



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 2023

Media Contact:

Camden Community Partnership – Robert Corrales: 856-757-9154

City of Camden – Vincent Basara: 856-757-7200

MAYOR CARSTARPHEN ANNOUNCES 8th ANNUAL CAMDEN PEACE GAMES TO TAKE PLACE THIS WEEKEND AT VON NIEDA PARK

The July 27 & 28 Basketball Tournament Offers Local Camden Youth And Families A Weekend Of Fun, Basketball, Fellowship And Community Building

CAMDEN, NJ – Today, Camden Mayor Victor G. Carstarphen officially announced the return of the 8th Annual Camden Peace Games that will take place this weekend, Saturday, July 27 and Sunday, July 28 in Von Nieda Park, located in the city’s Cramer Hill neighborhood (North 29th Street and Pierce Avenue). Joining the Mayor was Camden County Commissioner Al Dyer, Council President Angel Fuentes, Philadelphia 76ers legend World B. Free, Glen M. Jackson, President of P.A.R.K. CMD (Providing Alternate Resources for Kids, Camden) and representatives from Camden Community Partnership (CCP).

The Camden Peace Games are a free, co-ed basketball tournament is open to local youth as a way to leverage sports as a catalyst for community building and park stewardship for local youth, further promoting peace, community and brother/sisterhood among neighbors in Camden and beyond.

“This weekend will highlight one of my favorite events of the year: the 2024 *Camden Peace Games*,” said Camden Mayor Victor G. Carstarphen. “It’s an excellent opportunity to celebrate the talents of our young athletes and while strengthening the bond of our community. The *Camden Peace Games* exemplifies cooperation among community leaders, local organizations, private institutions, and government, all uniting to support Camden’s youth and families. Whether you’re participating as a player or simply seeking a fun family outing, I encourage you to join me at this year’s *Camden Peace Games*!”

“We look forward to this event every year because it is a chance for our young people to come together, have some fun and build bonds with one another,” Commissioner Al Dyer said. “This event is a crucial component to promoting peace and understanding here in the city and we are looking forward to a great weekend. In addition, it provides the opportunity for adults involved in the city’s long and prestigious basketball legacy to come together in fellowship during the summer months.”

On Saturday and Sunday, the *Camden Peace Games* will feature the following activities:

- *A1 Basketball Skills and Drills Clinic* – Saturday, July 27 (10-11:15 a.m.) for all youth (co-ed) ages 10 and older.
- *The War Room Basketball Clinic* – Sunday, July 28 (10-11:15 a.m.) for all youth (co-ed) between 6-8 years old.
- *16-game, knock-out style basketball tournament* – culminating in a final championship game on Sunday, July 28 at 5 p.m. where Camden Mayor Victor Carstarphen and the Philadelphia 76ers Hype Squad will be onsite to hand out awards and medals to tournament participants.

(more)



In addition to the basketball tournament, the *Camden Peace Games* will be host to other family-friendly activities throughout the weekend, including – a DJ, face painting, a bounce house, free food, giveaways and more, all provided free of charge to the community members who attend. In addition to food, fun and basketball, attendees can also benefit from a variety of community resource organizations who will be present at the event and available to assist those wishing to learn more about their programs and services.

“Camden Community Partnership is thrilled to host the 8th Annual *Camden Peace Games* in collaboration with Mayor Carstarphen and all our valued partners,” said Mark McDonough, President of New Jersey American Water and Co-Chair of Camden Community Partnership. “This event is more than just a basketball tournament; it embodies the essence of CCP’s commitment to enriching the lives of Camden’s residents through community engagement activities. With free food, music, information, and of course exciting basketball games, the Camden Peace Games promises to be an enjoyable day for all who attend.”

The 2024 *Camden Peace Games* is made possible through the support of various partner organizations – The City of Camden, Camden Community Partnership, Camden County Metro Police Department, Camden County Parks Department, William Penn Foundation, EMR, Suburban Disposal, Seaside Waste Services, Philadelphia 76ers, Campbell’s Soup Company, The Michaels Organization, Volunteers of America Delaware Valley, CAMcare Health Corporation, Camden Special Services District, American Water and the American Water Charitable Foundation, The War Room, Parents Invincible – and anchored by P.A.R.K., a team of Camden residents dedicated to fostering positive relations with local youth.

“P.A.R.K. is thrilled to continue our partnership for an 8th consecutive year with the City of Camden, Camden Community Partnership, and other local organizations to host the 2024 *Camden Peace Games*,” said Glen M. Jackson, Sr., President of P.A.R.K., CMD. “It’s truly inspiring to see the Camden Strong spirit that continues to drive the planning and organization of this event. We’re excited for this two-day community celebration, featuring youth clinics and basketball tournaments for both male and female teams. With sixteen teams competing, the focus will be on sportsmanship and respect. In addition to the games, attendees can look forward to a day filled with entertainment, health education, and opportunities to interact with local community-based organizations, social service providers, and businesses.”

Camden Peace Games is part of fun, family-friendly community programming organized by Camden Community Partnership’s [Connect the Lots](#) program – designed to engage Camden residents in neighborhood transformation by creating safe hubs of activity and quality programming, giving residents the opportunity to enjoy in city public spaces and corridors. All *Connect the Lots* programming is made possible through generous support from the William Penn Foundation, The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, Camden Special Service District, private corporations and the state’s Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit program, as well as program partners like Center for Aquatic Sciences, St. Joseph’s Carpenter Society, The Salvation Army Kroc Center and Better Tomorrows.

To learn more about *Camden Peace Games* or any of the *Connect the Lots* programs and special events planned for the 2024 season, visit www.ctlcamden.com/ or follow the *Connect The Lots* Instagram and X accounts: @CTLCamden.

###