

Macungie, PA  
July 24, 2019

Dr. Robert R. Friedmann  
GILEE Founding Director  
Andrew Young School of Policy Studies  
Georgia State University  
Atlanta, GA 30302-3992

Dr. Friedmann:

I write to you as a former police chief, retired university professor, and active student of democratic policing as it is practiced around the world. I have had the good fortune to work with police leaders from throughout the United States and to meet with police leaders in dozens of other countries. My long-term interest, the same as yours, has been to encourage police to adopt the mentality that they work on behalf of the people, not on behalf of whatever regime happens to be in power at any particular moment. Creating and sustaining that mentality is not easy, considering the serious challenges presented by crime, terrorism, corruption, politics, and so forth. But it is what is required of professionals dedicated to human rights and the rule of law.

In that spirit, international cooperation and information sharing are essential. The Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) operates in that spirit and I am aware of how much your state's chiefs and sheriffs appreciate your foresight and guidance as founding director. I am also aware that some critics think the exchange should be banned or boycotted. With all due respect, I think that viewpoint is uninformed, naïve, and mistaken. It seems to assume that chiefs and sheriffs would learn some unconstitutional or illegal practices from another country and import them back to the U.S. I'm not aware of any examples of that happening as a result of the thousands and thousands of international connections made by American police every year, and it is pretty insulting to assume that it would happen. Moreover, that's why we have checks and balances in our system. It's certainly no reason to stifle professional development and information sharing among police executives here and abroad.

I wish you and GILEE continued success and encourage your leaders in the university and law enforcement community to continue supporting your important work.

Sincerely,

*Gary Cordner*

Gary Cordner, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus, Kutztown University  
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