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The Fairfax County Police Department was established on July 1, in the year of 1940, starting out with only around eight employees: five officers, two chiefs, and two clerks—all of them male. As the department expanded, women found their way into positions that were exclusively filled by men for over 17 years. Even then, the county never had a female police chief. Until now. On January 23, 2019, the City of Fairfax announced that they hired Erin Schaible as its new police chief.

Forensic science, criminalistics, forensic psychology, and detective and police work have interested me for over six years. I attended a program titled "Future Women in Law Enforcement," and had the chance to meet and hear from women in different areas of police in the FCPD, including detectives, police psychologists, patrol officers, and the only woman on the FCPD SWAT team. After reading the news about Chief Schaible's hiring, I was in awe and ecstasy. I was present in the county while a huge historical event took place.

Chief Schaible spent 28 years with the FCPD, and she reached the rank of lieutenant colonel. When looking for a new chief, the FCPD settled on her, after a nationwide search, because of her vast experience and exceptional leadership skills. She had backgrounds in multiple areas, from workplace security to crisis intervention and prevention. City of Fairfax Mayor David Meyer said of her, "...she's exceptionally qualified to see the big picture of a department and the community." That has stuck with me since I first read it.

A lot has changed, but because of Erin Schaible, and seeing how she was able to change the history of the county, I ultimately want to have a career in law enforcement. I want to establish firsts in the county—even in the country—since I am a Muslim girl who wears the hijab (Muslim head covering). Like Chief Schaible, who has undoubtedly inspired many young girls and women, I want to be in that position, and show everyone that even if everyone thinks you can't, you can. Chief Schaible has proven to everyone that a woman can rise to the top and hold high positions in law enforcement, while still having great experience and skills. If my community had its own Wall of Honor, then my first pick to be put on it would be FCPD Police Chief Erin Schaible.