



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

D.A. MORRISSEY'S BASKETBALL CAMP

Dog Days at Stoughton Basketball Camp



The camp is designed to be fun, with basketball drills, games of knockout, and adult guests from local teams and law enforcement. But the message at Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey's summer basketball camp is a serious one: Every kid in the gym can be a leader and steer their friends clear of trouble and drugs.

"If you say no to something in the environment around you, and say 'I'm not going to do that,' are you a follower or a leader?" Stoughton Police Sgt. Brian Holmes asked the 38 kids seated in an arc around him during a break in the action on July 8.

DA Morrissey has sponsored basketball camps in Stoughton and other communities since taking office. They offer a constructive opportunity for students in grades 3 through 8 during winter and summer vacations. He authorizes the use of money forfeited in successful narcotics prosecutions to fund the camps, and families pay only a nominal registration fee. Workers are either volunteers or from local law enforcement.

"We put a lot of effort, as a society, interacting with kids who have gone in the wrong direction," District Attorney Morrissey said. "I believe strongly that we should also be supporting kids moving along the right path. It can only help keep them there."

On Wednesday, visitors included Sheriff's Deputy Mike Monaghan, who demonstrated how he uses his drug location dog Randy to make their community safer, the District Attorney, Recreation director John Dennison, Asst. Director Tim Davis, and the Chief of Police.

"You have to be strong and courageous," Police Chief Paul Shastany told the kids. "Support good behavior (in your friends) and don't let anyone trick you into doing the wrong thing."

The camp was held in the gym at Stoughton High School.