

710 South Front Street
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Phone: (507) 387-8701
Fax: (507) 387-9292



March 21, 2019

To All Whom It May Concern:

I have personally known Dr. Robert R. Friedmann, Professor Emeritus, Georgia State University, since 1999 when I met him through the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Community Policing Committee. Dr. Friedmann is nationally and internationally known in the field of criminal justice, counter-terrorism and community policing; having written the first recognized definition of Community Policing in 1992.

Also in that same year, Dr. Friedmann, Georgia State University, and Georgia police officials came together in a project to establish the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE), which continues to operate at Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies under the direction of Dr. Robert R. Friedmann. GILEE is an award winning law enforcement leadership development program that has operated with distinction for 27 years, providing a much needed service to law enforcement and public safety around the world through relationship building and information sharing. Programs such as this are where true learning takes place, and relationships are forged that benefit countless communities, states and countries.

One of the primary objectives of the GILEE program is to enhance inter-agency cooperation between State of Georgia and U.S. law enforcement leaders and the Police agencies throughout the world as well as providing professional educational programs to senior Israeli law enforcement officials by exposing them to law enforcement practices in Georgia, and to offer a professional educational program to senior Georgia law enforcement officials by exposing them to law enforcement operations in Israel, primarily in the areas of counter-terrorism.

I began in law enforcement in 1973 and became a Chief of Police in 1976, working with the principles and tenets of Community Policing and community partnership building throughout my entire career. As Chair of the IACP Community Policing Committee for 9 years, and as a trainer, technical assistant and consultant in Community Policing around the world, as well as having my law enforcement agencies win the prestigious IACP and Cisco International Community Policing Award twice, I understand the value of inter-agency and country to country cooperation and training. Criminals and terrorists don't respect community or country boundaries.

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the 2012 session of the GILEE Leadership Exchange Program by going to the State of Israel to interact with Israeli police leaders. While there we learned about, exchanged ideas and discussed leadership, Homeland Security, partnership development and Community Policing. It was amazing to view and observe the different perspectives and operational capabilities of other law enforcement professionals, while building relationships with those tasked with community safety for all. I learned from this program that many of the issues facing other countries are the same issues facing us here in the United States. An impactful portion of the exchange was an invitation to dinner in the home of and with the family of the highest ranking Muslim in the Israeli police service.

Anti-police and anti-Israel groups have launched propaganda campaigns against GILEE and U.S. police training in Israel under the misnomer of "Deadly Exchange." This campaign falsely claims that American officers learn police tactics in Israel which they apply in the U.S. to shoot to kill and to oppress minorities. As someone who has attended one of these sessions, nothing could be further from the truth! I was pleased to learn about and observe the great lengths that the police in Israel go to in order to develop citizen partnerships and respect human and civil rights.

As a Chief of Police who has served in the states of Iowa, Wisconsin, Texas and Minnesota, and who has worked with minority populations and in minority-majority communities, I appreciate and fully support the mission of GILEE and Dr. Robert R. Friedmann to increase professionalism in our field, to promote community safety and community policing, to reduce terrorism, and to facilitate a free flow of information and ideas on best police practices between law enforcement agencies around the world. GILEE is being unfairly targeted and profiled by those with specific personal agendas. The truth is that GILEE, and its innovative approach are a tremendous resource to police agencies and citizens around the world.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd A. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Todd A. Miller
Director of Public Safety
Mankato, MN Department of Public Safety