

Bristol County District Attorney's Office
C. Samuel Sutter
District Attorney

Press Release
October 10, 2008

As part of an ongoing effort to keep Bristol County's children active, healthy and away from crime, District Attorney Sam Sutter today announced the First Annual New Bedford Free Basketball Clinics will begin next weekend at the Normandin Middle School and conclude the following weekend at the Keith Middle School.

The program in New Bedford is being co-sponsored by New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang's Office and the New Bedford Public Schools.

District Attorney Sutter has enlisted the support of former Boston Celtic and Providence College legend, Ernie DiGregorio. Mr. DiGregorio, named NBA Rookie of the Year in 1974, will be the lead instructor for the clinics, and will be assisted by volunteers from the District Attorney's Office and numerous volunteers from the New Bedford High School and the Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School girls and boys varsity basketball teams.

The area high school players and coaches who have committed to giving up two Saturday mornings to give back to their community are Voc-Tech's Billy Dias, Keston Riascos, Chris Mercier, Chris Weaver, Jay Frenette, Corey Figuerido, Ty Breton, Jillian Correia, Laura Katerle, Chelsea Leblanc, Leah Murphy, Coach Rick Avila and Coach Rob Pimental and New Bedford High School's Devin Carter, Ariel Gomes, Shanay Monteiro, Ryan Santos, Mitchell Tetreault, Jesse Vicente, Lydell Carreiro, Coach Mickey Gonsalves and Coach Tom Tarpey.

The free clinics will take place on Saturday, October 18 at the Normandin Middle School and Saturday, October 25 at the Keith Middle School. Basketballs, tee-shirts and refreshments will be provided. The classes will be broken down into three groups based on age: 7 and 8-year-olds will take the court from 9 to 9:50 a.m.; 9 and 10-year-olds from 10 to 10:50 a.m., and 11 and 12-years-old from 11 a.m. to noon. New Bedford area children between the ages of 7 and 12 can sign up for the clinic by visiting the Bristol County District Attorney's at 88 Purchase St.; Keith Middle School at 81 Felton St.; The

New Bedford Boys and Girls Club at 166 Jenny St or the Normandin Middle School at 81 Felton St. Parents or guardians with questions about the clinics can call Brian Rose, Volunteer Coordinator for the Bristol County District Attorney's Office, at 508-997-0711, ext. 422.

The First Annual Free New Bedford Basketball Clinics are the second free basketball clinic in Bristol County offered by the district attorney, and the seventh overall free sports clinic. During his first 20 months in office, the district attorney has held two free tennis clinics in New Bedford, two free tennis clinics in Fall River, a free tennis clinic in Attleboro and a free basketball clinic in Taunton. District Attorney Sutter's office will also be offering a free basketball clinic in Fall River in New Bedford, and plans to offer free baseball clinics next spring are already in the works.

The free sports clinics are an extension of District Attorney Sutter's successful Volunteer Initiative. Since District Attorney Sutter announced the initiative at his office last October, his prosecutors, managers and other staffers have spent more than 2,800 hours volunteering their time with 35 different agencies throughout Bristol County. Through the first year of the program, more than 80 members of Sutter's office have volunteered their time after work hours. Several members of Sutter's office have also volunteered their time to assist the district attorney at the various free youth sports clinics held in each of the county's four cities and at other special events during the past 12 months. During his first full fiscal year in office, District Attorney Sutter has slashed spending in the Community Affairs Unit by more than 65 percent, while also doing much more with the unit in this era of limits on governmental spending.

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