



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

DA MORRISSEY'S BASKETBALL CAMP Skills with a side of safety



The three dozen Quincy kids who took part in Norfolk DA Michael W. Morrissey's summer basketball camp at the Coddington Street YMCA last week got a lot more than practice from the foul line.

"The kids come for the basketball and the friendship, but we provide a steady stream of good role models, positive messages and life skills woven through the camp," District Attorney Morrissey said. "After the opening drills on Thursday, Quincy Fire Lt. Paul Jeffers provided the campers with a brief talk on fire prevention and what to do if a fire happens, with Weymouth Deputy Chief Justin Myers suiting up to show them what turn-our gear is like."

Norfolk Deputy Sheriff James Ross took the campers through Sheriff Michael G. Bellotti's mobile fire simulator – letting them experience just how to escape a fire and run to a designated meeting spot.

Quincy Police Officers Greg Mar and Jim Whedbee brought dozens of bicycle safety helmets and distributed them free-of-charge as part of QPD's ongoing bicycle safety program, Morrissey said. "These campers are kids who may or may not have much going on during the summer months, and this provides a week of positive activity and messages.

Morrissey spoke to the campers about how the teamwork they learn on the basketball court can be a model for their friendships; they can look out for one another, help their friends steer clear of drugs and dangerous behaviors as they continue to grow. "If you keep your eyes on your friends, you can help them get out of a mess when they get jammed up on the court – and the same applies if they get jammed up in their day-to-day lives."

YMCA of the South Shore CEO Paul Gorman also spoke briefly to the campers, encouraging them to take full advantage of the mental and physical growth opportunities that using the Y's facilities can provide. The camp ran until mid-day on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The campers were coached by a man and woman with local roots who have found great success through basketball – Jenna Clark, who plays Division 1 college ball at Fairlee-Dickinson and Joe Bunce-Grenon, who now plays for the Harlem Wizards.

"We have been doing basketball camps long enough that we now have adults working with us who were campers as children," said Morrissey, who has provided the camps since taking office almost 8 years ago. "Those adults tell us clearly that these camp sessions had very positive impact on them and their friends. That is really all we can hope for."