



**LAGRANGE**  
GEORGIA

*News Release*  
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## **LaGrange Mayor Meets with President Joe Biden Public Trust in Law Enforcement and Enhancing Public Safety Issues Addressed**

***LaGrange, Ga. May 26, 2022*** – President Joe Biden invited LaGrange Mayor Jim Thornton, along with other state and local elected officials from across the country, to join him alongside members of the nation’s law enforcement community at the White House this week.



President Joe Biden & LaGrange Mayor Jim Thornton

LaGrange Mayor Thornton said, “It’s an honor to be invited by the President to come to the White House, and I was glad to hear more about his ideas. As a mayor, I’m always looking for ways to support and

strengthen law enforcement and to improve the relationship between the police and the community they serve.”

The occasion was to discuss the President’s plans for improving public trust in law enforcement and enhancing public safety. The President signed an executive order that primarily applies to federal law enforcement but may be adopted in part by state and local police agencies.



The President’s executive order comes after months of discussion among the White House and police organizations including the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Fraternal Order of Police.

“Many of the initiatives that the President announced, such as mandatory use of body cameras, data collection and analysis, and de-escalation techniques are things that the LaGrange Police Department has been doing for years,” Mayor Thornton noted.



President Joe Biden

Mayor Thornton also serves as President of the Georgia Municipal Association, so his role at the White House is to represent LaGrange as well as the other 536 cities in Georgia.

After the signing ceremony, Mayor Thornton had a brief conversation directly with the President, during which they discussed the need for ongoing partnerships between local police agencies and their state and federal partners.

Mayor Thornton says that “public safety is the most important responsibility of local government, and I will continue to be an advocate for our police officers and for professional and effective law enforcement when meeting with leaders at the state and federal levels.”

Mayor Thornton also met with President Donald Trump in January 2018 to discuss law enforcement and infrastructure issues.

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