



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

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CPD ANNOUNCES NEW USE OF FORCE POLICY

New policy based on public and officer feedback goes into effect after initial training is complete

CHICAGO – CPD Superintendent Eddie Johnson addressed community members and police officers today to announce the Department's new set of use of force policies, which emphasizes sanctity of life, de-escalation and accountability. The new set of policies is based off of feedback from two public comment periods, numerous community meetings and officer and supervisor focus groups. The policies provide clear direction for officers when the use of force is permitted and the Department will engage in an accelerated training schedule to ensure that every officer has the comprehensive training and support necessary to implement the policy.

"CPD's new use of force policy represents a major step forward for the Department, reflecting national best practices and input from officers and the community to truly be called a policy created by Chicagoans for Chicagoans," said Superintendent Johnson. "It is among the first examples of what I consider to be the vital partnership we need in our city where officers and residents work together to shape how we make our streets safer."

In order to ensure that the new policy is properly implemented and sustained, a rigorous training plan has also been announced. Beginning this year, every sworn CPD member will take a computer-based course to initially familiarize themselves with the policy. The orientation will be followed with a mandatory in-person four-hour training session that all sworn personnel will complete by the fall of 2017. Starting in 2018, the Superintendent will also require that every member will take an eight-hour, scenario-based training course that will utilize the new policy in real-world situations. The policy will become effective in the fall of 2017 after every member has taken the four-hour course.

These guidelines are the first revisions to the Department's Use of Force policy since 2002. As part of the Department's commitment to building public trust and transparency, this was the first time CPD held a public comment period to obtain feedback on policy in the Department's history. In October, CPD held a 45-day comment period on the proposed use of force policy changes to allow all Chicagoans to provide their input on the revised draft policy. In March, the Department again publically posted the revised policy for an additional 10-day comment period, including a summary of the comments received from both CPD officers and the community during the initial comment period. CPD Command Staff, as well as legal and technical experts, reviewed the feedback and developed the final version outlined today.

"I want to commend the Superintendent and his team for working very hard, over many months to create a new use of force policy that promotes the core value of sanctity of life, and will result in better, more frequent training for officers so that they have the right tools to engage with the public to keep themselves and citizens safe," said Lori Lightfoot, President of the Chicago Police Board and Chair of the Chicago Police Accountability Task Force. "This policy is the result of an historically transparent and inclusive process that allowed for rounds of community and officer input – a process that is a model for tackling tough issues that require community engagement. This is an important step in the right direction for the Department and our City."

Some of the highlights of the policy include:

- **Sanctity of Life** – Emphasizes that human life for *all* people is the Department's highest priority.
- **Use of Force** – The policies are based on the recognition that many of the decisions officers face must be made in a split second and clarifies the standards for assessing the level of appropriate force – force must be objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional. . The policies revise and clearly describe force options authorized for different situations an officer may face and emphasizes the necessity to de-escalate every encounter and, when force is used, that it is objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional.
- **Deadly Force** – The new policy calls for the use of deadly force only as a last resort. to prevent an immediate threat of death or great bodily harm posed to officers or another person. The definition now also includes striking a subject's head with an impact weapon and chokeholds. Additionally, the justification of the use of deadly force is more restrictive than outlined in Illinois state law.
- **De-escalation** – Department members will seek to de-escalate situations 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.
- **Prohibitions on Uses of Force** - The policy bars the use of excessive force, discriminatory force, force used as punishment or retaliation, and force used in response to an individual exercising their First Amendment rights.
- **Medical Aid** - The policy instructs officers to immediately request medical aid for an injured person. In instances where officers are properly trained, they may administer immediate medical care until paramedics arrive.
- **Accountability** - The new policy requires that if an officer witnesses another member violating this policy, he or she must verbally intervene and report the instance to a supervisor. It also bars retaliation against anyone who reports the improper use of force or who cooperates with an investigation. It also introduces revised reports for when force is used and additional procedures for supervisors who review the respective incidents.

The policies include an overarching use of force policy as well as policies covering: Force Options, Taser Use, OC Spray and Chemical Agent Use, and Canine Use.

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