

PRESS RELEASE

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ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR IRVINGTON'S DASHANA RANSOME 100 METER HURDLES STATE CHAMPION AND *THE STAR-LEDGER'S* ESSEX COUNTY GIRLS TRACK "ATHLETE OF THE YEAR"



Freeholder D. Bilal Beasley of Irvington (2nd from right) presented a Commendation to 2012 100 Meter Hurdles State Champion Dashana Ransome, a 2012 graduate of Irvington High School, during the Board's meeting held on August 15th at Irvington Town Hall. Joining him in the presentation were Freeholder President Blonnie R. Watson (left) and Freeholder Leonard M. Luciano (right). PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

(Newark, NJ) – During its Wednesday, August 15th, meeting held at Irvington Town Hall, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored 2012 Irvington High School graduate Dashana Ransome for winning the 100 Meter Hurdles State Championship and for being named the Essex County Girls Track “Athlete of the Year” by *The Star-Ledger*. Freeholder D. Bilal Beasley of Irvington, who also serves as Irvington Council President, sponsored the Board’s Commendation and presented it to Dashana along with Freeholder President Blonnie R. Watson of Newark and Freeholder Leonard M. Luciano of West Caldwell, as Dashana’s mother, Jowanna Bell, sister Denesha and Irvington Mayor Wayne Smith looked on.

Dashana Ransome won the 2012 New Jersey State Championship in the 100 Meter Hurdles at the Meet of Champions held on June 7th at Lombardi Field in Old Bridge, and was named the Essex County Girls Track “Athlete of the Year” by *The Star-Ledger* in recognition not only of her outstanding 2011-2012 Indoor and

Outdoor seasons, but also of her entire high school career, describing her as “one of the most versatile athletes in Essex County”.

Dashana enjoyed an exceptional 2012 Outdoor season during which she demonstrated her extraordinary talent and versatility and for which she was named to the 1st Team All-State and All-Group 3. She won the Long Jump Championships at both the 5th Annual Big Blue Devil Track & Field Invitational and the 1st Annual Big Blue Relays; captured 2nd Place in the Long Jump at the Essex County Relays; won the Long Jump Championship at the Super Essex Conference Championships for Large Schools; and at the Essex County Championships, she won the 100 Meter Hurdles Championship and finished in 4th Place in the Long Jump. At the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 Sectional Championships, she won her second straight 100 Meter Hurdles Championship, took 2nd Place in the Long Jump, 3rd Place in the 100 Meter Dash and 5th Place in the 200 Meter Dash. At the Group 3 State Championships she captured 2nd Place in the 100 Meter Hurdles and 3rd Place in the Long Jump, before going on to the Meet of Champions where she competed in an astounding four different events where she won her State Championship in the 100 Meter Hurdles and also captured 2nd Place in the Long Jump, 3rd Place in the 100 Meter Dash and 5th Place in the 200 Meter Dash.

She also enjoyed an outstanding 2012 Indoor season during which she was named to the 1st Team All-Essex County in the 55 Meter Hurdles and won the 55 Meter Hurdles Championships at the FDU Holiday Classic, Holiday Relay Carnival, Super Essex Conference Championships, Essex County Championships and North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 Sectional Championship (where she also captured 4th Place in the 55 Meter Dash), and also finished in 4th Place at the Group 3 State Championships and in 3rd Place at the Meet of Champions.

In addition to her athletic accomplishments, Ransome was named Irvington High School’s “Top Freshman” and participated in the Multi-Pot Program during her freshman year. In 2011, she was one of only 100 young people nationwide to be selected to participate in the Steve Harvey Disney Dreamer’s Academy program, was nominated to the United States Achievement Academy and participated in the East Orange PAL. During her senior year, she was voted an “Idol” in the Senior Class, participated in the Green Effect Club, served as Treasurer of the Student Athlete Leadership Team (SALT), was named to the National Society of High School Scholars and to the National Honor Society, and was the recipient of the Irvington High School Scholar Athlete Award.

In his remarks, Freeholder Beasley congratulated Dashana and told her that her family, the Township of Irvington and the County of Essex were very, very proud of her accomplishments, adding, “Dashana may be small in stature, but she can run like the wind!” Freeholder President Watson commented on how pleased the Board was to recognize the outstanding achievements of Essex County’s young people like Dashana, and Freeholder Luciano expressed his hope of seeing her compete in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Dashana is the daughter of Jowanna Bell and stepfather, Paul Bell, and the sister of her siblings, Tariik, Demetrius and Denesha Ransome. She will attend Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, in the fall.

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