

*Media Release* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 7, 2018

## LaGrange Police Holding Racial Intelligence Training and Engagement Classes

*LaGrange, Ga. May 7, 2018* – The LaGrange Police Department is now offering RITE, or Racial Intelligence Training and Engagement, classes for its officers.



Sgt. Cavender teaches RITE class

LPD is one of only a few agencies in the state teaching the RITE courses.

RITE addresses the public safety industry in regards to officer wellness, executive leadership, diversity training, de-escalation communication, harassment, emotional and social intelligence,

professional development, and ethics.



Sgt. Mark Cavender is leading this class for the LaGrange Police Department and believes RITE training is important because it focuses on the officer's overall wellbeing first.

"By training the officer how to identify and control external sources that may cause stress, the officer will be able to better utilize the tools taught in this training," said Cavender.

"If we can teach and learn the techniques to control our stress, anger, and preconceived notions, we can better relate with empathy, sympathy and provide an overall better service to the community we serve."

RITE training has been adopted by several agencies across the country and more recently the NFL after racial tensions developed between owners and players.

LPD plans to incorporate RITE in its continuing education.

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