

Community Engagement in Policy Creation - Chicago Police Department

USE OF FORCE

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 Use of Force.

BACKGROUND

The City of Chicago Consent Decree requires that CPD's Use of Force policy "must ensure that: CPD officers use force in accordance with federal law, state law, and the requirements of this Agreement; CPD officers apply de-escalation techniques to prevent or reduce the need for force whenever safe and feasible; when using force, CPD officers only use force that is objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional under the totality of the circumstances; and any use of unreasonable or unnecessary force is promptly identified and responded to appropriately" (§153). In development of the policy on Use of Force, 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 "Use of Force" and associated addenda

Sanctity of Human Life. The Department's highest priority is the sanctity of human life. In all aspects of their conduct, Department members will act with the foremost regard for the preservation of human life and the safety of all persons involved.

Public Cooperation. A strong partnership with the public is essential for effective law enforcement. Inappropriate or excessive uses of force damage that partnership and diminish the public trust that is a cornerstone of policing in a free society.

Core Principle. The Chicago Police Department seeks to gain the voluntary compliance of subjects, when consistent with personal safety, to eliminate the need to use force or reduce the force that is needed.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT TOPICS

- Standard for assessing when use of force is authorized: objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional.
- Using the principles of force mitigation (e.g., communication, positioning, and time) and de-escalation techniques to prevent or reduce the need for using force.
- Use of deadly force: as a last resort when necessary to protect against an imminent threat to life or prevent great bodily harm.
- Specific Force authorizations: Firearms, Tasers, Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray, Batons, Physical Tactics.
- Responsibility to report use of force, 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.

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.