being neutral and transparent in decision making.
  4. Trustworthiness.(p. 7)

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### PILLAR I: Building Trust & Legitimacy

- “Law Enforcement culture should embrace a guardian mindset to build public trust and legitimacy.”
- “How officers define their role will set the tone for the community.
- As Plato wrote, “In a republic that honors the core of democracy – the greatest amount of power is given to those called Guardians. Only those with the most impeccable character are chose to bear the responsibility of protecting the democracy.” (p. 9)

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### PILLAR I: Building Trust & Legitimacy

“Known honorably as **Guardians of the Flame**, law enforcement members and Special Olympics athletes carry the “Flame of Hope” into the Opening Ceremony of local competitions, and into Special Olympics State, Provincial, National, Regional and World Games” (About, 2017).



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### PILLAR I: Building Trust & Legitimacy

“Law enforcement agencies should proactively promote public trust by initiating positive non-enforcement activities to engage communities” (p. 13)

“Officers contradict stereotypes and we can break away from our normal “serious” routines by participating in endeavors of enjoyment—unique...fundraising and public awareness events... In this manner, we are able to unite with the community around joyful activities.”

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### PILLAR I: Building Trust & Legitimacy

“Law enforcement agencies should create opportunities in schools and communities for positive non-enforcement interactions with police. Agencies should also publicize the beneficial outcomes and images of positive, trust-building partnerships and initiatives.” (p. 14)

“Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools brings youth with and without intellectual disabilities in the United States (K-12) together through education and sports.” (Community Building, 2017)

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### Building Trust & Legitimacy



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### PILLAR II: Policy & Oversight

“Law enforcement agency should collaborate with community members to develop policies and strategies in communities and neighborhoods.” Page 21

This volunteer work, on behalf of Special Olympics, performed by our officers instills in us a sense of honor and distinction. Officers become wholly committed to the mission and the community in where they interact and impact.

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### PILLAR II: Policy & Oversight

- “Promoting Social Inclusion Through Sport. Special Olympics is dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences. Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team.” (Sports and Games, 2017)

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### Pillar III – Technology & Social Media

Adopt model policies and best practices for technology-based community engagement that increases community trust and access (pg 20)



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### PILLAR IV: Community Policing & Crime Reduction

“Communities should support a culture and practice of policing that reflects the values of protection and promotion of the dignity of all, especially the most vulnerable.” (p. 45)

“Law enforcement officers are wholly committed to Special Olympics and the positive impact that we can have on athletes and on the community overall.”

Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities are bullied at a higher rate than other kids in schools. Once adults, they are victimized similar to rates of senior citizens.

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### PILLAR IV: Community Policing & Crime Reduction

“Law enforcement agencies should develop programs that create opportunities for patrol officers to regularly interact with neighborhood residents . . .” (p. 46)

“Law enforcement officers are compelled by a strong feeling and emotion to work tirelessly both on and off duty to create a better community for people with and without intellectual disabilities.”



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### PILLAR IV: Community Policing & Crime Reduction

“Communities need to affirm and recognize the voices of youth in community decision making, facilitate youth . . . problem solving, and develop and fund youth leadership training and life skills through positive youth/police collaboration and interactions.” (p. 49)

“Energize young people to unleash their creative leadership potential to accept, respect, and advocate with and for persons with intellectual disabilities, with inclusive sports serving as the experiential component” (Get Into It, 2017).

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### PILLAR IV: Community Policing & Crime Reduction

“Positive transformation is catalyzed through local, grassroots law enforcement/Special Olympics activities which ultimately results in a more inclusive, civil and just society”



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### PILLAR V: Training & Education

- Provide leadership training to all personnel throughout their careers.
- POSTs should ensure that basic officer training includes lessons to improve social interactions as well as tactical skills. (Guardian vs. Warrior)
- POSTs should ensure both basic recruit and in-service incorporates content around recognizing and confronting implicit bias and cultural responsiveness
- Encourage and incentivize continuing and higher education for officers.

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### PILLAR V: Training & Education

- Intellectual disabilities cuts across all socio-economic, race, gender, ethnicity demographics.



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### Leadership & Incident Command opportunities

- ✓LETR State and Local positions
- ✓Local fundraising events participation
- ✓Unified events and competitions

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### PILLAR VI: Officer Wellness & Safety



“Law enforcement agencies should promote safety and wellness at every level of the organization.”  
(p. 56)

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### PILLAR VI: Officer Wellness & Safety

#### LETR promotes:

- **DIGNITY.** Athletes and officers are acknowledged and esteemed for their achievements and contributions to the community (LETR Branding Identity Guidelines, 2017).
- **JOY.** Through law enforcement’s association with Special Olympics and its community and fund-raising activities, moments of great delight and happiness are created that celebrate the human spirit and are shared by all 0 athletes, volunteers, officers, and the community (LETR Branding Identity Guidelines, 2017).

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### WHY DO WE DO LETR?

We volunteer  
together to champion  
acceptance & inclusion

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We volunteer  
together to champion  
acceptance & inclusion

Volunteering	Together
<p>We thrive on the efforts of dedicated law enforcement officers who give effortlessly of their time, talents and passion to strengthen the Special Olympics movement.</p>	<p>We believe that together anything is possible. By partnering with Special Olympics Programs we are able to engage members of the community to unite to create opportunities of inclusion for Special Olympics athletes. We celebrate through the camaraderie with fellow officers and friendships created with Special Olympics athletes.</p>

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We volunteer  
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To Champion	Acceptance & Inclusion
<p>We lead the charge within our community in promoting, advocating, and empowering through unique fundraising and public relations events and activities. We advance community change through civic organizations, businesses, schools, administrators and leaders within the community.</p>	<p>Our work raises up the Special Olympics athlete in the community, helping influence them to be treated as equal. We educate the community about the gifts, talents and abilities of people with intellectual disabilities and create opportunities to bring athletes and people of the community together.</p>

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