



# NEWS RELEASE

## Chicago Police Department

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### CPD ANNOUNCES DRAFT USE OF FORCE POLICY

*Draft policy will be released for review in the Department's first ever public comment period*

CHICAGO – CPD Superintendent Eddie Johnson announced today a draft revision to the Department's use of force policy. The draft policy provides clear direction for officers when the use of force is necessary, while placing a heavy emphasis on the sanctity of life.

As part of Superintendent Johnson's commitment to building public trust and transparency, a 45 day public comment period will begin today at 12:00pm to allow all Chicagoans to provide their input on the draft policy. At the end of the comment period, CPD Command Staff, as well as legal and technical experts, will review the feedback and draft a final version of the General Order. This represents the first time the Department has sought public comment for a draft policy.

"Ever since becoming Superintendent I have been committed to building public trust, fostering transparency, and providing officers with the tools they need to do their jobs more effectively. That is why I chose to seek public input on this important policy," said Superintendent Johnson. "We will continue to implement policies, training, and tactics based on the best practices of 21<sup>st</sup> Century policing and never lose sight of our individual and collective responsibilities in every encounter with the public."

Some of the highlights of the draft policy include:

- **Sanctity of life** – In all aspects of their conduct, Department members will act with the foremost regard for human life and safety of all persons involved. This includes comports themselves in a manner that conveys the gravity of any use of force, offering medical aid to those injured in use of force incidents, and intervening and reporting on a subject's behalf when observing force being used in violation of Department policy.
- **Ethical behavior** - The Department remains committed to prohibiting and preventing the use of unwarranted or excessive physical force and expects its members to demonstrate the highest degree of ethical behavior and professional conduct at all times. Officers will

engage the public with professionalism and respect the dignity of every person in carrying out their law enforcement duties, while ensuring that gender, race, ethnicity, or any other protected characteristic does not influence any decision on the use of force.

- **Use of Force** – While the legal standard remains that an officer's use of force must be objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional to the threat faced by the officer, the new Department policy is more demanding than the law requires. Department members will now be expected to use the least amount of force necessary based on the totality of the circumstances and will only resort to physical force when no reasonably effective alternative appears to exist.
- **Deadly Force** – The use of deadly force (which now also includes striking a subject's head with an impact weapon or into a hard, fixed object) is only authorized to prevent an immediate threat of death or great bodily harm posed to officers or another person. Additionally, officers may only draw and display their firearms when there is reasonable belief that such action is necessary for the officer's safety or the safety of others.
- **De-escalation** – Department members will seek to de-escalate situations as soon as practicable and will not resort to force unless all other reasonable alternatives have been exhausted or would clearly be ineffective under the circumstances. Officers will determine if the seriousness of the situation requires an immediate response or whether other reasonable alternatives may be employed.
- **Principles of Force Mitigation** – The Department remains committed to its officers using the principles of force mitigation to de-escalate potential use of force incidents, including:
  - **Continual Communication** – using verbal control techniques in an attempt to reduce confrontations.
  - **Tactical Positioning** – making use of positioning, time, and distance by isolating and containing the subject to create a "Zone of Safety."
  - **Time as a Tactic** – continually evaluating the situation and the appropriate response options.
  - **Assistance** – requesting assistance from other officers, mental health personnel, or specialized units, as necessary and appropriate

All suggestions, questions, and inquiries can be directed to comment website located at <http://policy.chicagopolice.org>.

The public comment period is open until Monday, November 21, 2016 at 12:00pm.

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