For Immediate Release
Jan 10, 2014

St. Petersburg Police Athletic League Begins Beach Volleyball Program

Date: Saturday, 01/11/14, from 9:00-10:30 a.m.
Location: Avesta Woodlawn Park Apartments, 1847 19th Street North, St. Petersburg

Beginning in February the St. Petersburg Police Athletic League will be starting a competitive beach volleyball program for youths between the ages of 12 and 18 yrs of age. Running the program will be two local pros, Raquel Ferreira and Paula Roca.

Ms. Ferreira has been very successful on the AVP (Association of Volleyball Professionals) Tour. She and her partner are currently considered one of the best pro teams in the country. In 2013, they beat 2012 Olympic Games Silver Medalist, April Ross and Jen Kessy. She was a Top 3 finisher in the Brazilian Tour in 2012, was an undefeated Swedish Champion in 2011, and won the 2011 NVL-Motherload (Aspen) Championship. In 2009 Ms. Ferreira was named AVP Rookie of the Year.

Ms. Roca is a Defensive Specialist who has competed successfully as a pro Internationally and in the U.S. From 2003 - 2009 Ms. Roca competed Internationally (Brazil and Europe) for FIVB (Federation Internationale de Volleyball). She also competed on the AVP Tour for eight strong seasons. In 2003 and 2004 she and her partner were crowned the Puerto Rican Champions.

Ms. Ferreira and Ms. Roca currently operate a beach volleyball academy, BeVolley, in St. Petersburg. They both want to give back to the community and have agreed to partner with PAL and introduce their sport to youth who may not otherwise have had an opportunity to play.

To promote the new program, Raquel and Paula will be conducting a practice on Saturday, 01/11/14, from 9:00-10:30 a.m. at Avesta Woodlawn Park Apartments. There are actually two pro beach volleyball courts on the property which is located at 1847 19th Street North.

The media is invited and Raquel and Paula will be available for interviews and demonstrations.

PAL Liaison Officer Christopher Sessions and Sergeant Carl Watts will be present as well.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact Sergeant Watts at 727-422-3565 or Officer Sessions at 727-269-2781.