



Michael P. Kelly
General Superintendent and CEO
Chicago Park District

February 27, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

This year, Special Olympics will celebrate its 50th anniversary, and I invite you to join the Chicago Park District in celebrating this important milestone. As many of you know, Special Olympics was born in Chicago at Soldier Field in July 1968 and has since grown into a worldwide movement engaging millions of children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Today, the Chicago Park District provides more than 53 Special Olympics Competitions annually, along with more than a dozen camps and leagues for the athletes to train. As the largest run Special Olympics program implemented by any public park district in the country, our impact on Special Olympics athletes has been possible thanks to the leadership of past Superintendents and the thousands of dedicated employees and volunteers that have remained committed to this initiative. Each of you is responsible for the strength of Chicago's Special Olympics movement, and so I invite you to celebrate this milestone anniversary.

This summer, Chicago is hosting the international celebration – with athletes and families from all over the world gathering in our city July 17-21, 2018. A full agenda and information can be found at <http://www.specialolympics.org/50th.aspx>.

On behalf of the Park District, I'd like to personally invite you to three special celebrations:

- **Friday, March 2 – Eternal Flame of Hope Groundbreaking**
2:30 p.m.
425 E. McFetridge Drive (parking available in Soldier Field's North Garage)
Join us at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Eternal Flame of Hope – a permanent salute to Special Olympics at its birthplace, Soldier Field. Honored guests include Special Olympics CEO Mary Davis and Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke.
- **Thursday, May 3 – 2018 Spring Games Opening Ceremonies**
10:00 a.m.
Soldier Field (free parking available at Waldron Deck)
Join us for the 2018 Spring Games Opening Ceremonies, which will kick-off Special Olympics Chicago's 50th spring season. The Ceremonies will be followed by five days of Track and Field competitions at Dunbar Park (May 7 through 11 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.).
- **Friday, July 20 – VIP Reception for Eternal Flame Lighting**
Details to come.

We hope to see you at any or all of these events, as each of you were part of supporting and expanding this program into what it is today – an amazing global movement that began in Chicago, 50 years ago.

To RSVP, please contact Bess Featherstone at bess_featherstone@jpr.com or 312-573-5488.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Kelly
General Superintendent & CEO
Chicago Park District

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