



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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Press Release

LAYUPS AND LIFE LESSONS

at Stoughton Summer Basketball Camp



About three dozen Stoughton elementary and middle school students began the Norfolk DA's summer basketball camp this morning (Tuesday, July 12, 2016), getting an even mix of basketball skill drills and positive messages from local law enforcement and leaders.

"The camp is a way to support and talk to the good kids, the kids who can give the right message to their friends about making safe decisions about school, about keeping away from drugs," District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey said after the first session ended at 1 p.m. "In the DA's office, much of our day-to-day is dealing with the fallout of bad decisions. It is important to address the other side of that by supporting good ones."

Police Chief Donna McNamara arrived late morning; Norfolk County Sheriff K-9 Officer Mike Monaghan, accompanied by his search dog Randy, came through about 10 a.m. – delivering messages about the dangers of drugs and being around others who might be involved in dangerous behavior.

"The more kids we can reach, and connect with in more than a superficial way, about the importance of making safe decisions – all of those kids go back to their group of friends with new knowledge and, ideally, new resolve," Morrissey said.

District Attorney Morrissey covers most of the expenses of the camp using assets that judges have ordered forfeited after being seized in criminal investigations. The camp, which he has run through the Recreation Department in Stoughton every year since he took office, also benefits from the generosity of local and regional leaders giving their time, Morrissey said. Stoughton High School basketball coach John Gallivan is slated to work with the kids, grades 4 through 8, on Thursday.

Two Massachusetts State Police detectives assigned to Morrissey's Office, who both grew up in Stoughton, will be there on Wednesday. During Morrissey's camp during February vacation, Attorney General Maura Healey spent a morning with the group.

"The friendships, teamwork and support fostered by the camp may be the most important part," District Attorney Morrissey said. "Having friends who are doing the right thing is a great protective factor as kids get older and exposed to more of life."