

Senior police and public safety executives return from police leadership training in Israel



Thirteen Georgia police chiefs and command staff, two sheriffs, a Georgia Bureau of Investigation inspector and executives from the Georgia State Patrol, Stone Mountain Park, and the Georgia Command College have returned from Israel after an intensive two weeks of public safety leadership training with Israel's top police executives.

They made up a 21-member delegation of senior law enforcement officials from Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina who participated in the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange's (GILEE) 27th annual peer-to-peer training program in partnership with Israel. While there, they were shown best practices and the latest technologies in policing and public safety.

Community policing, "a policy and a strategy aimed at achieving more effective and efficient crime control, reduced fear of crime, improved quality of life, improved police services and police legitimacy, through a proactive reliance on community resources that seeks to change crime-causing conditions," was the focus again this year.

Community policing assumes a need for greater accountability of police, a greater public share in decision-making, and a greater concern for civil rights and liberties, according to Robbie Friedmann, who formulated the definition in 1992 in his book on community policing. A Georgia State University professor emeritus and GILEE's founding director, he led this year's delegation.

The delegation saw several manifestations of community policing in the Israel Police that are worth noting. The first was an innovative effort to recruit more Arabs to the force. This initiative is headed by Jamal Hakroosh, the first Muslim major general in the Israel Police, who is also a 2010 GILEE graduate. The members of the delegation had the opportunity to meet with the Arab cadets, understand their family and community pressures, and discuss their experience and how they cope with the challenge of serving in the Israel Police. The second was a unique meeting between

the imam of the El Jazzar Mosque in Akko and the chief rabbi of Akko. The delegates witnessed an inspiring dialogue between two important religious leaders who understand the needs of their communities, understand the needs of other communities, and operate in tandem to attenuate conflicts and avoid escalation when frictions arise in their own communities or between their communities.

In GILEE's 27 years, close to 800 public safety officials — most from Georgia — have participated in the program in Israel. Nearly 35,000 have attended additional GILEE trainings, briefings, seminars, and workshops in Georgia and around the world.

"Our GILEE delegates return with new ways of developing, collaborating on, and using strategies to minimize the production of crime and terrorism," said GILEE Executive Director Steve Heaton. "In GILEE's 27 years, many of these graduates have gone on to serve in key leadership roles in Georgia and beyond."

GILEE is a research unit within Georgia State's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. It enhances public safety by nurturing existing and new partnerships within and across public agencies and the private sector. It has received multiple awards and honors, including the Special Service Award from the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Georgia Governor's Public Safety Award.

"I believe GILEE offers one of the best leadership development training programs globally," said Donald De Lucca, who has served as police chief in three different cities and is a past president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), in a recent letter to GILEE. "The inside look and hands-on learning provides executives with a broader view of some of the best practices available to the police profession."

In fact, several U.S. and international professional policing associations and academic institutions have written this year in support of the many contributions GILEE has made to the field's professional development. Learn more about the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange at gilee.gsu.edu.



GILEE delegates at the Israel Supreme Court (photos courtesy of GILEE)



GILEE delegates with Israeli Arab Police cadets



GILEE delegates at the menorah outside of the Knesset



GILEE delegates with Akko Police