



Sharing Ohio's Best Program

Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing



Agency of the Month

Columbus Division of Police

December 2019

Basketball Bootcamps. . . .

In 2015, several Columbus Police Officers from the Columbus Police Basketball Bulldogs, led by Officer Wil James, decided that they wanted to do more with their platform as Police Officers that serve and protect the City of Columbus. The Officers wanted to do something more for the youth in the local Columbus City Schools. After lots of discussion and development, the Columbus Division of Police Basketball Bootcamp was created. The program is a way to bring the student athletes of varsity basketball teams (boys & girls) from various Columbus City High Schools into the Police Academy for a few hours. Through this program, the teams are taught about their budding leadership capabilities, their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and provide a keynote speaker to share their commonalities and what they did to become the success stories they are today. They have had former OSU basketball players Clark Kellogg, Terence Dials, and Columbus Police personnel James Fuqua and Anthony "ohnotitsthapopo" Johnson serve as keynote speakers.



The youth then experience an immersive mock scenario which they could easily find themselves in at some point in their lives (i.e. Traffic Stop), then discuss their emotions and decisions they made as a group with coaches and officers. The discussion is followed up with basketball drills, a boxing circuit, and recruit training outdoor obstacle course (weather permitting). After the drills, a meal is shared with the youth, donated by Chick-Fil-A or Subway, while discussing police and community related questions and answering any questions they may have related to community policing or general law enforcement. As the Bootcamp recently completed its 4th successful season, the Bootcamp team is thankful to the youth and the coaches for their participation, and to the Columbus Division of Police personnel for their ongoing commitment to the program, and to Chief of Police, Thomas Quinlan, for his support and belief in the mission of community policing.



Video Links of the Camps

<https://youtu.be/LMB-kNTjuCw>

<https://youtu.be/YCbPnJz9nLU>

<https://youtu.be/7pGIAMFchG4>