



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

TEACHING TEAMWORK AND RESPECT at DA'S SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP



More than two dozen youngsters from the Germantown Neighborhood Center joined District Attorney Michael Morrissey at his Quincy Summer basketball camp this year – hopefully learning just as much about making good decisions and staying safe as they learned about jump shots and setting picks.

“If you teach basketball the right way, you are teaching teamwork. You are teaching kids to watch out for one another, build relationships and, among other things, to help one another succeed. Those lessons carry over into everyday life,” District Attorney Morrissey said following the opening of the 3-day camp, held this year at the YMCA facility on Coddington Street.

Quincy Police K-9 Officers Chris McDermott and Brian Mahoney brought their dogs Shaggy and Tucker to see the campers on opening day, talking about how police animals help keep communities safe by detecting drug and guns and finding people who are lost, among other roles. The YMCA's CEO, Tom Gorman, also spoke to the youngsters and reminded them that they “always have a safe place” at the YMCA. Dr. Wayne Westcott, a professor of exercise science at Quincy College and the author of dozens of books, talked to the campers about the lifelong place for exercise and wellness on the second day.

The camp is run mostly by volunteers and staff from Germantown and the DA's Office. What little overhead there is, the DA pays out of funds that judges have ordered to be forfeited from drug traffickers. “We take the money that was being used to undermine our communities and use it to strengthen our communities,” he said.

“I grew up in the City of Quincy, too, and went to the same schools they do. I know there is a safe, successful path to adulthood for every child on this basketball court,” Morrissey said. “I'm invested in helping them along that path.”