

Statement of Executive Directors of State Associations of Chiefs of Police in Support of International Law Enforcement Exchange Training Programs

The Executive Directors of State Associations of Chiefs of Police have been in the forefront of professional law enforcement leadership development and training throughout the United States. We serve as leaders of the individual state associations of chiefs of police. We function as the coordinating body between various law enforcement agencies in each state and we facilitate the exchange and dissemination of information related to a host of important topics in law enforcement. We have focused on the mutual concerns and interests of law enforcement in our respective states and nationwide.

We helped create policy guidance, facilitated and encouraged dialogue, provided tools and resources, provided training programs and presentations, and created training projects and workshop themes on a host of important topics such as use-of-force, disaster response, information sharing, responding to calls involving people with mental illness, suppression of crime, and communications systems. We continue to play a large role in addressing ongoing and emerging law enforcement issues including: officer safety and wellness; traffic safety; legalization of medicinal and recreational marijuana; police equipment; technology; local, state, and federal legislation and unfunded mandates; and community policing and community-police relations.

Law enforcement agencies face challenges ranging from building community trust, dealing with the mentally ill, preventing terrorism, and use of technology to help resolve and reduce crime. They need to address these issues while maintaining civil rights and liberties as appropriate for societies that are governed by the rule of law. Agencies address these problems by learning first-hand about best practices and sources of excellence. We, as Executive Directors of State Associations of Chiefs of Police, represent all chiefs in the state associations in our respective states and we are fully supportive of exchange training programs whose mission is executive development. We view police leaders as CEOs of law enforcement agencies who can and should enhance public safety to better serve their communities and provide better public safety. Our role and responsibility is to provide them with first rate training to that effect.

Numerous chiefs around the country have participated in these valuable leadership development training exchange programs to be better equipped to address current issues facing law enforcement and utilize their newly acquired knowledge to help improve public safety for their community.

We, as Executive Directors of State Associations of Chiefs of Police, completely reject claims that some of these professional training programs are being used to train law enforcement in tactical or military operational techniques designed to oppress minorities or other members of their communities (characterized as “deadly exchange”). Not only do such claims lack any foundation in the facts or histories of such exchanges, but the inflammatory causal attribution that such training leads to deadly encounters in the United States is utterly fallacious and slanderous.

As Executive Directors of State Associations of Chiefs of Police we appreciate the long standing reputable track record of organizations that deliver leadership development training with high professional standards, the innovative approaches that have been introduced, and the measurable value these programs have added to the law enforcement community. One such program is the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) which has almost three decades of recognized achievements in more than half of the United States and in more than 25 countries abroad. Therefore, we fully endorse and support GILEE and its program offerings.

We commend the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) for its three decades of support of law enforcement executive development and for its professional training programs based on the pursuit of best practices and sources of excellence. We encourage GILEE to continue its productive program offerings as we recognize GILEE's positive impact on law enforcement leadership. We look forward to continue our relationship with GILEE, and with all organizations that promote law enforcement professional exchanges, for many years to come.

October 26, 2019

 Amanda Jacobs , Executive Director	Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police
 Gary Sipes , Executive Director	Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police
 Pamela D. Hayes , Executive Director	Connecticut Police Chiefs Association
 Jeffrey Horvath , Executive Director	Delaware Police Chiefs' Council
 Amy Mercer , Executive Director	Florida Police Chiefs Association
 Frank V. Rotondo , Executive Director	Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police
 Fabian Blaché, Jr. , Executive Director	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
 Edward Tolan , Executive Director	Maine Chiefs of Police Association
 Robert Stevenson , Executive Director	Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police

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