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# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 2, 2009

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**ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO JOINS WITH  
FORMER NBA PLAYER TATE GEORGE, VISION OF HOPE CDC, CITY OF  
NEWARK AND THE NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO OFFER SUMMER YOUTH  
BASKETBALL CAMP**

***Newark Students Aged 7 to 18 Are Invited to Enroll in Clinic  
To Learn Basketball Fundamentals and Life Skills***

**Newark, N.J.** – Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. joined with former NBA player Tate George, Vision of Hope Community Development Corporation, the City of Newark and the Newark Public Schools Office of Extended School Day Programs to announce plans for the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Greater Newark Basketball and Enrichment Clinic**. This year's clinic is being expanded to two weeks. It will be held as follows:

**Dates:** Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> (ages 7 to 12)  
Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> (ages 13 to 18)  
**Times:** 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Place:** Essex County College Gymnasium  
West Market Street  
Newark, NJ

Last year's clinic welcomed about 300 participants. To accommodate more children, the clinic is being expanded at the two sites – Essex County College, Essex County Newark Tech. It will be held over two weeks – week one from Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> will be for children ages 7 to 12 and week two from Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> will be for children ages 13 to 18. The clinic will

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combine drills and games to enhance participants' basketball skills and provide daily enrichment sessions that focus on academics, life skills and college preparation. It is geared for boys and girls ages 7 to 18. There is a \$50 registration fee per camper. Scholarships are available for individuals with financial need. For additional information and to obtain applications, call Vision of Hope at 973-622-4547, Ext. 218.

"The Basketball and Enrichment Clinic is a wonderful opportunity for County and Municipal government to work together to provide a much needed, positive activity for our children during the summer. Combining basketball skills and enrichment sessions is an effective way for us to reach our youth and help them succeed in both academics and athletics," said Essex County Executive DiVincenzo. "Last year's clinic was a great success with over 300 campers in one week, and we look forward to doubling that number this year," he added.

"We have a lot of hope and vision for our children to succeed and we know they will. The Freeholder Board will continue to support these efforts that benefit our children," said Freeholder President Blonnie R. Watson. "I have the vision that this clinic will continue to grow from one week per age group until it is offered the entire summer," she added.

"I have been blessed with skills and the proper guidance throughout my life and I believe that it is important to share that with other young people from my community. When we, as professional athletes do well, it is imperative that we all give back to our communities because the impact we can have on today's youth is paramount," said George, a former first round pick by the New Jersey Nets and currently CEO and President of The George Group, a land development company in Orange. "Last summer we thought we would have difficulty getting 150 children to participate and we had over 300 come out, so we know the need for positive summer activities is there. We have expanded the 2009 clinic to two week-long sessions to better serve and accommodate the expected 600-plus youth this year," he added.

Current NBA player and business partner of The George Group, Kenneth "Chucky" Atkins, pledged his support for the 2009 clinic. Atkins is also co-owner of Orlando Pathway Development, with Tate George, in Orlando, Florida. "I have already invested my money here in the City of Newark, and now I look forward to investing my time here as well," said Atkins. "Growing up I did not have the opportunity to physically see NBA players, but I looked up to them on television. I am looking forward to seeing a lot of smiling faces this summer as we provide them with an experience of a lifetime," he added.

"This basketball clinic offers a great opportunity for our youth since it will cultivate students' sportsmanship, athleticism, and high school level basketball fundamentals – all which can be directly connected to academic achievement," said Newark Public Schools Office of Extended School Day Programs Director Ivan L. Holmes. "The basketball clinic finally came to fruition last summer and it was a tremendous success. I know this year will be another positive experience for our youth," he added.

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The George Group is partnering with the Vision of Hope Community Development Corporation and New Hope Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Joe A. Carter. Additionally, the County of Essex, the City of Newark, the Newark Public Schools, the Newark Housing Authority and the mixed use housing development firm of McCormack, Baron, Salazar will participate as co-sponsors. The Essex County Youth Services Commission awarded the camp a grant for \$5,000.

Legendary coaches Lou Grimsley (Malcolm X Shabazz Boys Head Coach), Newark Hall of Fame Coach Cleo Hill, Freeholder Rufus I. Johnson and others will provide instruction on the fundamentals and finer points of basketball. The “Fathers on Fire” men’s ministry from New Hope Baptist Church will work with the clinic participants on the enrichment aspects of the program.

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