



**LAGRANGE**  
GEORGIA

*News Release*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 25, 2017

## **LaGrange Police Chief Sworn in as IACP President**

***LaGrange, Ga. October 25, 2017*** – LaGrange Police Chief Lou Dekmar is



officially the President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, or the IACP.

The IACP is the world's largest law enforcement leadership organization.

After his swearing in, Dekmar addressed the thousands of law enforcement leaders across the world to announce his initiatives for the upcoming year including continuing the One Mind Campaign, focusing on protecting at-risk adults, and creating a new initiative called the TRUST initiative.



The TRUST initiative will be partially funded by the million dollar Michael Jordan Grant.

The goal is to provide support and resources for police leaders who must engage with communities that carry the mistrust of the past into the present.

In January, Dekmar, LaGrange Mayor Jim Thornton, LaGrange College President Dan McAlexander, along with other community and faith members apologized for the department's involvement in the 1940 lynching death of Austin Callaway, an African-American teenager. After the teen's death, officials did not investigate or attempt to find Callaway's killers.

Debra Tatum, Austin Callaway's relative, NAACP President Ernest Ward along with other community members and members of the faith community worked together with Dekmar and continue to do so today.

The IACP has 30,000 members from 150 countries. Roughly 15,000 members were in Philadelphia for this week's annual conference. The IACP is dedicated to advancing the law enforcement profession through advocacy, outreach, education and programs. The IACP Annual Conference and Exposition has been the foundation, providing leaders with new strategies, techniques, and resources they need to successfully navigate the evolving policing environment.



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