January 12, 2020

**MCHD Cannon Team serves as starters for Mobile Marathon**

MOBILE, Alabama — The Mobile County Health Department’s Cannon Team made its first outing of 2020 this morning by marking the start of the 19th annual ServisFirst Bank Mobile Marathon presented by Infirmary Health. Thousands of people descended on Downtown Mobile to either participate in the race or to cheer on the competitors.

The 26.2-mile race snaked its way through the Oakleigh Historic Garden District before heading west towards Spring Hill. The runners eventually made their way back downtown to complete the circuit.

In 2016, an initiative called “MCHD Declares War on Physical Inactivity” began. Dr. Bernard H. Eichold II, Health Officer for Mobile County, points out that Alabama has one of the highest percentages of obesity in America. By taking part in activities such as the Mobile Marathon, it encourages local residents to go outside and enjoy our beautiful surroundings while exercising.

The Lyle Line-Throwing Cannon, which has a 2.5-inch-diameter barrel, was manufactured in the early 1900s by Coston. It is not a replica, reproduction or toy. The cannon was designed to fire a projectile attached to a rope to a boat or a victim in distress. Now it used to inspire those seeking a healthier lifestyle.

A team of MCHD employees has been trained to safely use the device. Joining Dr. Eichold on Sunday were Dr. Rendi Murphree (who had the honor of firing the cannon), Edward Franklin, Eddie Jones and Terry Carson.

Any other groups interested in having the MCHD Cannon Team attend their event should contact the Communications Office by calling 251-690-8823 or via email at mbryant@mchd.org.

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