

Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall strive to be a global leader in progressive correctional practices and partnered re-entry initiatives to support responsive evidence-based practices aligned to law-abiding and accountable behaviors. Safety and security shall be a priority component of this responsibility as it pertains to staff, victims, citizens, and offenders.

From the Commissioner



There are no words that can adequately express the range of emotions I felt when I learned of the tragic, senseless murders of Bristol Police Officers Sergeant Dustin DeMonte and Officer Alex Hamzy who were killed in the line of duty while responding to what they believed was a call for help. Officer Alec Iurato was also shot during the ambush, but thankfully survived.

I am sure that many of you had similar reactions to the news from initial shock, to anger, to grief, and everything in between.

The three police officers who responded to the call are being hailed as heroes, and rightfully so. However, I believe they were heroes long before the tragic event, for they made the choice when they joined the police force to work for the greater good - to serve and protect their community.

This tragedy serves as a stark reminder that our line of work is inherently dangerous, and we must always be on alert. There is always the concern that incidents of violence against law enforcement can embolden others to break the law as well. I remind you to stay vigilant, stay safe.

If there is anything positive to take away from these senseless murders is the incredible outpouring of support, not just for the fallen officers and their families, but for the greater law enforcement community as well.

Seeing these braves heroes – and by extension, the greater law enforcement community – treated with the reverence and respect they deserve, helps to lessen the pain of this tragedy.

As always, please do not forget to take care of yourselves. I encourage all of you to take advantage of the Agency’s resources for employee wellness, whether it is The Employee Assistance Unit (EAU), or the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

It is important not to ignore a problem, hoping that it will go away. Ignoring a problem will only guarantee that it will fester and get worse.

One of the best qualities of the staff of the Department of Correction is your desire and willingness to help those in need.

The process of coming together to help each other can be profoundly healing for everyone involved, whether it is participating in organized effort or just “being there” for a coworker.

see **Supporting Each Other**/page 6

July 30, 2022
through
October 27, 2022

Distributed bimonthly
to 5,500 staff
and via the Internet
throughout Connecticut
and the nation
by the
Department of Correction
24 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Ned Lamont
Governor

Angel Quiros
Commissioner

Web address:
www.ct.gov/doc

Public Information
Office telephone:
(860) 692-7780
Fax: (860) 692-7783

Two Graduations in One

Pre-Service and CERT Basic classes shared the spotlight and graduated together.

There was double the cause for celebration recently as both the members of Pre-service Class 288, and Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Class 22-01 both graduated on September 22, 2022 at the agency's training academy in Cheshire.

Many of the traditional elements of the graduation ceremony remained the same, such as Correctional Enterprises Manager Ray Munroe belting out the National Anthem.

Pre-service Class 288 comprised a total of 69 individuals, of which 59 are Correction Officers.

As with each Pre-service Class the value of exceptional trainees is acknowledged officially through the presentation of the PRIDE award.

The PRIDE award is presented to a trainee from each group who best represents the Department of Correction motto of PRIDE by demonstrating the values of: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, and Excellence. Trainees receiving the award were selected by their class managers.

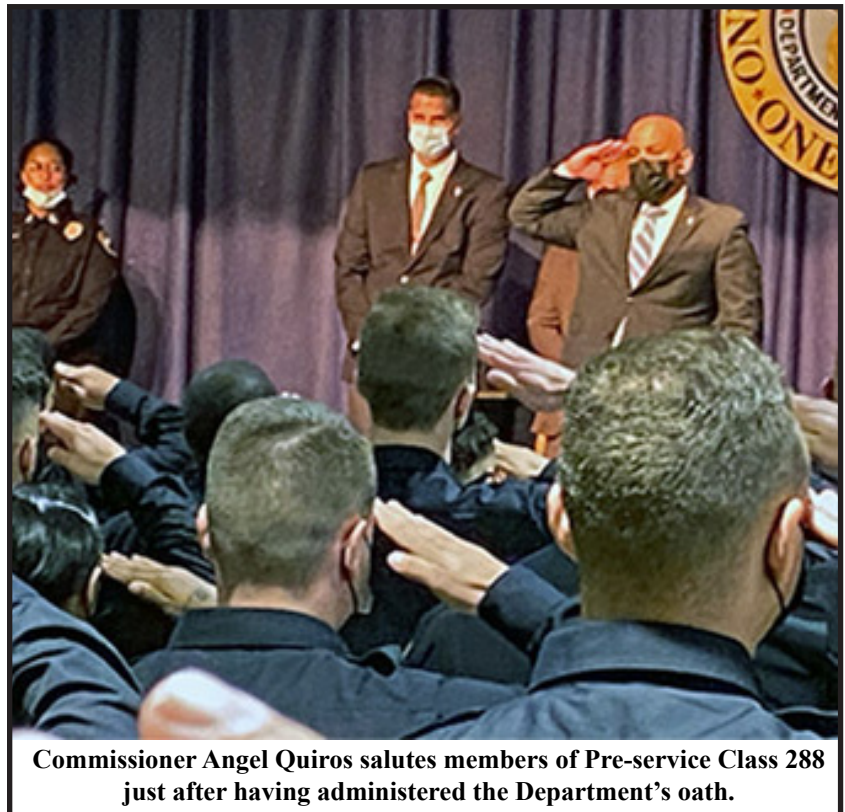
The recipients of the PRIDE award for Pre-Service Class 288 are:

- ALPHA Group:** Correction Officer Racquel Arnold
- BRAVO Group:** Correction Officer Patrick Brothers
- CHARLIE Group:** Correction Officer Margueritte Sherman
- DELTA Group:** Correction Officer Jessica Holbrook
- ECHO Group:** Correction Officer Ricardo Olivieri

Another individual honor traditionally awarded during Pre-service graduations is the Victor E. Harris Award - named for a deceased officer whose enthusiastic dedication and commitment to correctional education and training still lives on in the memory of DOC staff. Prior to each graduation, the Pre-Service Captain chooses an outstanding instructor who has guided the class in a special way during their training.

Due to his dedication and loyal commitment to training the Pre-Service trainees, Correction Lieutenant Thomas Titus was chosen as the recipient of the *Victor E. Harris Jr. Outstanding Instructor Award* for Class 288. Additionally, the award for Highest Scholastic Achievement during the group's pre-service training was presented to Correction Officer Ezra LaBrie.

After all of the awards were presented, Commissioner Angel Quiros administered the oath to the members of Class 288, and officially welcoming them into the fold.



Commissioner Angel Quiros salutes members of Pre-service Class 288 just after having administered the Department's oath.

Distinguished Manager Award

Congratulations to Dianne Moynihan, the Director of the Department of Correction's Employee Assistance Unit (EAU), for being selected as a recipient of this year's Distinguished Managerial Service Award.

Director Moynihan is one of only three managers to receive this year's award, which is administered by the CT Management Advisory Council's Distinguished Managerial Service Award Program.

The award was presented during the annual State Managers' Day, held October 13, 2022 at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, CT. Deputy Commissioner William Mulligan, as well as the EAU staff were on hand in a show of support for Director Moynihan. Governor Ned Lamont also attended the event and took time to pose for pictures with the award winners.

The selection committee used the following criteria to choose the recipients:

- The nominee's service to his/her agency
- The nominee's service to the people served by the agency
- The nominee's record of career growth and development
- Volunteer services performed by the nominee

Any additional information the nominator believes is important

The EAU staff members nominated Director Moynihan. The following are excerpts for the nomination submitted by the staff of the EAU:

...Dianne was recruited to the Connecticut Department of Correction (DoC) from the Massachusetts DoC, where she oversaw their Employee Assistance Unit. She brought her knowledge and expertise of what worked and what did not work to CT DoC and lead a small team of employees on a mission to assist our own staff, retirees, and their families in their time of crisis.

Since her recruitment, the [EAU] staff has more than doubled in size to handle the overwhelming needs within the DoC. Dianne has been instrumental in growing and developing EAU so that it is capable of providing services to the abundance of employees, retirees and their family members. Since she joined EAU, we have had over 42,000 contacts for assistance. No matter where Dianne is or what she is working on, she will always take the time to talk with her staff or clients and she continues to make a positive difference in the lives of our employees and families of the DoC.

As well as overseeing the EAU, Dianne is dedicated to meeting with her staff, co-workers, and her clients on a one-to-one basis whenever needed despite having a tremendous commute from Rhode Island. She is a loving and caring individual whom often goes above and beyond for her staff, clients and co-workers by committing to a high level of thoughtfulness and grace, which is a necessity for our sensitive contacts. In a time when Mental Health has become an ever-growing issue, Dianne has provided training, guidance, and continues to research and strive to make more Mental Health facilities and resources available to both our employees and the State of Connecticut. She has earned the respect of her peers and management through her teamwork, competence, and work ethic. She exemplifies professionalism and leadership within our unit by portraying a positive public image when in the community and by taking charge when the situation calls for it.



Governor Ned Lamont (c) with Deputy Commissioner William Mulligan and EAU Director Dianne Moynihan.

Women Leadership Summit

Nearly 300 women from all ranks and facilities participated - either in person or virtually – in this year’s Second Annual Women in Corrections Leadership Summit held on August 4 and 5, at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development.

Guest speakers, including some from the Department of Correction



Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz (C) is presented with a plaque of appreciation from members of the Leadership Summit organizing committee.

Department Deputy Commissioner Wendy Garcia; The Chief Talent Officer for the Hartford Public School System, Dr. Tiffany Curtis; DoC Health Services Health Management Administrator, Kirsten Shea; DoC Unified School District #1 Superintendent, Veron Beaulieu; City of New Haven Chief Administrative Officer, Regina Rush-Kittle; retired New Haven Police Department Interim Chief, Renee Dominguez; City of Waterbury Police Department Detective, Andrea Deyo; From Pain to Purpose Life Coach/Yard Goats Director of Community Partnerships, Tiffany Young; and CT State Police Public Information Officer Sergeant, Christine Jeltema.

In addition to the inspirational guest speakers, other activities during the two-day conference included icebreaker activities, as well as the acknowledgement of recently promoted individuals. There were also plenty of opportunities for participants to network, and plans for developing a formal mentorship program was discussed. Each day, participants had the opportunity to revisit topics that were of interest to them during a question and answer session.

With new knowledge, memories, and relationships made, the summit was a resounding success. A special thank you to all those who worked tirelessly to ensure that this year’s Women in Corrections Leadership Summit was such a memorable and impactful experience.

Around the Cell Block

PENNSYLVANIA - the State’s Department of Corrections is piloting use of the Virtual Reality immersive equipment, which creates 360-degree views of an imaginary world for shared adventures between kids and incarcerated parents, with the goal of strengthen family bonds.

MICHIGAN - Retired corrections officers temporarily rehired by the Michigan Department of Corrections will now be able to continue to receive their retirement benefits while earning a paycheck, something state officials hope will help fill a shortage of roughly 800 officers.

SOUTH CAROLINA – A Former inmate was arrested after doing donuts in his pickup truck on the lawn, and crashing into the entrance of the Department of Corrections’ main building in Columbia. The reckless driver had been incarcerated on three previous occasions. “If convicted, we will welcome him again,” a tweet from the DoC said.

**Total CT DOC
Supervised
Population
on
October 27, 2022**

13,018

**On October 27, 2021
the population was
12,749**

Helping to Make Dream (Rides) Come True

Thanks in part to the volunteer efforts of Department of Correction (DoC) employees and their family members; this year's annual Dream Ride Experience was once again a resounding success. The weekend-long event, held August 27-28 at the Farmington Polo Grounds, resulted in an incredible amount of \$3,500,000 being donated to the Hometown Foundation.

During the festivities, the DoC's State School Teacher, Jennifer Corti was honored by being inducted into the Dream Cruise Hall of Fame. State School Teacher Corti was quick to share the honor with all of the DoC staff members who volunteer their time at the event. Approximately 15-20 DoC staff members help out during the annual event.

"This award does not belong to me alone," Jennifer Corti said. "I accepted the award on behalf of all the DoC volunteers, including friends and families that have volunteered for the past seven years and who will no doubt, volunteer for many years to come."

The Dream Ride Experience is the signature fundraising event of [The Hometown Foundation, Inc.](#) The weekend features family fun for all, including the Dream Cruise, a Saturday police-escorted journey where drivers pair up with Dream Riders in their classic/exotic vehicles for a 12-mile cruise. There is also the Dream Show featuring cars and motorcycles, culminating in the Dream Ride, a Sunday motorcycle tour through the Farmington, Connecticut countryside.

The Dream Ride Experience has evolved into more than a motorcycle ride and a car show. The event also features a Pet Adoption Center, delicious food, live entertainment and music, a Police K-9 Challenge, a Firefighters Chili Cook-Off, vendors, raffles, a family fun zone and so much more.

The Hometown Foundation, Inc. raises money to support a broad range of programs that meet our surrounding communities' needs. The Foundation's focus and commitment center around



Dream Cruise Hall of Fame Inductee, State School Teacher Jennifer Corti.

five pillars of charitable focus: animal welfare, emergency response personnel, individuals with intellectual disabilities or in need, major illness, and the military. These key program areas are the heartstrings that allow the Foundation to make a difference in the community.

"Without DoC's manpower and volunteer efforts, the Dream Cruise could not happen, and that is the truth," Corti said. "The DoC volunteers are organized, work well as a team, take initiative, and carry out a task until the end."

Volunteers aside from giving of their time, also lend their smiles, hugging athletes, high-fiving athletes, and providing encouragement, helping



This year's Dream Ride raised nearly \$3.5 million for The Hometown Foundation charitable organization.

to make the Dream Ride weekend the wonderful experience that it is.

"I encourage everyone to think about volunteering next year," said Corti. "It is an event that will have you coming back again and again - just ask someone who has volunteered."

Supporting Each Other from page 1

To that end, the Bristol Police Union has set up a Bristol Police Heroes Fund at Thomaston Savings Bank to support the families affected by this tragedy. Donations are currently being accepted at all branches, or you can donate by accessing the following webpage: <https://lbcbristol.org/heroes>.

I offer my prayers and thoughts to the families affected by this senseless tragedy, as well as to all the men and women of the Bristol Police Department.

As always, my thoughts for your safety are with you, the men and women of the finest correctional department anywhere. Thank you for what you do on a daily basis.

And again, stay safe.

Not Just A Basic Graduation from page 2

Afterward CERT Commander, Captain Marc Congelos took to the podium to present the members of CERT Basic Class 22-01 with their certificates and awards.

Seventeen staff members successfully completed a two-day assessment followed by a two-week CERT Basic Training. This class represented several hazardous duty job classifications within our agency. These staff members endured vigorous physical training, while learning tactical formations and tactics as well. Many of



The members of CERT Basic Class 22-01, along with their instructors.

the graduates made an immediate contribution to the CERT team, and the Department by volunteering to be temporarily transferred to the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution's COVID Recovery Unit.

The graduates of CERT Basic Class 22-01 include: Lt. Michael Barron, Correction Officers James Cange, Steven Carlino, Daniel Coleman, Corey DeFazio, Jessica Delgado, HVAC Keith Gowac, Correction Officers Alissa Iguina, Monique Lathrop, Jonathan Lopez, Danny Marquis, Chelsea Mills, Frank Romanelli, Daniel Steinberg, Correctional Nurse Sengchanh Vilayvong, Correction Officers Derek Villa, and Zachary Wehr.

Officer Daniel Coleman was selected by his fellow CERT class members as the class' distinguished graduate, and the recipient of the *Michael Bongiovanni Award*. Additionally, Officer Zachary Wehr was selected by the CERT Instructors, and awarded the *Brad Emmelmann Award*. This award is presented to the graduate that exemplifies a never give up attitude, who helps others and shows a tremendous amount of heart.

Congratulations to the members of both Pre-service Class 288, and CERT Basic Class 22-01 on successfully completing your training.

Opioid Treatment Program Accreditations for DoC

The Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) operated by the staff members of the York Correctional Institution, on September 14, received a full three-year National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) reaccreditation. The reaccreditation of the OTP at York CI - which is the only OTP entirely, administered by Department of Correction staff – is good until 2025.

The York facility has had a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) certified OTP since 1988. By federal law, correction-based OTPs must obtain certification from SAMHSA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In 2001, SAMHSA moved to an accreditation based system. This meant that in order to continue certification, the OTP must receive accreditation by a federally approved body. In February of 2004, SAMHSA granted NCCHC the authority to accredit OTPs, making it one of only six bodies so authorized, and the only one specializing in corrections. York became one of the first ever OTPs to be accredited by NCCHC back in April of 2004.

So what is accreditation and what does it involve?

To be accredited, the OTP has to be in 100% compliance with 47 standards developed by the NCCHC. An in person survey is held every three years to verify ongoing compliance with the standards. A very in depth survey requiring review of health records, documentation of correctional practices and training, staff credentials, as well as staff and inmate interviews.



Counselor Supervisor Christine Bachmann is an integral part of York CI's Opioid Treatment Program.

One of the biggest overriding themes the accreditors look for is

collaboration between health services and custody. This is where the staff of York CI truly shined. The 2019 – 2022 accreditation period was the first accreditation period completely under DoC (prior to 2019 the process was overseen by the now defunct UCONN Correctional Managed Health Care). At that time there was a large changeover of staff, including the Regional Chief Operating Officer who oversaw the accreditation process. This left York with having to rebuild the program almost from the ground up. While this was difficult, it also was a great opportunity to build a fully integrated OTP administration team comprised of health services, addiction treatment and custody.

At this time, the opioid crisis was escalating and the program was expanding to include induction (establishing treatment), previously the program was mainly providing medically supervised withdrawal and some minimal maintenance of inmates who were already on methadone in the community.

From 1988-2019 the program participation averaged 20-50 incarcerated individuals and only utilized methadone. With the hard work and dedication of Counselor Supervisor Christine Bachmann, the team guided the expansion of the program to match the needs of the women at York CI who had an opioid use disorder. The OTP currently serves 240 women and utilizes all three FDA approved medications (methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone/Vivitrol) approved for the treatment of opioid use disorder. The York OTP strives to provide treatment at a community standard level, providing predominately maintenance to facilitate continuity of care and decrease overdose upon release to the community. The success of this program is attributed to the dedication and hard work of the administration and the York staff who support all areas of this program.

While York's program is the only OTP program within the department run entirely by DoC staff members, the New Haven and Bridgeport Correctional Centers use a vendor to provide the same services in a slightly different manner. New Haven Correctional Center completed their accreditation visit on June 2 and 3 of 2022.

The 30th K9 Olympics

The Department of Correction hosted the 30th Annual K9 Olympics on September 17, at Officer's Beach in Enfield CT. A total of 25 K9 teams from all over Connecticut and Massachusetts came out to compete in various events such as Tactical Obedience, the K9 Obstacle Course, Distance/Box Obedience and a simulated Criminal Apprehension drill.

The competition was fierce as each of the K9 teams eagerly displayed their talents. Out of all the teams that competed, Department of Correction handlers and their K9 partners won awards in four out of the seven competitive events!



K9 Officer Jeremy Shepard and K9 Tuco finished 1st in the Obstacles Course. photo by: Sue Travers

K9 Officer Kristen Thibault and her K9 partner Drobec took third place overall, while K9 Officer Jeremy Shepard and K9 Tuco received top team in the Obstacles challenge. K9 Officer Greg Harpin and his partner K9 Drago received top team in Tactical Obedience, and K9 Officer Jared Surprenant and K9 Grim received top team in the Obedience event.

Also competing from the CT DoC in the annual event were: K9 Officers Patrick Forde/K9 Rosso, James Hensley/K9 Khaos, SeanKelly/K9 Knauss, Timothy

Rivera-Melendez/K9 Cassius and Jon-Paul Smith/K9 Arrow.

All of the Department's K9 teams performed admirably throughout the competition.

More than 4,000 spectators came out in support of the event, which raised more than \$7,000 that, in turn, was donated to various charities including: Shriners Hospitals for Children, Hometown Foundation, Cromwell Dana Farber Cancer Institute, MARK-9, Kenway's Cause, PAWS of Honor and the New Britain Youth Museum & Nature Center.

The event is organized by the Department of Correction, Connecticut State Police and UCONN Police Department, however so many others have helped to make this event a tremendous success. Commissioner Angel Quiros, Deputy Commissioner William Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner Sharonda Carlos, and Director of Tactical Operations\Warden Ronald Cotta provided their enthusiastic and overwhelming support for the DoC K9-Unit and the CT K9 Olympics. Warden Zelynette Caron and the Carl Robinson CI grounds staff continually supported the K9-Unit throughout the entirety of this event. District Manager John Deluca and Food Services Supervisor Brandon Postl were instrumental in coordinating all of the food preparation services. Additionally, the District One Maintenance crew put in countless hours in prepping the K9 Olympic site. Also, thank you to the



L to R: K9 Officer Jared Surprenant, K9 Officer Kristen Brousseau, Director Ronald Cotta, K9 Officer Jeremy Shepard, K9 Officer Greg Harpin

Department's Honor Guard who helps kick off the event in style. Without the efforts and support of all of these individuals, this event would not be possible. The K9 Olympics has proven year after year to bring the community and our departmental staff together in what is truly an amazing time for all. The K9 Unit thanks everyone who had a part in this year's K9 Olympics and hopes to see all of you back again next year.

Outstanding Selection from page 3

Dianne truly cares for her staff and treats us all as equals - not as a supervisor, which in turns makes her easily approachable. She has gained the utmost trust and respect from her entire team. She often tells us she is only as strong as the team she surrounds herself with, and it is evident in the success of our unit which she has created. The department is a much safer and healthier place to work due to the hard work and dedication she has bestowed upon us. She has done an excellent job with such a diverse group of individuals in making the EAU a huge success. Dianne truly cares for the population she serves and is interested in the best care that can be provided. She has spent numerous hours of her own time being the voice of her clients, as well as finding alternatives for care when challenges impact the client. She has organized numerous facility tours to promote awareness of our unit, and the number of contacts we have had, speak for themselves. In conclusion, we believe Dianne should be highly considered for this award. She is an asset to EAU, and everyone within our family at the Department of Correction. Please join Commissioner Angel Quiros and the entire Executive Team in congratulating Director Dianne Moynihan on receiving this well-deserved honor.

Certified Treatment from page 7

On August 25, 2022, the New Haven Correctional Center was issued provisional accreditation, noting that they were in compliance and striving toward achieving full accreditation. The Bridgeport Correctional Center completed its accreditation process on June 27, 2022. They, too, were issued provisional accreditation noting that they were striving toward achieving full accreditation, and would be achieving that on or around October 19, 2022. Both New Haven CC and Bridgeport CC staff members from various units, and the vendor's staff, came together as a team to work with the accreditors to ensure compliance with all 47 standards. During September the NCCHC visited the Cybulski CI building, the Hartford CC, Robinson CI, Osborn CI, and the Walker CI building to evaluate their OTP programs, and determine if they met the standards for accreditation. These facilities will be notified of their status within the next three months. These accreditations illustrate the hard work, dedication and teamwork of the Administration, Medical, Custody, Addiction treatment and Vendor staff. During all of the site visits, the accreditors noted the dedication and professionalism of the DoC's staff, as well as their commitment to getting the job done.



Staff of the Garner Correctional Institution in August took part in a simulated Life Star drill. Also taking part in the drill were representatives from the Newtown Police Department, Newtown Hook and Ladder Company, Newtown Volunteer Ambulance, and Hartford Health Care's Life Star crew.

Employee Wellness Committee T-Shirt Sale



I Support B.P.D. T-Shirt Order Form

Cost \$25 / \$27 sizes 2XL and up

All Proceeds to be Donated to the Families of the Fallen Officers DeMonte and Hamzy

| NAME: | | | PHONE: | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------|----------------|-------|--------------|
| Address/Facility: | | | Email Address: | | |
| Unisex | Color - Navy Blue | Size | Quantity | Price | Total Cost |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | Grand Total: |

**Unisex fit available in sizes S, M, L, XL,
\$2.00 Additional fee 2XL, and 4XL.
T-shirt is available in Navy Blue with White
lettering. Sale Ends 10/31/2022**



We accept cash or Venmo (made payable to Phyllis Knell)
Inspiring wellness at work, at home, and in the community

OPEN TO ALL BJJ PRACTITIONERS

ASCENSION ATHLETICS HOSTS

FUNDRAISER



BJJ SUPER SEMINAR

100% OF PROCEEDS
GO TO THE **BRISTOL
POLICE HEROES FUND**

MINIMUM DONATION \$40

15+ BLACK BELTS

FEATURING CERTIFIED
INSTRUCTORS FROM



OFFICER
MMA



MORE INFO COMING SOON



The Bristol Police Heroes Fund benefits the families of the victims.

DATE & TIME OF EVENT

**DECEMBER 17TH
9 AM - 9 PM**

LOCATION

**ASCENSION ATHLETICS
99 FARMINGTON AVE
BRISTOL, CT 06010**

