

Community Engagement in Policy Creation - Chicago Police Department

INTERACTIONS WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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 Interactions with People with Disabilities.

BACKGROUND

The City of Chicago Consent Decree requires that CPD review and, to the extent necessary, revise its policies and practices for ensuring effective communication and meaningful access to CPD programs, services, and activities for individuals with physical, mental, or developmental disabilities. These policies will identify specific procedures and responsibilities applicable to circumstances in which CPD officers encounter persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities, autism, dementia, blindness, deafness, hearing loss, and mobility disabilities" (§168). In development of the policy on Interactions with People with Disabilities, CPD has researched applicable laws, operational practices from other agencies, and other published research and analyses, including recommendations from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).

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

- S02-01-01 "People With Disabilities"

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) required all public services provided by state and local governments to be accessible to persons with disabilities.

The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) promotes total access, full participation, and equal opportunity for people with disabilities of all ages in all aspects of life. The office promotes an understanding of the issues of concern to people with disabilities and assists both individuals and organizations in working to comply with a variety of laws and regulations relating to disability, including the Americans with Disabilities Act

POLICY ENGAGEMENT TOPICS

- Properly define terms related to individuals with disabilities and the disability community.
- Specific needs of individuals with disabilities, such as mobility devices, prosthetics, and service animals.
- Responding to conduct or behavior that is related to an individual's physical, intellectual, or developmental disability, including autism and qualifying medical conditions such as Alzheimer's disease.
- Use of sign language interpreters for all incidents involving persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or who have a speech impairment during police-community interactions.
- The arrest and transport of individuals with disabilities or who require the assistance of ambulatory devices, including reasonable accommodations and the rights of the arrestee.
- Treatment of victims, including responding to identified abuse, neglect, or exploitation of individuals with disabilities.

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.