

## **PRESS RELEASE**

January 15, 2016

### **ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR THE EAST ORANGE JUNIOR JAGUAR MIDGET CHEERLEADING SQUAD 2015 Pop Warner National Championship Winners**



The Junior Jaguar Midget Cheerleading Squad of East Orange was honored by the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders during its Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting held at the Hall of Records. Freeholder President Britnee Timberlake (rear center) is joined by (Timberlake's immediate right) Freeholder Wayne Richardson, Freeholder Rolando Bobadilla, Freeholder Cynthia Toro and Freeholder Leby Jones in the presentation to the squad. Photo by Glen Frieson

(Newark, NJ) – During its Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, meeting held at the Hall of Records, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored the East Orange Junior Jaguar Midget Cheerleading Squad for winning the 2015 Pop Warner National Championship. The Board's Commendation was sponsored and presented to the squad and coaches by Freeholder President Britnee N. Timberlake of East Orange who allowed the squad to begin the Freeholder Conference/Board Meeting for the evening with a rousing cheer.

Freeholder Timberlake began the presentation by saying, "I am especially proud because this wonderful group of young women come from the city where I hail from, and that is the City of East Orange." The East Orange Junior Jaguar organization is a non-profit that provides tutoring, mentoring, youth football, and cheerleading programs for the youth of the City of East Orange. Their primary objective is to assist in the educational and personal development of youth. They accomplish this through education, athletics and family values, equipping participating youth with the necessary tools to live more productive and meaningful lives.

Most of the East Orange Junior Jaguar Midget Cheerleading Squad is comprised of eighth- graders, with a few ninth-graders who stayed to help accomplish winning the 2015 Pop Warner National Championship before moving on to high school cheerleading at East Orange Campus High School in the 2015-2016 basketball season.

The squad hosted a mini-pep rally for the cheerleaders, utilizing this event to prepare the Junior Pee Wee Cheerleaders for the Pop Warner Eastern Region Level 1 Medium Division Championships at Sun Bank Arena in Trenton. Led by team Captain Destiny Marcus and Co-Captain Milan Colter, they defeated seven other cheer teams while placing behind their toughest competition, the Thundercats of Philadelphia, in the Level 1 Small Midget Group competition. They are the first Pop Warner cheer team from East Orange to attend the event in Florida and they were victorious at the National Championship and brought home three National Trophies: 1<sup>st</sup> Place National Champion – Midget Small, Overall Top Jump Score and Top Overall Score, surpassing over 100 cheer squads nationally!



Freeholder President Timberlake prepares the squad to assist in opening the Conference/Board Meeting with a rousing cheer. Photo by Glen Frieson

The East Orange Junior Jaguar Midget Cheerleading Squad was coached by Head Coach Ayone’ Davis and Assistant Coaches Jasmine Thomas and Keyocia Mohammed, and Junior Coach Angelique Coage. The squad is comprised of the following members, each of whom contributed so much to the Team’s tremendous success, and without whom the team’s accomplishments would not have been possible: Mekhi Addison, Nya Carter, Neagesti Chance, Shanise Chapman, Milan Colter, Shakylah Davis, Alessandra Givens, Dayiel Grant, Destiny Marcus, and Jaila Riddick.

Freeholder Britnee Timberlake of East Orange is serving her first term as the District 3 member of the Freeholder Board and second year as the Board’s President. She represents East Orange, Orange, South Orange and parts of Newark’s Central and West Wards.

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