

Community Engagement in Policy Creation - Chicago Police Department

OFFICER-INVOLVED DEATH AND SHOOTING INVESTIGATIONS

The Chicago Police Department (CPD) recognizes the need for a comprehensive community engagement process that offers the community a meaningful opportunity to provide input into CPD policies. Please use the following information to guide your feedback and discussions on the CPD policy related to **Officer-Involved Death and Shooting Investigations**.

BACKGROUND

The City of Chicago Consent Decree requires that CPD review and revise the necessary policies on officer-involved death and firearm discharge investigations, including ensuring that "CPD members act in a manner that is consistent with CPD's commitment to the principle of the sanctity of life" (§1491). In development of the policy on **Officer-Involved Death and Shooting Investigations**, CPD has researched applicable laws, operational practices from other agencies, and other published research and analyses.

Current CPD Policy (available publicly at <http://directives.chicagopolice.org>)

- G03-02-03 "Firearms Discharge Incidents Involving Sworn Members"
- G03-06 "Officer-Involved Death Investigations"

Illinois Police and Community Relations Improvement Act

"Officer-involved death" means any death of an individual that results directly from an action or directly from an intentional omission, including unreasonable delay involving a person in custody or intentional failure to seek medical attention when the need for treatment is apparent, of a law enforcement officer while the officer is on duty, or otherwise acting within the scope of his or her employment, or while the officer is off duty, but performing activities that are within the scope of his or her law enforcement duties. (50 ILCS 727/1-5)

No investigator involved in the investigation may be employed by the law enforcement agency that employs the officer involved in the officer-involved death, unless the investigator is employed by the Department of State Police and is not assigned to the same division or unit as the officer involved in the death. (50 ILCS 727/1-10)

Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) will conduct investigations into all incidents in which a Department member discharges a firearm in a manner that potentially could strike another individual (MCC 2-78-120(c)) and an officer-involved death has occurred (MCC 2-78-120(e)).

POLICY ENGAGEMENT TOPICS

- Treatment of witnesses and investigative processes.
- Use of deadly force: as a last resort when necessary to protect against an imminent threat to life or prevent great bodily harm.
- Supervisory response and incident reviews, including excessive force investigations.
- Seeking and providing appropriate medical attention.
- The duty to intervene and report improper or excessive uses of force.
- Public release of information and communications from CPD.

CPD anticipates gathering and utilizing the feedback provided via the community engagement process to develop a comprehensive policy that is inclusive of and reflects the needs and expectations of both the community and CPD. CPD's policy development process will also include the public posting of proposed policies for comments on CPD's website prior to implementation.