



CITY OF PUNTA GORDA

# POLICE

A Florida Accredited **EXCELSIOR AGENCY**

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## NEWS RELEASE

August 6, 2015

### Jammers Youth Basketball League Season Ends



The Punta Gorda Police Department's *Jammers* Youth Basketball League wrapped-up the 2015 summer season with a championship tournament on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, at the South County Regional Park Gymnasium located at 670 Cooper Street in Punta Gorda. The Light Blue Team coached by Officer Dean Irving and his fiancé Joanne Gardner took home the championship trophies and the bragging rights.



This year, spectators got the first glimpse of the new addition to the league, the *Jazzy Jammers*. The *Jazzy Jammers* is a pom-pom dance squad that performed at half-time shows during the Jammers' season. What an amazing group of energetic youth. We owe a huge thank you to Councilmember Rachael Keesling for bringing this amazing program to the youth of our community and for spending countless hours on teaching, choreographing dance routines and making smiles.

Punta Gorda Police Officers started the *Jammers* Youth Basketball Program in 2001 as a way to reach out to at-risk aged youth in the community and it has expanded every year since. The primary focus of the league is to build character, teach the importance of sportsmanship, enhance the lines of communication between police officers and the youth in our community, and improve youth, social, and conflict resolution skills.



The Punta Gorda Police Department would like to give a huge thank you to each community sponsor and our team sponsors who made this season bigger and better than ever as well as our partners from South County Regional Park and all of the referees. The Punta Gorda Police Department is also seeking sponsors for its 2016 season. The league – which is totally free to children – provides the young players with uniforms, trophies, and other surprises throughout the summer. Punta Gorda Police Officers coached 8 teams this year. Sponsors are needed in order to keep this basketball league completely free for the children and their parents. League sponsors with a \$100.00 donation or more will receive recognition on banners and on the department's website.

**Media Release – Jammers Youth Basketball League**

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For more information on how to become a sponsor or contribute to *Jammers*, please contact Lieutenant Chris Salsman at (941) 575-5525 or at [csalsman@pgorda.us](mailto:csalsman@pgorda.us). For more information on Jammers, go to <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/depts/police/jammers.html>.

*Prepared by:*

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