

PRESS RELEASE
December 15, 2017

**ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR
THE MALCOM X SHABAZZ HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM**



Essex County Freeholder At-Large Rufus I. Johnson (center) gives remarks as he presents the Malcolm X Shabazz High School Football Team with Commendations during a special presentation at the Hall of Records. PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

(Newark, NJ) – The Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored the Malcolm X Shabazz High School Football Team for winning the 2017 NJSIAA North Jersey Section 2, Group 1 State Championship during a special presentation at the Hall of Records.

During the presentation, Freeholder At-Large Rufus I. Johnson, District 2 Freeholder Wayne L. Richardson, and Freeholder At-Large Patricia Sebold presented the team with the Board’s Commendation for its hard work this season. Head Coach Darnell Grant accepted the Commendation on behalf of the team, thanking the Freeholders for their support.

The Bulldogs defeated its longtime rival Weequahic High School (35-0) on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at Kean University in Union, New Jersey, to win the championship title. The team also won the North Jersey Super Football Conference National Red Division Title, completing its season ranked #1 in all of North Jersey for small schools (groups 1 and 2) and #30 overall in New Jersey football.

In this year’s tournament competition, the #2-seeded team first defeated Newark Collegiate Academy (45-0) and went on to face Roselle Park High School, finishing with a score of (27-6). The team completed an undefeated football season for the second time in school history, the first time being in 1966.

Shabazz received further recognition when the following individuals were highlighted by the North Jersey Super Football Conference National Red Division: *1st Team Offense:* Anthony Travis, Michael Fields, Nasir Collins, Marquis Concepcion, and Aldair Santos; *2nd Team Offense:* Jephthaw Derrick, Shaquan Hollins, and Dajuan Carr; *1st Team Defense:* Nafeese Wright, David Orduson, Javis Hanks, and Shakur Williams; *2nd*

Team Defense: Andrew Johnson-Robinson, Yusef Mapp, Shakee Pearson, and Mushin Slaten; and **Honorable Mention:** Cyrus Harbin, IV.

The team not only won the championship title, but also gained the respect of the entire Newark community when it hosted its annual Thanksgiving week service project, serving hot meals to the homeless at Newark's Penn Station.

Malcolm X Shabazz High School Football Team is comprised of the following members: **Seniors:** Michael Fields, David Orduson, Nasir Collins, Shakee Pearson, Dajuan Carr, Cyrus Harbin, IV, Jarvis Hanks, Dejon Jones, Andre Mclean, Al-Dair Santos, Yusef Mapp, Sean Saunders, Dante Artis, Nafeese Wright, Isaiah Siler, Mushin Slaten, Ebn Jackson, Marquise Conception, Sha-Quan Hollins, Imade Igeibor, Rajhan Mozee, Earl Betterson, and Yasin Treadwell; **Juniors:** Anthony Travis, Jr., Jason Artis, Brandon Shaw, Shakur Williams, Jr., Jaheem Burks, D'shawn Pennington, Rajore Johnson, Elliot Idemudia, Marques Salley, Jephthaw Derrick, and Jahaaz Tillman; and **Sophomores:** Shakon Cummings, Aazi Bemby, Nasir Williams, Brayvion Johnson, Zy-Fere Hughes, Sorgette Morris, and Antonio Williams.

In addition to Head Coach Darnell Grant, the team was also led by the following Assistant Coaches: Cyrus Harbin, Chuck Keegan, Anthony Shaw, Rich Forfa, Peter Pascarella, Emmanuel Weaver, Donald Massey, Abdul Hanks, Brian Green, Walter Howard, Raymond Johnson, Steven Bridges, Ishmil Franklin, and Kevin Cousins. The team was further supported by Athletic Trainer Stacy Smith. Shabazz received administrative support from Principal Damon Holmes and Athletic Director Elizabeth Aranjo.

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