

Clark Pennington

Clark Pennington has dedicated more than 30 years to his passion for public service in the field of Law Enforcement and Education. Pennington served six years in the Army before transitioning to the police force. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg, MD, and a Master of Science Degree in Management, with a focus in Leadership Studies, from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. Pennington retired from the Frederick, MD Police Department as a Deputy Chief of Police and the Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division and SWAT Team. Following his time in Maryland, Pennington served as the Chief of Police for the Matthews, NC Police Department from 2018 to 2022. Now, Penning currently is the Chief Operating Officer for The Independence Fund, a veteran-focused nonprofit whose up and coming program, the Veteran's Justice Initiative, trains and works side-by-side with law enforcement agencies to recognize Veterans in crisis while avoiding the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and substance abuse. He is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy Class 239, and PERFs Senior Management Institute for Policing, Class #79.