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The Summer Youth Athletic Program Administered by the Bristol Police Department's Community Outreach Program Wraps Up Another Successful Season

(BRISTOL, CT: August 24, 2022) – The 2022 Summer Youth Athletic Program (formerly known as the Roberto Clemente Youth Baseball League) recently wrapped up the season with final tournament games in baseball and basketball. The long-standing program is coordinated through the Bristol Police Department's Community Relations Division and runs for approximately seven weeks each year during the summer. Officers spend about 12 hours a week at Cambridge Park housing development interacting with youth to build positive relationships between the police officers and their families. Participants are members of the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol and depending on the age mix and preferences of the children who attend, sports include baseball, basketball, kickball, and this year martial arts training.

This year 30 to 40 youth, ages seven through high school, participated in the program with the Bristol School Resource Officers overseeing the different sports programs throughout the summer.

"The Youth Athletic Program activities keep the children who participate in this program active and focused during the summer months and serves to foster better communication and relations with the youth and their families," stated Lt. Robert Osborne, Community Relations Division of the Bristol Police Department.

This program is made possible each summer through a grant from the Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation which helps to fund the supplies for each sport. This year the grant will also fund scholarships for youth to participate in the Cops and Kids Martial Arts program for six months at the Ascension Athletics facility.

"The City of Bristol is grateful to Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation for awarding this grant to the Police Department every year. It allows the participants in this program to build their physical fitness and athletic skills while supporting their social and emotional development as they grow to have respect for themselves and their peers in the community," stated Dawn Leger, Grants Administrator for the City of Bristol.

See photos attached next page.



Participants of the Summer Youth Athletic Program, staff and volunteers of the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol, Mayor Caggiano, and police officers from the Bristol Police Department pose for a photo during the final baseball game of the season at Cambridge Park baseball field.



School Resources Officers and participants of the Summer Youth Athletic Program wrap up the season with a basketball tournament held at Brackett Park recently.

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