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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Rockford Police Department Awarded High Honors for Special Olympics Efforts

ROCKFORD, IL – The Rockford Police Department was honored for its efforts to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics during the 2016 Law Enforcement Torch Run “Kick-off Conference” that was held last week. Interim Police Chief Patrick Hoey accepted the Flame of Hope Award, the Torch Run’s highest honor.

“I was honored to accept this award on behalf of the men and women of the Rockford Police Department. For 30 years the Rockford Police Department has raised money and awareness for Special Olympics and I know we have made a tremendous impact on the lives of those with intellectual disabilities,” Hoey stated.

The Torch Run committee noted the Rockford Police Department’s engagement in a number of local fundraising events including the Dunkin’ Donuts Cop on the Rooftop, Texas Roadhouse Benefit Lunch and the popular Polar Plunge, of which the department boasts large participation.

Additional comments from the Torch Run Committee include:

“This department has truly helped energize the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run.”

“One of the first police departments in the state to join the Torch Run movement, this department has raised tremendous awareness and funds for the athletes of Special Olympics Illinois. Their current liaison became active at the State Torch Run level



more than 11 years ago. Under his leadership and vision, this great team of motivated officers have raised nearly \$115,000 since 2005. They are also responsible for cultivating numerous relationships at their local level as well as bringing new departments into the fold.”

“Additionally, officers from this department can be commonly found at their local Spring Games, working side by side with area Athletes, awarding medals at the State Summer Games and carrying the Flame of Hope and our message through their community.”

“This department’s Chief has carried the Torch Run message to an International level through his involvement in the 2007 Special Olympics World Games Final Leg in China.”

“Please help me congratulate Pat Hoey and the Rockford Police Department; our Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois Department Flame of Hope recipient!”

The Rockford Police Department will next be participating in the Polar Plunge on March 5, 2016 at Olson Lake in Rockford.

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