Bicycle Rodeo at Boys & Girls Club

Friday the 14th saw bikes and riders of every size gather at the Asylum Hill Boys & Girls Club for a Bike Rodeo. The program called "Heads Up for Safety" is intended to reduce the number of bicycle related head injuries by 88% among young children just by wearing a helmet.

The program began when Mike Peters was Mayor and Vincent Trantolo sponsored it to help get helmets for kids. It is now being restarted in Hartford and this was the first of what we hope will be many Bike Rodeos through out the City and Connecticut.

The breadth of the partnership was evident when eight very big kids got on eight very small bicycles for a very short race. Riders included Hartford Deputy Chief Joe Buyak, and Boys & Girls Club CEO Sam Gray as well as representatives from the HFD, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hartford Yard Goats and Wolf Pack and Trantolo & Trantolo's own Keith Trantolo who won the race in a photo finish.

The program is committed to donate 1000 helmets to young cyclists with Hartford Police distributing them by way of "tickets." Instead of citation tickets with fines, these tickets will give a young cyclist without a helmet a ticket for a free one, and likely will be given out on the spot. For those riders who already have a helmet, the ticket will be for a Yard Goats or Wolf Pack game.

The rodeo also included the presentation of 34 new bicycles donated by Aetna and St. Francis HealthCare Partners to encourage healthy physical activity. Along with the bikes came careful instructions in bike safety from HPD. Ofc. Cid Palmieri the AH Community Service Officer and Ofc. Corey Daugherty went through the ABCs of bike safety, beginning with Air in the tires, Brakes that work and a Chain that's properly adjusted.

After each child listened carefully to the instructions they had the chance to ride the course of cones set up to test their ability. There's also video of the mayor's remarks at http://tinyurl.com/y779lspa as well as more photos at https://photos.app.goo.gl/gryjcZDaBt64j7Wp6