



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Stoughton Winter Basketball Campers Meet State Police Colonel, Police Chief, Sheriff



Between the skill drills and pick-up games, the 45 local students attending Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey's Stoughton Winter Basketball Camp got to meet and talk with the head of the Massachusetts State Police, the Stoughton Police Department and the Norfolk County Sheriff.

"Law enforcement leaders know that the more we reach children, the more we share lessons of teamwork, cooperation, and making sound decisions, the more stable their lives and our communities will be," District Attorney Morrissey said.

The camp, which is funded with education and prevention funds from the District Attorney's Office, was run through the Stoughton recreation department on Tuesday through Thursday of February break. "We had an exceptional line-up of adults visiting to interact with the students," Morrissey said. "Police Chief Donna McNamara was in on Tuesday, Sheriff Jerry McDermott on Wednesday, and on Thursday we were joined by State Police Col. Kerry Gilpin."

Morrissey has hosted the Stoughton camp for students in grades 3 through 8 every year since his election in 2009. Stoughton High varsity girls basketball coach Charmaine Steele Jordan led a team of volunteers from the DA's office in running the drills and games, including multiple State Police detectives.

"We have always tried to mix basic skills with concepts that are more broadly applicable to their lives. If kids can surround themselves with friends who are involved in constructive activities, working to improve themselves, perhaps sticking with sports – those are all protective factors as they grow into their teens," Morrissey said.

State Police Col. Gilpin directly encouraged the campers to do just that – recalling the teamwork that led her to the State Police and eventually up through the ranks. "Stick with your teams, stick with your sport, make good friends. If you can make good friends and you together can make good decisions – those things will follow you throughout your life."