



Ferguson Police Department

Professionalism • Respect • Community Engagement • Safety

In 2017, I was blessed to be a part of Georgia's International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) delegation of law enforcement professionals that traveled to Israel to spend time learning from top officials on matters related to counterterrorism, emergency management, and various public safety and homeland security strategies. It is very easy to look up some of Israel's history online and read about terrorism or bad relations with neighboring countries. What I was most impressed with about the program was learning how the Israeli Police force was trying new ways to bring diversity to their police force and their police leadership. Diversity and representation is one of the main points of contention in American law enforcement. Communities are speaking out about police departments having a balanced representation of the communities they serve. It was eye opening to see those same sentiments were holding true in Israel. We got to visit and meet with police academy recruits who were taking advantage of a program to assist people from the Arab communities in Israel with passing the entrance test into the police academy. We learned about leadership training programs specifically for female officers so they could flourish as leaders in the organization.

In addition to seeing the great things they were doing to improve diversity and their service to the community, the trip also served as a mentoring program for someone in my position. I was not a Chief when I did the program, but I was with several Chiefs and Sheriffs. Being with them all day long for two weeks, having all that experience and expertise to draw from, was instrumental in me achieving my goal of becoming a Chief. I forged relationships that I would have never had the opportunity to build without this program. Any law enforcement leader looking to expand their knowledge base and experience once in a lifetime memorable moments, this program is top notch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason P. Armstrong".

Jason P. Armstrong
Police Chief
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