

## PRESS RELEASE

June 21, 2012

### **ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR BIANCA BROWN OF MONTCLAIR H. S. ESSEX COUNTY GIRLS BASKETBALL “COACH OF THE YEAR”**



Freeholder Brendan Gill (right) of Montclair presented the Board’s Commendation to Bianca Brown, Head Coach of the Montclair H. S. Girls Basketball Team, during the Board’s Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, meeting held at Montclair Town Hall. (PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON)

(Newark, NJ) – During its Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, meeting held at Montclair Town Hall, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored Bianca Brown, Head Coach of the Montclair High School Girls Basketball Team, for having been named Essex County’s Girls “Coach of the Year” by *The Star-Ledger*. The Board’s Commendation was sponsored and presented to Coach Brown by District 5 Freeholder Brendan Gill of Montclair.

Coach Brown, in only her second year as Head Coach at her alma mater, led her team to an outstanding season, improving upon the 2010-2011 season record of 9-18 to post a very impressive overall record of 20 victories with only 8 losses. The team was ranked in *The Star-Ledger’s* Top 20 all season long, reaching as high as #7, and earned a #19 ranking on the Madison Square Garden Varsity Girls’ Basketball Tri-State Top 20 list. Under her leadership, the team won the Joe Poli Holiday Tournament, reached the finals of the Essex County Tournament for the first time in

school history, and finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the highly competitive Super Essex Conference, a remarkable turnaround from the previous season when the team finished in second-to-last place. Additionally, four members of the team were awarded All-Conference honors and two members were awarded All-County honors.

Coach Brown graduated from Montclair High School where she excelled on the varsity track, tennis and basketball teams, was named to the All-State Basketball Team, and received a full athletic scholarship to Wake Forest University. At Wake Forest, she earned her spot as the starting point guard her freshman year and was recognized as co-captain of the team during her junior and senior seasons. Upon her graduation in 2004, she pursued a professional basketball career first in Europe, where she played for the Bensberg (Germany) BasCats for one season, before moving on to play in Nigeria and for semi-pro teams in the United States.

At the conclusion of her professional career, Bianca Brown pursued her love of basketball and a career in coaching, first with the Cedar Grove Recreation Department, then with Montclair State University and Columbia High School before her appointment to her first head coaching position at Montclair High School in 2010.

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**For Additional Information:**  
**Gary Kroessig, Public Information**  
**Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders**  
**973-621-4452**  
[Gkroessig@freeholders.essexcountynj.org](mailto:Gkroessig@freeholders.essexcountynj.org)