

September 17, 2009

FREEHOLDERS RECOGNIZE YOUNG GOLFERS ON THE FIRST TEE OF ESSEX COUNTY TRAVEL TEAM



Members of the First Tee of Essex County Travel Team, Program Director Chaz Moses (front row, far left) and Team Coach Mylet Williams (front row, far right, holding framed Commendation), receive their Commendations from Freeholder President Blonnie R. Watson (front row, 2nd from left), Freeholder D. Bilal Beasley (2nd row, far left), Freeholder Carol Y. Clark (2nd row, far right) and Freeholder Rufus I. Johnson (back row).
(Photo by Glen Frieson)

(Newark, NJ) – Young golfers on the First Tee of Essex County Travel Team were recognized by the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders during their Wednesday, September 16, 2009, Board Meeting held at the Hall of Records. Each of the team members was presented with a Commendation that congratulated them on the completion of their third year of competition and for embracing the core values of the international First Tee program: Honesty, Integrity, Sportsmanship, Respect, Confidence, Responsibility, Perseverance, Courtesy and Judgment.

The First Tee of Essex County was founded at the county's Weequahic Park Golf Course in 2006 as a facility of the First Tee of Metropolitan New York. The First Tee program was created in 1997 as an initiative of the World Golf Foundation as a way to bring golf to youngsters who otherwise would not be exposed to the game and its positive values, as stated in the organization's mission statement: "To impact the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character-development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf".

The First Tee of Essex County Travel Team is led by its Program Director, Chaz Moses, and Team Coach, Mylet Williams. The members of the team are: Sharif Warden, Paulo Matti, Kofi Woananu, Aijalon Williams, Zora Moore, Domonique Wilcher, George McKenzie, Jarid Thomas, Jamel Morrell, Sherri Morrell, Ray Holloway, Amber Rock, Bradley Robinson, III, Alexis Harris, Allen Smith, III, Xavier Harris, Alan Pado, Eric Pado, Matt Briones, Isabel Gonzales and Nadiyah Holmes.

This year, the Travel Team competed in the following matches against other First Tee programs in the New York-New Jersey area: Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on July 7th; Mosholu Golf Course in the Bronx, New York, on July 9th; Eisenhower Park Golf Course in East Meadow, New York, on July 14th; and at its home Weequahic Park Golf Course in Newark, New Jersey, on July 28th. The team also participated in the First Tee of Metropolitan New York Team Tournament of Champions held at Seawane Club in Hewlett Harbor, New York, on July 29th, and at a special outing held at Rockaway River in Denville, New Jersey, on August 17th.

Freeholder Carol Clark of East Orange, a longtime advocate of the program and sponsor of the Board's resolution, congratulated the young golfers on their commitment to the sport and the principles of the program, and encouraged

them to keep working at the game, adding, "You never know, one of you just might turn out to be the next Tiger Woods or Michelle Wie!"

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"I am just so proud of all of you!" said Freeholder President Blonnie Watson. "From the start, my colleagues and I have been enthusiastic about this program, and about the positive influences we knew it would have on young people who never before had a chance to play the game of golf." She went on to say, "You've proven us to be right, and we couldn't be happier for you. Keep up the good work and continue to have fun!"

For more information about the First Tee program, call Mr. Ed Brockner at the Weequahic Park Golf Course at 973-923-1838.

**For additional information, please contact:
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