



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

DA Morrissey hosts Basketball Camp at Stoughton High



Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey was knocked out by a seventh-grader at the Stoughton High School gym Tuesday, shortly after giving a brief talk about making good choices and the benefits of students surrounding themselves with constructive friends.

"I usually last a few more rounds playing knockout, but the young man had obvious skills," Morrissey said. Knockout, here, is a basketball drill involving a line of basketball players and two balls – if the player in line behind you sinks a shot before you do, you are "knocked out."

"I consider it a partial victory that I didn't get knocked out by a third-grader this year," Morrissey said. "I must be improving."

Morrissey has used drug forfeiture money to sponsor youth basketball camps during summer and winter vacations in Stoughton, Quincy and Randolph since taking office 8 years ago. "This is one of my favorite uses for that money. The legislation stipulates that when a judge forfeits criminal profits, we need to use a portion of it for education and crime prevention purposes," Morrissey said. "There is no reason education cannot be fun and involve beating the DA for a layup."

The camp, which is running half-days through Thursday, is also widely supported by members of Stoughton town government, by Sheriff Michael Bellotti and the Massachusetts State Police. "Our coach running drills this year is Stoughton High Varsity Women's basketball coach Charmaine Jordon, and she has been fantastic. She is a Stoughton High alum, and working with her this year is Joe Bunce-Grenon, who was standout for Stoughton High a few years ago and now plays for the Harlem Wizards."

Several members of the SHS girls' varsity basketball team were also in the mix as assistants Tuesday, and Recreation Director Tim Davis and Youth Commission Director Stephanie Patton also stopped in. Members of the boys' varsity team are set to help out on Wednesday. State Police Tpr. John Fanning, a Stoughton native, and his fellow homicide Tpr. Yuri Bukhenik, also from Stoughton are set to talk to the group of third- through eighth-graders on Thursday about the path from growing up in town to good careers and good lives.

The Tuesday camp included a talk about law enforcement and staying safe from Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Frank Reynolds and a demonstration with Lt. Reynolds' search and apprehension dog named Egon, with Norfolk Sheriff's Officer Manny Toscano serving as the dog's target from inside the cushion of a safety suit.

"Stoughton, as a community, has really embraced this and we are glad to make it work year after year," Morrissey said. "I take some solace in knowing that Coach Jordan, the highest scorer in Stoughton history was knocked out by a sixth-grader – and a third-grader won it all."