



Georgia Association of Women in Public Safety
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To Whom It May Concern:

The Georgia Association of Women in Public Safety (GAWPS) is a non-profit organization created in Georgia in 2015. It was created with a vision to provide professional growth opportunities for women who are employed in fire, law enforcement, corrections, or emergency communication services in the state of Georgia.

The general purpose of the Georgia Association of Women in Public Safety is to promote the achievements and needs of women in public safety; to provide an environment that encourages growth, professional development and success for women across public safety disciplines through education and networking opportunities; to serve as an identifiable resource for public safety leaders seeking solutions for recruiting, retention, career development, and promotional opportunities.

Membership in the Georgia Association of Women in Public Safety includes men and women from federal, state, and local public safety disciplines. One key principle emphasized among the membership is partnerships. Public safety agencies, domestic and international, are faced with many of the same challenges and are confronted with developing solutions to overcome them. When agencies partner together to collaborate and share best practices, effective strategies are often developed and efficiently implemented.

In the public safety arena, we are fortunate to have a multitude of opportunities that allow our agencies to share information which is often effective across disciplines and from one country to the next. Many of the members of the Georgia Association of Women in Public Safety, to include current and past board members, have participated in domestic and international exchanges and encourage other members to follow suit. It is imperative that all public safety agencies across the globe continue to partner together to address current and future challenges in an effort to best serve our diverse populations.

The Georgia Association of Women in Public Safety is proud of the partnership we have with the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE). Current board members, past board members, and a multitude of members of GAWPS have benefited from the service that GILEE provides. It is a mere reflection of ignorance when it is purported that GILEE and other training programs are an avenue to train law enforcement in tactical or military operational techniques designed to oppress minorities or other members of their communities (characterized as “deadly exchange”). These claims have no substance or merit, and are nothing more than a projection of empty words that should fall on deaf ears. If there were any factual basis for such claims, the Georgia Association of Women in Public Safety, which was designed in part to support

minorities in public safety, would be one of many organizations to stand against them. Instead, we stand in full support of GILEE.

The Georgia Association of Women in Public Safety appreciates the partnership we have with GILEE and any number of other organizations that foster strong partnerships across the world. We intend to continue these professional relationships into the future with an eye on developing the best practices within public safety that impartially serves all populations of people.

Sincerely,
The GAWPS Board Members