

**PRESS RELEASE**

January 19, 2017

**ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR  
THE WEEQUAHIC HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM  
FOR WINNING THE 2016 NJSIAA  
NORTH JERSEY, SECTION 2, GROUP 1 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**



Essex County Freeholder At-Large Rufus I. Johnson (rear right) and District 2 Freeholder Wayne L. Richardson (center) present Commendations to the Weequahic High School Football Team. PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

(Newark, NJ) – During its Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Hall of Records, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored the Weequahic High School Football Team for winning the 2016 NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Group 1 State Championship. The Commendation was sponsored and presented by District 2 Freeholder Wayne L. Richardson and Freeholder At-Large Rufus I. Johnson both from Newark, New Jersey.

Freeholder Richardson began the program with opening remarks, expressing how proud he is of the team for their successful season. As both a resident of the South Ward community and a Freeholder for District 2, he expressed his sincere joy in sharing in this presentation. He explained to the team that their success is a collaborative effort between the coaches, families, and players working together.

Freeholder Johnson also shared remarks, stating “Sports are like life. Sports are life. Any job, or anywhere you go, work or anything, it’s a team effort.” Freeholder Johnson expressed that he is also proud of the team for its success. Furthermore, he credited the coaches for dedicating their time to the betterment of the students. Freeholder Johnson encouraged the students to persevere and to pursue sports in college.

Weequahic High School defeated Malcolm X. Shabazz High School (18 – 8), in the first ever All Newark Public Schools State Football Championship, on Saturday, December 3, 2016, at Kean University in Union, New Jersey. Weequahic seeded #1 when they defeated Roselle Park High School (44 - 18), and

Hoboken High School (32 – 8). The team also won the first ever New Jersey Super Football Conference Red Division title (5 – 0).

The team’s victory and matchup in the 2016 NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Group 1 State Championship game, was particularly noteworthy because of the historic and intense rivalry between the two teams. Weequahic High School and Malcolm X. Shabazz High School meet every year on Thanksgiving in the “Soul Bowl” and played each other just one week prior to the final – with Weequahic prevailing in that game (22 – 8). Both victories capped-off a great year for the team who finished their season undefeated with 12 wins and 0 losses.



Essex County Freeholder At-Large Rufus I. Johnson (rear right) and District 2 Freeholder Wayne L. Richardson (left center) present Commendations to the Weequahic High School Football Coaches, Athletic Director Gary Westberry, and Principal Lisa McDonald.  
PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

Additionally, several players from the team made the New Jersey Super Football Conference Red Division – All Conference Team, including: 1st Team Offense Richard Rueben, Ihmir Smith-Marsett, Tymen Sampson, and Jahid Alexander; 2nd Team Offense Al-Qadir Brydie, Ty’yon Foster and Eric Souza; 1st Team Defense Messiah Williams, Isaiah Martinez, Dioh Desuah, Christian Roper, Quaison Horne, Carl Watson, and Robert Leverett; 2nd Team Defense Ali Beh, Tyler Phillips and Paul Drayton.

The Weequahic High School Football Team is comprised of the following members: Seniors Jahid Alexander, Elijah Anderson, Ali Beh, Paul Drayton, Joshua Ewell, Ty’yon Foster, Shakeem Gipson, Ihmir Marsette, Isiah Martinez, Ghanee Muhammad, Richard Reuben, Christian Roper, Tymen Sampson, Eric Souza, Carl Watson, and Messiah Williams, Juniors Samir Craighead, Quaison Horne, Robert Leverette, Mekhi Roberts, and Unique Woodard, Sophomores Ahzem Baldwin, Charles Bruton, Al-Quahir Brydie, Tahmid Joseph, Yusef Lewis, and Tyler Phillips, Freshmen Anthony Apointe, Dioh Desuah, and Elijah Edward.

The Team was coached by Head Coach Brian K. Logan; Assistant Coaches: Leander Knight, Sameeh McDonald, Tyron C. Turner, and Brian Johnson-Logan; and volunteer coaches: Elijah Williams, Wesley Lee, Derrick Foster, Duane Hall, Rodney Hooker, Brian Kenney, Anthony Belton, Andre Francis, III, and James Murray. The team also received assistance from athletic trainer Joe Cacciabaudo and administrative support from Superintendent Christopher D. Cerf, Principal Lisa McDonald, and Athletic Director Gary Westberry.

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**For Additional Information:**  
**Medinah Muhammad, Public Information Officer**  
**Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders**  
**(973)-621-4452**  
[mmuhammad@freeholders.essexcountynj.org](mailto:mmuhammad@freeholders.essexcountynj.org)  
**Board of Chosen Freeholders, County of Essex**  
Hall of Records - Room 558,  
465 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd.  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
Tel: (973)-621-4486 Fax: (973)-621-5695